

CSPL114571, CCLI 736861 One license A-727852

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PENDLETON, OREGON – DEC. 24TH, 2023

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT- LOVE CHRISTMAS EVE



Pendleton, Oregon

WELCOMING
WORSHIPING
SERVING



PASTOR: REV. JONATHAN MITCHELL

MUSIC LEADERS: CARLY ELDER, STEVE MULLER

LITURGIST: VALERIE CONNER

- **BOLD** words are spoken together
- The nursery is open for children aged 0-5
- There are children's activity booklets available to keep!
- Beautiful flowers were provided by Mary Grilley Carnevale in celebration of Millie & late husband, Wesley Grilley's 68th wedding anniversary on Dec. 27th.

PRE-SERVICE FLUTE DUET

Cathy Muller and Katy Clifton

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Rev. Jonathan Mitchell

Christmas Joy Offering

CHILDREN'S TIME

Jana Mitchell

GATHERING PRAYER

*HYMN #121

O Little Town of Bethlehem

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Alice Hepburn, Marty Platt, Sharon Simons

CALL TO WORSHIP

FROM LUKE 1:46-55

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

for God has looked with favor on the lowliness of God's servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is God's name.

God's mercy is for those who fear the LORD from generation to generation.

God has shown strength with God's arm; and scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

God has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;

God has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

God has helped God's servant Israel, in remembrance of the LORD's mercy,

according to the promise God made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.

Come, let us worship the LORD!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

FROM LUKE 1

An angel spoke to Mary and said: “Do not be afraid!”**And yet, O Lord, we find ourselves paralyzed by fear of what we do not know.****Forgive us of our sins, O Lord, and give us the faith of Mary to respond to your grace with lives of grateful praise.****Let us hear the good news that she first heard:****Light is breaking. Love is coming. The world is about to turn!***(time for silent, personal confession)*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

FROM 1 TIM. 1: 15; 1 PET.2: 24

This saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, That Jesus Christ was born into the world to save sinners.**He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, that we might be dead to sin, and alive to all that is good.****Join me in these words of forgiveness:****By the grace of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.*****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.******PASSING OF THE PEACE****As was promised to those who came before us, God has come to live with us and redeem us. In joy and deepest gratitude, let us turn to one another and share signs of the peace we find in Christ.****May the peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you!*****Greet one another with the peace of Christ*

ANTHEM

*Angels we have heard on high
Ellie, Lydia, Steve, Judy*

BELLS OF JOY

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

FIRST GOSPEL LESSON NT P. 53 LUKE 1:26-38

SECOND GOSPEL LESSON NT P. 54 LUKE 2:1-7

SERMON **Courage**

*HYMN #347 *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY GTG #607

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Christ all people here below;

Praise Holy Spirit evermore;

Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen

PRAYERS OF JOY AND CONCERN AND THE LORD'S PRAYER
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.

*HYMN #136 *Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Please sign and pass the fellowship pads at the end of the pews. It is a great way to find out who is sitting in the pew next to you. Please join us for coffee hour following worship.
- PW Bible Study at 9:30 am every second Wednesday of each month.
- The Congregational Vitality Commission will again be hosting “Discussion and Desserts” book study starting in January. The book we have chosen for this year is “The American Way of Eating: Undercover at Walmart, Applebee’s, Farm Fields and the Dinner Table” by Tracie McMillan. If you are interested in participating in next year’s book study, please let Darcey Ridgway or the church office know.
- The Altrusa “Sunday Suppers” at the Salvation Army are looking for small toiletry items (like the ones you get at hotels) to give to the guests this winter. If you are so inclined, please bring in your donations of shampoo, conditioner, soap, toothpaste, etc. to the church between now and the end of the year.
- On Sunday, December 31st join us for worship at 10:00 AM. We will have our regular worship service. However, instead of a "sermon," there will be a time to choose and sing your favorite hymn or carol. We are thankful for our talented music team who can sight-read anything! Pastor Jonathan will be on study leave.
- The Rogers Room at Pendleton First Presbyterian Church will be the location for a community conversation about the present situation in Gaza. Dr. Brigit Farley, professor of history at Washington State University, will be the presenter. Dr. Farley who attended schools in Pendleton, teaches “Roots of Contemporary Issues” at WSU and includes this extremely difficult conflict in that course. She notes that there are many layers of grievance and offense going back several years. When asked for a reference to prepare for her presentation, she suggested reading Ari Shavit’s book, “My Promised Land”. Ari Shavit is an Israeli journalist, born and raised in Israel in 1958, who provides an objective observation of the conflict. This program continues to be planned and a date and time in January will soon be announced. Please continue to look for details in the “Joyful News”.

