

Our Vision
God Nourishes All to Grow

Our Mission
Inspiring All to Love and Serve with Christ



First Presbyterian Church

Reverend Katie Estes, Pastor

200 South Ashland • Green Bay, WI 54303 • 920-437-8121
www.firstpresgreenbay.org

November 28, 2021

First Sunday of Advent: Hope

GATHERING MUSIC

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came—Anna Laura Page
Creator of the Stars of Night – Dennis Zimmer
Comfort, Comfort Now My People – Paul Manz

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Of the Father's Love Begotten – Fred Bock

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE/CALL TO WORSHIP The McCormick Family

***PRAYER OF THE DAY** (unison)

Holy God, can we actually be homesick for something we've never known? We are homesick for a just world, for peace like rivers, for the end of suffering. We are homesick for joy that is contagious, for nations that feel like neighbors, for hospitals to stand empty. We are homesick for the world you promise. We are homesick, but we are on our way home. Lead us, gracious God. Amen.

***HYMN #352**

My Lord! What a Morning

CALL TO CONFESSION

When you are a kid and you get homesick at a sleepover or a summer camp, you call home and your parents come and get you, or remind you that you want to stay. When you are a youth and you get homesick at college or in your first apartment, you call home and feel better just hearing a loved one's voice. Sometimes, that's what love looks like—it bails us out, saves us, boosts us up. In the same way, when we call out to God to confess that we've messed up, or forgotten something, or overlooked the truth, God answers with grace. God answers with love. So let us confess today, knowing that nothing can keep God from loving us.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Gracious God, we find ourselves with two options every day—to stay homesick for the world you had in mind, or to allow cynicism to win. Do we hope against hope, or do we throw in the towel? Do we insist on a better world, or do we assume it's impossible? Forgive us for the days when cynicism wins. Forgive us for numbing our homesick hurt instead of using it to fuel a better world. Kindle in us a hope that won't let go.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (responsive)

Family of faith, even when we throw in the towel, even when we give up on hope, God does not give up on us. We are loved. We are claimed. We are invited closer to God's home. So hear and trust the good news:

There is room for us in God's house, and nothing can separate us from that love.

We are claimed. We are forgiven. We are welcomed home. Thanks be to God! Amen.

***RESPONSE #89 –"For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits"**

Verse 1

**For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits;
truly my hope is in you.
O Lord of Light, our only hope of glory,
your radiance shines in all who look to you;
come light the hearts of all in dark and shadow.
For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits;
truly my hope is in you.**

***PASSING THE PEACE** (responsive)

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

(see insert)

CHORAL ANTHEM

Prepare the Royal Highway – Hal H. Hopson

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

God of the stars and God of our hearts: our days will pass but your words will last. The earth might fade but your words will last. Our memories might blur but your words will last. The grass will wither but your words will last. The sky could go dark and your words would still last. So as we listen today, help us hold onto what will last. Help us hold onto you. Amen.

PROPHET

Jeremiah 33: 14-16

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

EPISTLE (responsive) 1 Thessalonians 3: 9-13

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy
that we feel before our God because of you?

**Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face
and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.**

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you.

**And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love
for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you.**

And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness
that you may be blameless before our God and Father
at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

GOSPEL

Luke 21: 25-36

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

SERMON

"Hope is Coming Home"
Pastor Katie Estes

***HYMN #84 Creator of the Stars of Night**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

It does not take long to see that we are not home yet. There are people who are hungry, oceans that are polluted, churches that are fading, walls that are growing between us and among us. We are clearly not home yet. So until we reach that promised day, until we make it home, giving whatever we can to make a better world matters. When we give our tithes and offerings, we help build God's home here among us. With hopeful hearts, let us present our gifts to God.

OFFERTORY

Veni Emmanuel – John Bertalot

***RESPONSE #93 – "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"**

Verse 2

**Fling wide the portals of your heart;
make it a temple, set apart
from earthly use for heaven's employ,
adorned with prayer and love and joy.**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)**

Holy God, we are homesick. We long for the day that you spoke of when swords will be beaten into plowshares, the lion will lie down with the lamb, and justice will roll like waters. Until that holy day comes, receive our gifts of life and labor and use them to build that world among us. We are hopeful, so we give to your glory. Amen.

***HYMN #97**

Watchman, Tell Us of the Night

***CHARGE & BLESSING (responsive)**

Scatter now to your accustomed places with a new outlook;
God is among us and guiding us home.

**Nothing we do escapes God's notice,
and no act of ours can separate us from God's love.**

Those who are humble will discern new paths,
for God is teaching us day by day.

Secure in God's love, we venture with confidence.

We are willing to forge a new way home.

God's steadfast love never fails;

God will keep us safe and lead us in truth.

**We will watch for signs that God is near,
and rely on God's Word to guide us home.**

***POSTLUDE**

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme – Thomas Chesterton