



Journey

First Presbyterian Church of South St. Paul

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT: JOURNEY

December 20, 2015

10:00 a.m.

**please stand in body or in spirit*

GATHERING MUSIC

"The Christmas Concerto"
Manitou String Quartet

Corelli

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Katie Estes

CENTERING SILENCE

INTROIT

"Laudamus te"

Vivaldi

Erin Reykdal, Linda Kachelmeier

We praise Thee. We bless Thee. We adore Thee. We glorify Thee.

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

The Bill & Syd Lee Family

Let us magnify the name of our God together
and ponder the wonder of God's majesty.

Our Creator knows our names

and chooses us to be carriers of good news.

Rejoice that God restores our strength
and equips us for tasks to which we are called.

God has done great things for us;

Holy is God's name, now and forever.

God values us even when others ridicule and scorn;
God turns even our mistakes into blessings.

From generation to generation, God is faithful;

we leap for joy when we feel God near to us.

As we light the candles on the Advent wreath today, we are reminded of the
call to wait and watch for God's good news, we announce with joy the
coming of our King, and we journey with Mary to the place of God's arrival
into our lives. May our journey be blessed by peace and light this day.

*HYMN

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

Hymnal # 83

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Tom Watson

Holy God, you have called us into covenant with you. Your hospitality invites us to welcome all as guests, your justice calls us to gracious fairness, and your forgiveness commands us to forgive each other. But in our rush to Christmas we have failed, we have sinned against you and one another. When you came as our guest, we ignored you. When you needed justice, we turned you over to a system where justice too easily gets lost. When you asked for forgiveness, we held a grudge. We confess that we have let down

our end of the covenant, Lord. We humbly ask you once again to invite us in out of the cold as your guests, to show us mercy in your justice, to forgive our shortcomings and to strengthen us today, so that with Mary we can say, “I am the Lord’s servant, let it be with me just as you say.” Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS** (responsive)

Remember God’s gracious love for us: when we sincerely confess our sin, the Holy Spirit of this season is poured out upon our lives,
**and the power of the Highest hovers over us,
so that the covenant being born in us will be truly holy.**

Thanks be to God for this glorious good news:
in Christ our Savior we are forgiven and freed. Amen.

***RESPONSE**

“Like a Child”
(v. 1)

see insert

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

Gracious God, whose coming to us in Jesus Christ we celebrate with joy and whose mercy is from generation to generation, visit us today to restore our memory of all your goodness to us. Trample our vanities and lift up our timid spirits so we all can participate fully and equally in the inheritance we have received from your hand. Amen.

GOSPEL

Luke 2: 46 - 55

N.T. p. 59

CANTATA

“Gloria”

Antonio Vivaldi

Festival Choir & Manitou String Quartet

“Gloria in excelsis Deo”

Glory be to God on high.

“Et in terra pax”

And on earth peace to men of good will.

“Gratias agimus tibi”

“Propter magnam gloriam”

We give thanks to Thee for Thy great glory.

“Domine fili unigenite”

O Lord, the Only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

RECEPTION OF TITHES & OFFERINGS

INVITATION TO SHARE

OFFERTORY SOLO

“Domine Deus”

Vivaldi

O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father almighty.

*RESPONSE

“Savior of the Nations, Come”

Hymnal # 102

(v. 4 only)

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

Thank you, God, for your mercy and protection, for feeding us physically and spiritually, for caring for us like a shepherd. We present our offerings this day as an act of gratitude. What we can never repay, we pause to appreciate. In the name of generosity we cannot match, we seek to be generous toward others. We dedicate ourselves and these gifts to honor Christ through ministry in the world. Amen.

*HYMN

“Canticle of the Turning”

Hymnal # 100

(vs. 1-3)

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE

“Canticle of the Turning”

Hymnal # 100

(v. 4)

*POSTLUDE

“In Dulci Jubilo”

Dello Joio



SERVING US TODAY

Greeters: Jan Mahoney & Confirmands

Ushers: Gene Demko, Bill Hickok,
Ruth Krueger, Joe Rasmusson

String Quartet:

Gerry Casper, violin
Mark Ladwig, viola
Susan Oftedahl, cello
Andrea Sieber, violin

Coffee Servers: Jodelle & Bob Ista

Music Director: Linda Kachelmeier

Organist: Jen Bierlein

Pastors: Katie Estes, Tom Watson

Youth Coordinator: Ruth Buller

Church Administrator: Eleta Pierce

Prayer Chain Contact:

Church Office (651) 451-6223

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First Presbyterian Church of South St. Paul

535 20th Avenue North, South St. Paul, MN 55075

651-451-6223 · www.fpcssp.org

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church of South St. Paul. We are delighted that you have joined us to worship the Living God. **If you are a first time worship guest**, we extend a special welcome to you. Know that as our guest, you are invited to participate in any of the programs offered and we do not expect you to contribute when the offering is received. Today, your presence with us is your offering to God.

Photos and/or video may be taken during this worship service. FPC-SSP reserves the right to use said photos or video in church publications, including, but not limited to, bulletins, newsletters, the church website, and social media sites. If you prefer not to appear in these photos or video, please talk to one of the ushers.

If you have a prayer request, please use the yellow request cards in the pews. Give the card to an usher before worship or during the first hymn so it can be included in our prayers of the people today and passed on to the prayer chain as well.

Children of all ages are welcome in our worship service. We also have professional childcare available for infants and children up to 5 years. The nursery is located at the top of the stairs in the upper level of the Education wing and is always available on those days your child may be restless. If you have an infant who begins to cry during the service, feel free to go into the library with your child and continue to hear the service on the speaker.

Please join us after the worship service for a time of fellowship in the Commons. Coffee, juice and treats are available for a minimal charge for members and at no cost for guests. Come and connect with old and new friends as we enjoy fellowship together.

On The Calendar

Today, December 20

*Fourth Sunday of Advent,
Christmas Joy Offering*

- 8:30 a.m. Education for All
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service
- 11:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour
- 1:15 p.m. Timber Hills Worship

Monday, December 21

- 7:00 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous

Wednesday, December 23

- 10:00 a.m. Bible Study
- 4:30 p.m. Dress Rehearsal for 5 pm Service
(Readers, Jubilation Ringers,
Instrumental Ensemble,
Voices of the Heart)
- 6:15 p.m. Bells of Praise
- 7:00 p.m. Bible Study
- 7:00 p.m. Festival Choir

Thursday, December 24

- 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship
- 10:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship

Friday, December 25

Christmas Day—Church Office Closed

Sunday, December 27

- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service
- 11:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour

Next Sunday, December 27

Scripture: Luke 2: 41-52

Theme: First Sunday after Christmas

Music: Familiar Hymns, Special Music by the Ross Family

Christmas Break—No Education Classes



Announcements

Christmas Eve Worship Services Wednesday, December 24 “REVEAL”

5:00 p.m.

A family-style worship service which features our Sunday school children, Voices of the Heart, Instrumental Ensemble, and Jubilation Ringers.

10:00 p.m.

A traditional candlelight worship service with communion, featuring our Festival Choir and Bells of Praise.

This morning we will be receiving the Christmas Joy Offering. More information can be read in the insert. Donations can be placed in the offering plate as it is passed.

Don't forget to pick up your Scrip! Please note that additional orders will not be taken today, although we do have some cards on hand that you may purchase.

Holiday Church Office Closings: The church office will be closed Friday, December 25, Thursday, December 31 and Friday, January 1.

Stay connected and know what is going on at your church! Each Sunday's service is recorded and housed on our website: www.fpcssp.org Our Facebook page is updated almost daily with events and highlights from Sunday worship. "Like" our page: First Presbyterian Church in South St. Paul.

Do you have last-minute shopping to do?

Stop by the table for *The Link* in the South Commons after worship and give a gift that gives twice by supporting homeless and at-risk youth in Dakota County. Make a donation of any size at the table and receive gift-acknowledgement cards to give this Christmas. **For a donation of \$30**, you will receive one of the limited number of prints of Annie Young's art. Stop by the table to view the selection and to give your donation.

Year-End Giving: A reminder that any checks to the church that are dated in December 2015 have to be credited to your December statement even if you intended your gift to be credited to January. The books remain open for approximately a week to accommodate checks received in the mail but please note that the date of the check is what we are required to honor even if you use a January envelope.

Per Capita for 2016 is \$32.87. Our church pays the full amount to our denomination for every active member, whether you pay it or not, and that comes out of our general operating budget. By paying your per capita in full, you help reimburse your church's budget. If you have not yet paid your 2015 per capita, (\$32.77), please do that before the end of this year and please pay your 2016 apportionment by the end of January.

Game Night - Friday, January 22: Come at 6:00 pm for pizza and stay to play your favorite game or learn a new one. There will be games for **all ages**. Sponsored by the Library, Youth and Children's Committees.