

A vertical line of light extends from a bright, multi-pointed star in the upper left quadrant of a deep blue night sky. The sky is filled with numerous smaller, faint stars. At the bottom of the image, the dark silhouettes of evergreen trees are visible against the horizon. The word "Hope" is written in a white, serif font, centered horizontally and positioned in the lower-middle part of the image, overlapping the vertical line.

Hope

Service for the Lord's Day
First Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2019

10:30am

** indicates that the congregation may stand as they are able.
Bold text indicates where the congregation joins in unison.*

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude & Ringing of the Bell

Gathering Music *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear* Hymn #38

Welcome & Announcements

***Call to Worship** (responsive)

Awake from your sleep: salvation is near!

The might is far gone; the day is at hand.

Heaven and earth will pass away,

but the word of God endures forever.

The day of the Lord is surely coming;

the promise of God will be fulfilled.

***Opening Prayer**

Faithful God, your promises stand unshaken through all generations. Renew us in hope, that we may be awake and alert as we watch for the glorious return of Jesus Christ, our judge and Savior, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

***Hymn #2** *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Litwiller Family

Today is the first Sunday of Advent, the Sunday in which we recall the hope we have in Christ. The prophets of Israel all spoke of the coming of Christ, of how a savior would be born, a king in the line of David. They spoke of how he would rule the world wisely and bless all nations.

On Christmas Day, the Christ of our hope was born. On Good Friday, the Christ of our hope died. On Easter Day, the Christ of our hope rose from the dead. He then ascended into heaven. On the last day, the Christ of our hope will come again to establish his kingdom over all things on earth.

As the followers of Christ, we await his return. We light this candle to remember that as he came to us humbly in the manger at Bethlehem and gave light to the world, so he is coming again in power to deliver his people.

We light this candle to remind us to be alert and to watch for his return.

The first candle is lit.

Advent Song *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah* vs. 1

Light one candle to watch for Messiah:

let the light banish darkness.

He shall bring salvation to Israel,

God fulfills the promise.

Call to Confession

A voice is crying out in the wilderness: Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

Prayer of Confession (unison)

God of the future, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom, for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace. In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world.

Silent Confession

Sung Response *While We Are Waiting, Come*
While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

Assurance of Pardon

The wilderness will rejoice the dry land will blossom. The people of God will return with joy and singing.
In the name of Jesus, we are forgiven!
Thanks be to God. Amen.

***Gloria Patri**

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.

***Sharing the Peace of Christ**

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.
The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.
Exchange words of peace and reconciliation with one another.

WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

Morning Offering

*Doxology

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

*Prayer of Dedication (unison)

God of grace, it is our delight and our devotion to give these gifts to you. All we are and all we have are yours alone. Accept this joyful offering as a token of our abiding love: use it to bring peace, justice and comfort to all the world, Amen.

GOD'S WORD IS SEALED IN US

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Prayers of the People

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.
It is truly right and our greatest joy...
... who forever sing to the glory of your name:

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your Glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.***

You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord....

...Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us...

...Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, Almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

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.

***Sharing the Bread and Cup**

Prayer After Communion (unison)

In gratitude, in deep gratitude for this moment, this meal, these people, we give ourselves to You. Take us out to live as changed people because we have shared the Living Bread and cannot remain the same. Ask much of us, expect much from us, enable much by us, encourage many through us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

WE GO OUT IN GOD'S NAME

***Hymn #507**

I Come With Joy

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

Today's Scripture Reading

Isaiah 2:1-5

This is what Isaiah, Amoz's son, saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In the days to come the mountain of the Lord's house will be the highest of the mountains. It will be lifted above the hills; peoples will stream to it. Many nations will go and say, "Come, let's go up to the Lord's mountain, to the house of Jacob's God so that he may teach us his ways and we may walk in God's paths." Instruction will come from Zion; the Lord's word from Jerusalem. God will judge between the nations, and settle disputes of mighty nations. Then they will beat their swords into iron plows and their spears into pruning tools. Nation will not take up sword against nation; they will no longer learn how to make war. Come, house of Jacob, let's walk by the Lord's light.

Matthew 20:1-16

"The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. After he agreed with the workers to pay them a denarion, he sent them into his vineyard. "Then he went out around nine in the morning and saw others standing around the marketplace doing nothing. He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I'll pay you whatever is right.' And they went. "Again around noon and then at three in the afternoon, he did the same thing. Around five in the afternoon he went and found others standing around, and he said to them, 'Why are you just standing around here doing nothing all day long?' "Because nobody has hired us,' they replied. "He responded, 'You also go into the vineyard.' "When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the workers and give them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and moving on finally to the first.' When those who were hired at five in the afternoon came, each one received a denarion. Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more.

But each of them also received a denarion. When they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ‘These who were hired last worked one hour, and they received the same pay as we did even though we had to work the whole day in the hot sun.’ “But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I did you no wrong. Didn’t I agree to pay you a denarion? Take what belongs to you and go. I want to give to this one who was hired last the same as I give to you. Don’t I have the right to do what I want with what belongs to me? Or are you resentful because I’m generous?’ So those who are last will be first. And those who are first will be last.”



Happening this Week:

- Women’s Breakfast – Monday, 9:00am – Hearthstone Oven
- Presbytery Meeting – Tuesday, 9:00am – Fenton
- Tabitha Circle – Tuesday, 6:00pm – Pastor Christina’s House
- Food Pantry – Wednesday, 9:30am – Food Pantry
- Advent Mid-Week Supper – Wednesday, 6:00pm – Fireplace Room
- Advent Mid-Week Service – Wednesday, 7:00pm – Sanctuary

Service Volunteers – December 8, 2019:

- Cynthia Smith, Liturgist
- Nola & Ken Owen, Greeters
- Cynthia Smith & Joy Heinlein, Ushers
- Carolyn Gruesbeck & Vickie Thum, Counters
- Rick Teal & Kathy Vanderbeek, Coffee Hour

*The music printed in this bulletin is covered under CCLI #11388530.
Some of the prayers and responsive readings came from the Book of
Common Worship from the Office of the General Assembly.*

Prayer List:

Loving God, we lift the following in prayer to You. Hold these people and situations in Your hands, and in them, may Your will be done. Amen.

Concerns:

Buena Vista University, Josh Merchant, and the family of Canyon "Moose" Hopkins; Sally Nester; The Allen Family; Jackie Hartsaw; Phyllis Schmidt and family, on the loss of her son; Karen Moore; Beth Brostrom; Stacy Bosley Mockridge; Hannah Harlow; Sharon Froom; Bonnie Smith; Garret Miniard; Al Bartholomew; The Rev. George Gillette; Brenda Bollman; Rhonda Handley; Geneva Foster; Soulemayne Galadi, serving in the Congo; Those who make decisions that affect others; Those living with mental illness; Our military and veterans; Our police, fire, and other emergency responders; Our country

Thanksgivings:

The safe delivery of Juliette Rose Heinlein on 10/23; Miracles and healing mercies granted; Our church family; The church office volunteers; New jobs and the opportunities that come with them; For birthdays and anniversaries; For those who help others in crisis; For the angels in our church family

Continuing Prayers:

John & Nancy Allen; Penny Arnold; Marian Bouchey; Randy Jenison; Christina Latoski & family; Barb Pharr; Rick & Mary Rimmel; Karen Rozen; Shelly & Jamie Sanders; Randy Smith; Shelley Zamarron & family

If you would like someone added to the prayer list and announced during the Prayers of the People, please contact the church office or speak to Pastor Christina.

First Presbyterian Church of Ithaca
218 E. Newark St., Ithaca, Michigan 48847
989-875-4437 info@ithacapres.org

To learn more about our congregation, visit our website:

www.ithacapres.org

and our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/ithacapres

Leading Worship Today:

The Rev. Christina L. Jensen, Pastor

Karen Emery, Liturgist

Bob Crist, Music Director

Jim & Carolyn Gruesbeck, Greeters

Chuck & Karen Emery, Ushers

Dale Nester & Rick Teal, Communion Servers

Tom Heinlein & Rick Teal, Counters

Staff:

The Rev. Christina L. Jensen, Pastor

Bob Crist, Music Director

Chris Shemes, Treasurer

Shelley Zamarron, Custodian



The First Presbyterian Church of Ithaca, Michigan, is a congregation of the Presbytery of Lake Huron of the Presbyterian Church (USA).