



ORDER OF WORSHIP

December 24, 2017

10:00 A.M.

Bold indicates congregational participation

*Indicates congregation standing, as you are able.

WELCOME

PRELUDE

“Canon in D” Elizabeth Paag, clarinet

“The Most Wonderful Time of the Year” Aaron Schoffelman, baritone

“Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas” Hailey Hansen, violin

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLES

Barry, Megan, Morgan
and Porter Siewert

Reader 1: This is the fourth Sunday in Advent, the time of preparing for the coming of Christ our Savior. Today our words are “Let it be.” We remember that we are to wait, prepare, witness. Now, as Christ’s arrival nears, we are reminded of Mary’s words, “Let it be.” It is not up to us to dictate to God how Christ will come into our world and lives, for God continually surprises us. Let God’s will be done in each of us.

Reader 2: Luke 1:37-38

Reader 1: We relight our candles which remind us to wait, to prepare, to witness. Now we complete our circle, lighting the candle which proclaims, “Let it be.” Christ is the light of our world, and we have only to open ourselves and he will come to us.

Reader 2: Let us pray.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Gracious God, our time of waiting is almost over. We pray that we have prepared well, that we have proclaimed and witnessed to Christ’s coming, and that we are now willing to let Christ enter our hearts and lives. Amen.

*HYMN: (see insert)

"Angel Gabriel Went to Galilee"

CALL TO CONFESSION.....Pastor Randy

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)Pastor Randy

God of Love Incarnate, we confess that, with the shepherds, we are terrified of your glory; for in glory’s light we see plainly all that is wrong in the world: how oppression still enslaves; how garments of war are still stained with blood; how those seeking refuge still find no place of safety. We also

see what is wrong in us: how passionately we pursue the things of this world, but forget to ponder the mystery of faith; how we do not practice the peace you intend in our relationships, our community, or even in the church. Forgive us, we pray, and help us not to be afraid. Like the shepherds, we want to follow and find you. In the Savior's name we pray. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

***RESPONSE IN SONG #95**
Prepare the way of the Lord.
Prepare the way of the Lord,
And all people will see the salvation of our God.

***THE PEACE**
Jesus said: "As the Lord has forgiven us, let us also forgive one another."
The peace of the Lord Jesus be with you.
And also with you.
We exchange signs of peace.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION.....Pastor Randy

PSALM 96: A RESPONSORIAL SETTING, **HYMN #639**

OLD TESTAMENT READING.....Isaiah 9:2-7 (Pg. 638)

EPISTLE READING.....Titus 2:11-14 (Pg. 214)

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL LESSON.....Luke 2:1-14 (Pg. 58)

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

***HYMN #129....."Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"**

PAGEANT "The Christmas Carol Special Report"
(see insert)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER, pg. 35

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING.....Pastor Randy

OFFERTORY MUSIC

"He Shall Feed His Flock" – G. F. Handel

***RESPONSE #717**
For the life that you have given, for the love in Christ made known,
with these fruits of time and labor, with these gifts that are your own:
here we offer, Lord, our praises; heart and mind and strength we bring;
give us grace to love and serve you, living what we pray and sing.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION.....Pastor Randy

*HYMN #136....."Go, Tell It on the Mountain"

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE "Prepare the Way" – James Manfield

The nursery (room 205) is open but not staffed today. You are welcome to stay with your child should it become necessary.

A special thanks to Mary Steeno, Jill Stenson, Amy Wittman and the youth and children in the pageant. You have made this day special for all of us.

You are invited to join us this evening at 6:30 p.m. for Christmas music and at 7:00 p.m. for the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. Music throughout the evening will include congregational singing, organ, brass quartet, harpsicord, flute and a local quartet.

We are thankful for special gifts made to First Presbyterian Church at this time of year. This QR code will take you to our online giving page. You can learn more about us at our new website: www.firstpresgreenbay.org.



Pastor Randy will be on vacation December 27-January 3. Preaching next Sunday will be the Reverend Meggan Farwell from First United Presbyterian Church in De Pere.

MERRY CHRISTMAS