

First Presbyterian Church
November 27th, 11:00 am – Morning Worship
Matthew Schultz– Pastor
David Hagen- Music Director
Marie Matetich - Organist

Prelude: *“Pastorale Symphony”* Handel

Welcome and Announcements Rev. Matthew Schultz

Introit Chancel Choir

✠ **Hymn:** *“Savior of the Nations, Come”* #138

Time of Reconciliation, Liturgist Kara Casanova

Leader: When our faith is rooted deeply in you, God, our lives reflect your kingdom values of justice and righteousness. But sometimes our lives become so entangled with the values of the world, that your values take second place.

All: We all, like sheep, have gone astray. Lord, have mercy.

Leader: Merciful God, remove from our hearts and minds all that prevents our lives being firmly rooted in you.

All: We all, like sheep, have gone astray. Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For the times when we have acted against your commandments, served only ourselves, and acted as if we no longer have hope in your promises, we ask your forgiveness.

All: We all, like sheep, have gone astray. Lord, have mercy.

Leader: We confess our sin to God in the silence of our own hearts.

Moment of Silent Confession

Leader: Sisters and brothers, believe the good news of the gospel: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

All: Thanks be to God!

✠ **Response** *Gloria Patri* #805

All: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end, Amen, Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Reader: Today is the first Sunday of Advent, so we light the first candle on our Advent wreath: the candle of Hope.

Reader: Thousands of years ago, the Israelites felt hopeless, as if their entire nation was nothing but a withered-up dead plant, or the stump of a fallen tree. But the prophets proclaimed God’s promise that a messiah would come. They proclaimed Hope for the people.

Reader: Hundreds of years later, their prayers were answered with the birth of Jesus, also called “Emmanuel,” a Hebrew word which means “God is with us.” Today is the first day of Advent, in which we remember those hundreds of years of hopeful waiting.

Reader: As we light the candle of Hope we give thanks for the prophets of today who dare to speak words of Hope, who resist the evil in the world, and who call us to a life of faith.

Reader: Let us pray: God, so many in your world have lost Hope. Sometimes it feels as if you aren’t with us, but are far, far away.

All: Open our eyes to your presence. Open our ears to your word. Open our hearts to your Hope.

Reader: Help us live into your Hope so we may be your light shining in the dark places of our world.

All: We pray this in Hope, and in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Reader: God’s Hope lives on, around us and within us. We are called by God to share that Hope with the world. So this week as we pass the peace, instead of “Peace be with you,” please say “Hope be with you.” If you like, you may respond with, “and also with you.”

Passing the Peace / Hope

Kid’s Time

Choral Anthem *“O Come, Emmanuel”* Joseph Martin

Scripture Isaiah 11:1-11 Page 686
Isaiah 53:1-3 Page 731
John 1:43-46 Page 1050

Sermon Rev. Matthew Schultz

