

*Virtual Worship Service for the Lord's Day
First Sunday of Advent, November 28, 2021
Crossnore Presbyterian Church
200 Chapel Drive, P.O. Box 386
Crossnore, NC 28616*



Welcome and Church Family News (PDF Attachment)

Prelude: Advent Song: <https://youtu.be/YCrMeUbRZoE>
composed by John and Christine McIntosh

Lighting of the Advent Candle of Hope:

Consider setting up your own advent wreath and candles at home for the four weeks of Advent.

Lighting a candle is a simple yet profound act. It is a testimony to the power of light over darkness. The light of just one candle can push away the darkness. As we light this first candle of Advent, we begin our journey to Christmas. The first candle of Advent is called the Hope or Prophecy candle; as we anticipate Christmas, let us remember those who first spoke the promise of the coming Christ child.

[Micah 5:2](#)

“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans[b] of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.”

[Isaiah 9:6-7](#)

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

Like the prophets of old, we are called to have hope in God through the coming of the Light of the world, Jesus Christ.

Light the Candle of Hope.

Call to Worship:

Can you hear it? Can you feel it? Christ is coming!

We place our hope in the King of Kings, the Prince of Peace, the infant lowly.

Can you see it? Can you smell it? Christ is coming!

We place our hope in a Middle Eastern child born in poverty.

Can you taste it? Can you sense it? Christ is coming!

We place our hope in an infant born in the margins of society.

Come, friends, the season of Advent begins.

We gather to worship Emmanuel, God-With-Us.

Hymn of Praise Hymn of Praise # 82 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

<https://youtu.be/NwU1VnnR3-g> - First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford Choir and Chamber Orchestra,
directed by Dr. James Douthit. Dr. Bruce Frank on organ.

HYFRYDOL

**Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel’s strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.
Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.**

**By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.**

Call to Confession:

We are called to lift up our souls to God. Often, we would prefer only to lift up the parts of our soul that we are proud of. But it is equally important that we lift up to God our sins as well. Let us do so together with honesty and courage.

Unison Prayer of Confession:

We are told to be on guard, to be prepared for your coming. We confess, merciful God, that too often we are lazy and do not trouble ourselves with the prayerful sabbath that is required on this Advent road. Help us to be alert at all times, to be aware of your presence in our lives. Make us to know your ways, O Lord; teach us your paths and lead us in your truth (moment of silent confession). **This pray in your holy and merciful name. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon:

The prophet Jeremiah reminds us that the days are surely coming when God will fulfill the promise God made to us. A righteous branch is springing up!

God shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. The Lord is our righteousness!

Friends, through Christ, the righteous branch, our sins are forgiven!

Alleluia! Amen!

Response to God's Grace and Mercy # 95 *Prepare the Way of the Lord*

PREPARE THE WAY

<https://youtu.be/FDHX8evCCcA> - The Courtyard Choir, First Presbyterian Church - Stillwater, OK

**Prepare the way of the Lord,
Prepare the way of the Lord,
And all people will see the salvation of our God.**

First Lesson: Jeremiah 33:14-16

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

Special Music: *An Advent Hymn*

Charles Wesley/Christy Nockels/arr. Joseph M. Martin

<https://youtu.be/nrmfPEFVRIs>

Second Lesson: Luke 1:5-25

In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years. Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled

with the Holy Spirit. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." Zechariah said to the angel, "How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years." The angel replied, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur." Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. When his time of service was ended, he went to his home. After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, "This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favorably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people."

Sermon: "Creating a Space for Hope" (PDF Attachment)

Rev. Kathy Campbell

Affirmation of Faith: Romans 8:24-28

The Congregation

For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen?

But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.

And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

Hymn of Meditation # 93 *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

TRURO

<https://youtu.be/fTYDOfyW734> - First Plymouth Church, Lincoln Nebraska

**Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates;
behold the King of glory waits;
the King of kings is drawing near;
the Savior of the world is here.**

**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.**

**Redeemer, come! I open wide
my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide.
Let me thy inner presence feel;
thy grace and love in me reveal.**

Prayers of the People:

Gracious God,
in this holy season of hope, peace, joy, and love,
we remember those for whom this time of year is difficult:
for those who have lost loved ones in the last year,
for those who are undergoing serious medical issues,
for those who suffer from seasonal depression,
for those who cannot be with their families,
for military personnel serving overseas,

and for all others who struggle during the holidays.
God of Hope, **draw near to us.**

In this season of hope,
we ask that you would reinvigorate us
and redirect us to the hope that we find in you, Gracious God.
Lead us not into despair, but lead us beside still waters
that we might invite others to the peace that passes all understanding.
God of Hope, **draw near to us.**

Healing God,
we pray this day for those among us who are in need of hope
that we name before you in silence...
God of Hope, **draw near to us.**

Merciful God,
hear us as we pray to you as your child taught us to pray, saying: **Our Father...Amen.**

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings: As we prepare to celebrate Christ's birth and Christ being born once again in our hearts, what will we offer of our lives, our time, our resources to show to the world that God is with us? Let us receive this morning's offering.

***Doxology # 606**

OLD HUNDREDTH

<https://youtu.be/joCinBhj4a4> Acappella Cover - Isaac Robert

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above all, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!**

***Unison Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving:**

Holy God of new beginnings, as we share our tithes and offerings with you, we are filled with hope. We enter the season of Advent with expectation; we have left behind us a time of fear, isolation, and uncertainty; and we raise our heads because we know our redemption is coming near. May our gifts be dedicated to help heal the brokenness of our world and to welcome our Messiah into the world once again. In Christ, we pray. Amen.

Closing Hymn #366 *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

HYFRYDOL

<https://youtu.be/GenHMi5B7L4> -

Sung by the Plymouth Choir and Congregation of First Plymouth Church, Lincoln Nebraska

**Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling;
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion;
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation;
enter every trembling heart.**

**Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
into every troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit;
let us find the promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.**

Come, Almighty, to deliver;
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee:
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

***Charge and Benediction:**

Be people of hope.

Let hope live in your heart and share the hope of Christ with all you meet.

Share hope by noticing someone else's humanity.

Share hope by listening to someone's story.

Share hope by praying for our world.

In this Advent season, we need to see, feel, and share hope.

As you go out into the wonder of God's creations, share hope with those you meet.

And may the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you and bless you. Amen.

***Postlude: *Song of Hope* performed by musicians from around the globe**

<https://youtu.be/mkbDJda24xl>