

WELCOME TO
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF BISMARCK, ND

1st Sunday of Advent

Hope



December 3, 2023

10:00a.m. Service

Our Mission

We are a community called to love God through worship and prayer, receiving and serving our neighbors with the compassion of Christ, open to new beginnings and the spiritual growth of children, youth and adults.

WE WELCOME OUR GUESTS THIS MORNING AND
INVITE YOU TO MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME!



PLEASE FEEL FREE TO JOIN US FOR
COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWING WORSHIP.

LAY READERS NEEDED FOR THE UPCOMING HOLIDAYS:



Please sign up to be a **Lay Reader**
on the bulletin board in the Narthex!

**PLEASE FILL OUT YOUR “PINK PRAYER REQUEST CARDS”
AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, THE USHERS WILL COLLECT THEM DURING
THE OPENING HYMN. THANK YOU!**

ATTENDANCE BOOKS

You will find an Attendance Pad at the end of each pew.
Please fill it out and leave it in pew for the church office to
collect. (please include any updated address information)

Thank you to everyone for helping us with collecting
attendance and statistics we submit to the Presbytery.

December 3, 2023 “1st Sunday of Advent” 10:00am

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF BISMARCK, ND

Prelude “Still, Still, Still” arr. Douglas Wagner

Bringing in the Light of Christ Ruby & Riley Pederson

Welcome and Announcements

Minute for Missions: Ron Carlisle and Jim Skaret

Lighting of the Advent Candle: Andy, Erin, and Donovan Horn

Introit “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” Latin, 12th century

“Gathering in God’s Name

***Call to Worship (responsively)**

One: We come from a world of darkness

All: Into Christ's world of light.

One: We come from a world of weariness

All: Into God's strength and hope.

One: We come from a slumbering world.

All: Strengthened by the Spirit, we come to awaken our souls and watch for the coming of Christ. Creator God, you have molded us into your people. As we gather for worship, let us settle into your bosom of love. We wish to be made into your image. We worship to experience your brightness. We gather to become your Body of Believers. Restore us, O God of the heavens; let your face shine upon us, so that we may worship and know you. Amen.

***Opening Hymn** “Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus” Hymnal #2

Choral Call to Confession “Comfort, Comfort You My People”
Hymnal #3, verse 1

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Lord God, we praise you for sending light into this world.

We confess that we live as though the light had never defeated darkness. We confess that we ignore the Savior you sent to be among us and to live in us. We've kept the birth of your Son confined to the Christmas season and do not yearn for his coming each moment in our waiting hearts.



Forgive us for not opening our eyes to Jesus. Prepare us for His return. Help us rejoice in the light so that your grace can illuminate the darkened places of our hearts.

(Time of Silent Individual Confession) **Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

***Gloria Patri and Passing of the Peace of Christ** Hymnal #579

Young Disciples Message

***Gratitude for the Grace of Giving**

***Doxology and Prayer of Dedication** Hymnal #592

Proclamation of the Word of God

Prayer of Illumination

First Scripture Reading *Isaiah 11:1-10, 12*

Anthem "Prepare Ye the Way" Allen Pote

Second Scripture Reading *Luke 1:5-25*

Sermon "A Little Child Shall Lead Them"

Special Music "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" Hymnal #5

Celebrating the Table of the Lord

Invitation to the Table

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Words of Institution and Distribution of the Elements

Sharing the Feast

Prayer after Communion



Responding to God's Word

***Closing Hymn** "We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom" see attached

Sending Forth in God's Name

Benediction and Blessing

Benediction Response "Prepare the Way" Psalmbooken/Franzen

Postlude "O Come Rejoicing" arr. Douglas Wagner



Calendar

Monday, December 4 - **1:30pm** Prayer Shawl

6:00pm “**Suzuki Christmas Recital**”

6:30pm Scouts

Tuesday, December 5 - 11AM Balance & Strength Class

5:45pm Property & Equip.

6:30pm Lay Pastors

Wed., December 6 - **Noon “Munch & Mingle”**

5:45pm PAC/Teens

6:30pm Bells

7:30pm Choir

Thurs., December 7 - 11AM Balance & Strength Class

5:30pm Yoga

7:30pm Advent Bible Study-Parlor

Friday, December 8 - *No Activities Scheduled*

Saturday, December 9 - **9:30-11:30am “Breakfast with Santa”**



1:30pm Fall Bible Study-Parlor

Sunday, December 10 - 10am Worship - “Joyous Music Sunday”

Parish Nurse Recognition - Wanona we'll miss you!



Advent Devotionals are now available



on the bookshelf in the Narthex
by the Upper Rooms.

Worship Participants:

Rev. Dr. Leanne Simmons, Pastor

Debi Rogers, Chancel Choir dir.

Gail Snustad, Keyboards

Kimball Banks, Lay Reader

Josh Stokka, Audio/Visual Specialist

Mark Jensen, Youth Ministry dir.

Neva & Ron Carlisle, Donna & John Richter,
and Karmen Svihovec ~ Ushers

First Scripture Reading

Isaiah 11:1-10, 12

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

2 The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and of might,
the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord—

3 and he will delight in the fear of the Lord.

He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,
or decide by what he hears with his ears;

4 but with righteousness he will judge the needy,
with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.

He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth;
with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.

5 Righteousness will be his belt
and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

6 The wolf will live with the lamb,
the leopard will lie down with the goat,
the calf and the lion and the yearling together;
and a little child will lead them.

7 The cow will feed with the bear,
their young will lie down together,
and the lion will eat straw like the ox.

8 The infant will play near the cobra's den,
and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest.

9 They will neither harm nor destroy
on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the
knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

10 In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the
peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting
place will be glorious

12 He will raise a banner for the nations
and gather the exiles of Israel;
he will assemble the scattered people of Judah
from the four quarters of the earth.

Second Scripture Reading

Luke 1:5-25

⁵In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. ⁶Both of them were righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commands and decrees blamelessly. ⁷But they were childless because Elizabeth was not able to conceive, and they were both very old.

⁸Once when Zechariah's division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, ⁹he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense. ¹⁰And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside.

¹¹Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. ¹²When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. ¹³But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. ¹⁴He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, ¹⁵for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born. ¹⁶He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. ¹⁷And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

¹⁸Zechariah asked the angel, "How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years."

¹⁹The angel said to him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. ²⁰And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their appointed time."



²¹Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering why he stayed so long in the temple. ²²When he came out, he could not speak to them. They realized he had seen a vision in the temple, for he kept making signs to them but remained unable to speak. ²³When his time of service was completed, he returned home. ²⁴After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion. ²⁵“The Lord has done this for me,” she said. “In these days he has shown his favor and taken away my disgrace among the people.”

9TH ANNUAL BISMARCK COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CONCERT FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8TH AT 6:30PM

HOSTED BY THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS,
1500 COUNTRY WEST RD

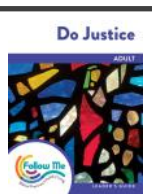
OUR OWN WESTMINSTER CHIMES ENSEMBLE
WILL BE PLAYING!



“Do Justice”

Fall Adult Bible Study

1:30pm Saturday, December 9



**Did you know? You can now view our church's worship services
on public access television, Sundays at noon!**

Midco channel #12 or #612 (Community Access TV)

**PAC Kids are selling Christmas Ornaments
Check them out in the Narthex**



We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom 378



1 We wait the peace-ful king-dom, when wolf and lamb shall lie
 2 Where is the peace-ful king-dom? When will this new day start?
 3 When wars of des-o-la-tion and hate come to an end,
 4 That lit-tle child shall lead us to walk the cho-sen way,



in gen-tle-ness and friend-ship with-out a fear or sigh,
 We long for peace and com-fort to reign with-in each heart.
 when na-tion meets with na-tion and calls the oth-er "friend,"
 to share the peace-ful king-dom, to greet God's new-born day.



when li-on shall be graz-ing, when snake shall nev-er strike;
 Yet not in our lives on-ly, nor sim-ply in our home:
 still peace in all its full-ness will on-ly have be-gun:
 The child born in a sta-ble is sent to break our chains,



a lit-tle child shall lead us both strong and weak a-like.
 we pray that all cre-a-tion will one day find sha-lom.
 sha-lom for all cre-a-tion be-gins with jus-tice done.
 to bring through word and ta-ble the day when jus-tice reigns.

This text paraphrases Isaiah 11:6-9 in the first stanza, then reflects on that passage in widening frames of reference from self to all creation and identifies its "little child" with one born at Bethlehem. The tune is named for the composer's sister, his first piano teacher.

TEXT: Kathleen R. Moore, 2010

MUSIC: Hal H. Hopson, 1983

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Music © 1983 Hope Publishing Company

MERLE'S TUNE

7.6.7.6.D

CCL #2845157

~Upcoming Events~

Sunday, 12/3 - "1st Sunday of Advent" - communion
Monday, 12/4 - 6:00pm "Suzuki Christmas Recital"
Saturday, 12/9 - 9:30-11:30am "Breakfast with Santa"
Sunday, 12/10 - "Joyous Music Sunday"
Chancel Choir & Westminster Chimes
Tuesday, 12/12 - Noon "Blue Christmas Service"
Church Chapel
Sunday, 12/17 - "Children's Christmas Program"
followed by "Red & Green Potluck!"
Blood Pressure Clinic
Wednesday, 12/20 - NO PAC/Teens - NO Bells - NO Choir
Sunday, 12/24 - NO 10am service
4:30pm (early)
9:00pm (late - communion)
OFFICES CLOSED Dec. 25 and Dec. 26,
Dec. 29 (at Noon),
January 1, 2024



THE HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

During Advent, our congregation has an opportunity to participate in the "**Tree of Love Ministry**". This ministry supports and connects our congregation to the families of children in the First Presbyterian Child Care Center.

Please bring or send items to the church:
214 E Thayer Ave. Bismarck, ND 58501.

Please wrap your gift, and put the gift tag with its contents on the gift. Place your donation under the tree. All gifts should be delivered by **Wednesday, December 13.** We will wrap any unwrapped gifts. For many families, requests for laundry soap and other household items reflect how limited their financial resources are. Please understand that for many of these families, our donations of these items will allow them to use their limited resources for other necessities like food and rent. Our families are grateful for your donations!



Tree of Love:

Family #1 - single working mom
with toddler son and twin daughters

Family #2 - single working mom
with two daughters, (7yr. old & 4yr. old)
and infant son



Family #3 - single working mom
attending nursing college, has toddler daughter,
and grandmother temporarily living with them

ADULT ADVENT BIBLE STUDY - "GO TELL"

Ever since angels lit the Bethlehem sky and sent amazed shepherds to meet the baby, people whose lives have been touched by Jesus have been telling others the story. "Go Tell" demonstrates to us a practice of sharing a gift in love. The stories for this unit are grounded in the prophecy and events surrounding the birth of Jesus, and so are ideal for Advent, yet this story isn't one that should just live in the month of December. God's people can, and should, share this good news every chance we get. "Go Tell" is, simply put, evangelism. Jesus teaches and preaches and gives the imperative to do the same. Join Elder Rusty Bender & friends for meaningful conversation!



Thursdays - December 7, 14, 21, and 28 at 7:30 pm in the Parlor

Please
join us!



Saturday, December 9th

9:30 am - 11:30 am

First Presbyterian Church ~ Ramstad Hall

214 E Thayer Ave * Bismarck, ND

Please use West entrance labeled Child Care Center

Join Santa and our Boy Scout Troop 6 for a pancake breakfast!

There will be a puppet show and craft tables for all to enjoy.

Santa will be attending so be sure to bring the whole family for some holiday fun before you head out to do your Christmas shopping.

Free will offerings accepted.