

# Order of Worship

## December 24, 2023

### Fourth Sunday of Advent



#### Prelude

*Song of the Seraphim, Kohlmann*

#### Advent Wreath Lighting (Responsive)

*Psalm 89:1-2*

One: How does a weary world practice love?

**All: By practicing empathy and assuming the best in others.**

**By learning people's stories and finding common ground.**

One: There are a million ways to practice love.

So today we light the candle of love as a reminder and a charge.

**All: May the light from this candle overwhelm the world.**

**May the light from this candle say to all that God's love is coming.**

One: And with God's help, may we bring joy into a weary world.

#### Hymn No. 105

*People, Look East*

#### Welcome and Announcements

#### Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Holy God,

Some days, hope feels like the rain.

We try to hold onto it with cupped hands,  
but eventually, it slips right on through.

Forgive us for holding hope so loosely.

Forgive us for allowing the realities of today to define tomorrow.

We know that this world needs people of hope, so today we pray:  
turn us into those people.

Teach us how to sing Mary's song of hope for the world.

With open hearts we pray, amen.

#### Moment for Silent Confession

#### Kyrie No. 90

*Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord; be strong, take heart!*

#### Declaration of Forgiveness

#### Gloria No. 583 (sing twice)

*Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!*

#### Passing of the Peace

**Prayer for Illumination**

**First Reading**

*Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26*

**Special Music**

*Behold that Star*, Dr. Damion Womack, soloist

**Word to Grow By**

**Second Reading**

*Luke 1:46-55*

**Sermon**

*A Song of Hope*, Rev. Dr. Kathy Wolf Reed

**Hymn No. 123, vv. 1,3,5**

*It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

**Affirmation of Faith (Unison)**

*The Apostles' Creed*, Hymnal, p. 35

**Prayers of the People**

**Offertory**

*The Sleep of the Child Jesus*, Smith

**Doxology No. 150 (verse 3)**

*As they offered gifts most rare, at the manger, rude and bare, so may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy, all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to thee, our heavenly king.*

**Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer**

Hymnal p. 35

**Hymn No. 147, vv. 1-4**

*The First Nowell*

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

*The Nativity*, Blake

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Advent Candle Lighters: Carter and Johnson Families

**Welcome to worship at First Presbyterian Church, Auburn**

*New to the Presbyterian Church USA?* We would love to share with you more about our Reformed tradition of theology and worship.

*New to Auburn, or simply new to this congregation?* We'd love to share with you more about the rich history of this church and its valuable contributions to the Auburn community.

*Searching for a church home?* We would love to join you in that search and help discern whether First Presbyterian may be where God is calling you to be nurtured, inspired, and empowered.

Please take a moment to fill out our [online Friendship Register](#) or you may contact either of us directly.

Revs. Nick and Kathy Reed, Co-Pastors



The Poinsettias have been given to the Glory of God

in loving memory of Fisher Martin by Chris, Kerriann, and Mary Elliott Martin

in memory of John and Sara Ann Curry by Martha Curry Reese and John Reese

in memory of John and Sara Ann Curry by Stella and Russell Ivie

in honor of our church staff and congregation for all the ways you  
continue to support and uplift all members of our diverse  
community by Karen Herring and Leslie Carter

in honor of Kay and Bob Recknor by Bob and Karen Cochran

in honor of Christy Cochran, Kelly Tarca, and Clint Cochran by Bob and Karen Cochran

in memory of Johnny Huggins by Harriette Huggins

in memory of Sanker and Erhardt loved ones by John and Nancy Sanker

in memory of Iowa friends Sandra Carney and Dorothy Bolin by Mari and Terry Ley

in honor of Joel and Becky Buchanan, a warm, loving, and caring couple, with love by Marilyn Hozer

in memory of their parents and other beloved family members by Larry and Luann McQueen

in honor of Dorothy Hinkle-Uhlig by Daniel Uhlig

in honor of Ruth Spencer by Sandra Spencer

in memory of E.L. Spencer, Jr. by Sandra Spencer

in memory of Tom Spears by Dibba, the Whatleys, and the other Spears

in honor of their parents by Chris and Michele Richie

in memory of Mary Helen Foster and Bill Walker by Myrna Walker and Boyd Foster

in honor of Richard and Dorothy Fergus by Wia and Jeff Fergus

in honor of the Cochran Family by Bob and Kay Recknor

in memory of Sandra Kay Recknor by Bob and Kay Recknor

in memory of Hazel and John Goodman by Margaret Brinkley and family

in memory of Donald Brinkley by Margaret Brinkley and family

in memory of Joseph Barnett Farr by Kimberly Farr

in memory of Donald Thurlow by Bobbie Thurlow

by Jim and Patty Disque

in loving memory of Joe and Olivia Harrison and Ray White by Elizabeth and Todd White

The two large poinsettias are given in memory of Frances Vowell  
by her family and the Frances Vowell Flower Fund.