

First Presbyterian Church
December 18th, 11:00 am – Morning Worship
Matthew Schultz– Pastor
David Hagen- Music Director
Jan Gruhn - Organist

Prelude: *“I Saw Three Ships”* Arr., Duro

Welcome and Announcements Rev. Matthew Schultz

Introit Chancel Choir

✠ **Hymn:** *“Angels We Have Heard on High”* #152

Time of Reconciliation Liturgist Bill Hazelton

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.

Advent Reflection - Pastor Matt

Lighting of the Advent Candle Pam Brady & Kay Packard

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

Reader: History is not peaceful. From Cain and Abel to today’s headlines, violence has been a part of the human story.

Reader: While the Israelites waited, and waited, and waited for the coming of the Messiah, they endured violence and war.

Reader: As we light the candle of Peace, we remember their time of waiting in difficult times. We give thanks for the prophets of today who dare to be Peacemakers, who resist the violence in the world, and who call us to a life of faith.

Reader: Let us pray: God, so many in your world live without Peace, succumbing instead to violence and vengeance.

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

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

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

Reader: God’s Peace lives on, around us and within us. We are called by God to share that Peace with the world. So this week, after an advent season of Passing the Hope, Love, and Joy, we return to passing the Peace. Greet one another now with, “Peace be with you.” If you like, you may respond with, “and also with you.”

Passing the Peace

Kid’s Time

Primary Choir *“Child in the Manger”*

Luke 2: 12 - “This will be a sign to you:
You will find a baby wrapped
in cloths and lying in a manger.”

“O Morning Star, How Far and Bright” Philipp Nicolai

“Christmas Time is a Time to Love” Ernie & Debbie Rettino

