



Sunday December 22, 2024

First Presbyterian Church
101 - 6th Ave. NW
Kasson, MN

First Presbyterian Church Kasson, MN

Brian Rohrs, Pianist

December 22, 2024

Pastor Loren Olson

10:00 AM

We Approach God

Announcements

Prelude

***Call to Worship:**

L: Children of God, the arrival of the Promised One is almost here!

P: We wait as people of God's promise.

L: The message of the prophets and the expectation residing in Mary's womb call to us today.

P: We listen as people of God's promise.

L: Mary's "yes" and Elizabeth's faithfulness guide our path, showing us that we too have a role to play in bearing God's good news into the world.

P: We follow as people of God's promise.

L: This is the promise Mary, Elizabeth, and the prophets bore that we continue to carry even today—God is with us!

P: God is with us! We are not alone. Thanks be to God!

***Hymn No 121** *"O Little Town of Bethlehem"*

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Reader One: When the people were looking for deliverance, the prophet Micah declare, "But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah ... from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient day." But what if Micah is also talking to us, proclaiming, "But you, Our Blessed Church, from you shall come forth for me..." What? What might God be calling forth from us?

Congregation: God invites us to receive the promise of God's salvation and the sustenance of God's mercy and grace, enabling us to live the promise as God-bearers to the world. As Christ was born in Bethlehem, so too we answer God's invitation to have Christ born among us today and every day.

Reader Two: We light this candle of love as a sign of our commitment to live as people of God's promise, a promise of salvation and flourishing for all people that springs forth from God's love for all creation.

Light the fourth candle of the Advent wreath.

***Prayer of Confession**

Holy God, you promised to do great things for us, yet we do not trust you. You extend your mercy to us, yet we do not trust you. You lift up the humble, you fill the hungry with good things, and yet we still do not trust you. Forgive us, and help us to trust in the promises you have given us. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Silent Confession

***Assurance of Grace**

Good news, Good news! God's love overcomes our sins and grants us the opportunity to start new each morning. May our souls magnify the Lord and rejoice in our savior. Amen.

Hymn No. 188

"Jesus Loves Me!"

Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so. Little ones to him belong. They are weak, but he is strong. Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Children's Time

Prayer of Illumination

Responsive Reading: **Luke 1:46b-55**

L: And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord,

P: and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

L: for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

P: for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

L: His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

P: He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

L: He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,

and lifted up the lowly;

P: he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

L: He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,

P: according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

Gloria Patri Hymn No. 581 *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*

Scripture Reading: Micah 5:2-5a Pg 1059 OT
Luke 1:39-45 Pg 69 NT

Sermon: An Unexpected Gift Pastor Loren Olson

*Hymn No. 145 "What Child Is This"

We Respond to God

***Affirmation of Faith from the Apostles Creed (in Unison)**
I Believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His Only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer
Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Call for Offering: *Anything \$20 or less is counted for our loose offering and goes toward supporting local and international church mission.*

Offertory

*Doxology No. 606

***Prayer of Dedication:**
God of grace and wonder, we offer these gifts in response to your call. As Mary responded with faith, we too say, "Here we are, let it be to us." Use these offerings to further your kin-dom on earth. Empower us to be bearers of Christ's presence, bringing hope and love to our community. May our giving reflect the promise of Emmanuel, God with us, and bring light and joy in this Advent season. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

*Hymn No 128 "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

*Benediction

*Dismissal No. Hymn 542 (God Be with You Till We Meet Again)
"God be with you till we meet again; loving counsels guide, uphold you, with a shepherds care enfold you, God be with you till we meet again."

*Postlude



WELCOME VISITORS. Thank you for coming to worship with us.
First Presbyterian Church Church Secretary
507-634-7481 Ann Driver,
www.presbykasson.org dashdriver54@gmail.com
Office Hours: Tues. & Thurs
10:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Pastor Loren Olson 507-676-3836
1875 Cedar Valley Dr NW presbypastor@kmtel.com
Owatonna, MN 55060
Office Hours: Tues. & Thurs 9:00 AM - Noon

PLEASE CALL OR EMAIL THE CHURCH OFFICE IF YOU,
A LOVED ONE, OR A MEMBER IS IN NEED OF PRAYERS.
BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS:

HAVE A MERRY AND BLESSED CHRISTMAS!

There will be No Sunday School on December 29th.

The Christmas Eve Worship Service is at 5:00 PM.

Deadline for the January Newsletter is on Thursday, December 26

We are serving Meals on Wheels, Monday,
December 30-Friday, January 3

Please keep our prayers for: Elaine Gransee, Ruth Allen, Donna Dohrman, Joyce Olson, Dick Wolff for strength and healing.

Advent Study: Sundays at 9:00 AM in Choir Room.