

First Scripture Lesson	Ezekiel 36:24-28	Pew Bible Page #746
Anthem	“ <i>He Comes, Noel</i> ”	Douglas Wagner
Second Scripture Lesson	Ephesians 2:1-10	Pew Bible Page #1017
Sermon	“Our Hearts”	Pastor Scott Cress
*Hymn	“ <i>What Child Is This?</i> ”	Page #150
*Affirmation of Faith	Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 45	<i>(responsive)</i>
Question:	Why is prayer necessary for Christians?	

Answer: Because prayer is the most important part of the thankfulness which God requires of us. Moreover, God will give His grace and the Holy Spirit only to those who constantly and with heartfelt longing ask Him for these gifts and thank Him for them.

Prayers of God’s People 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

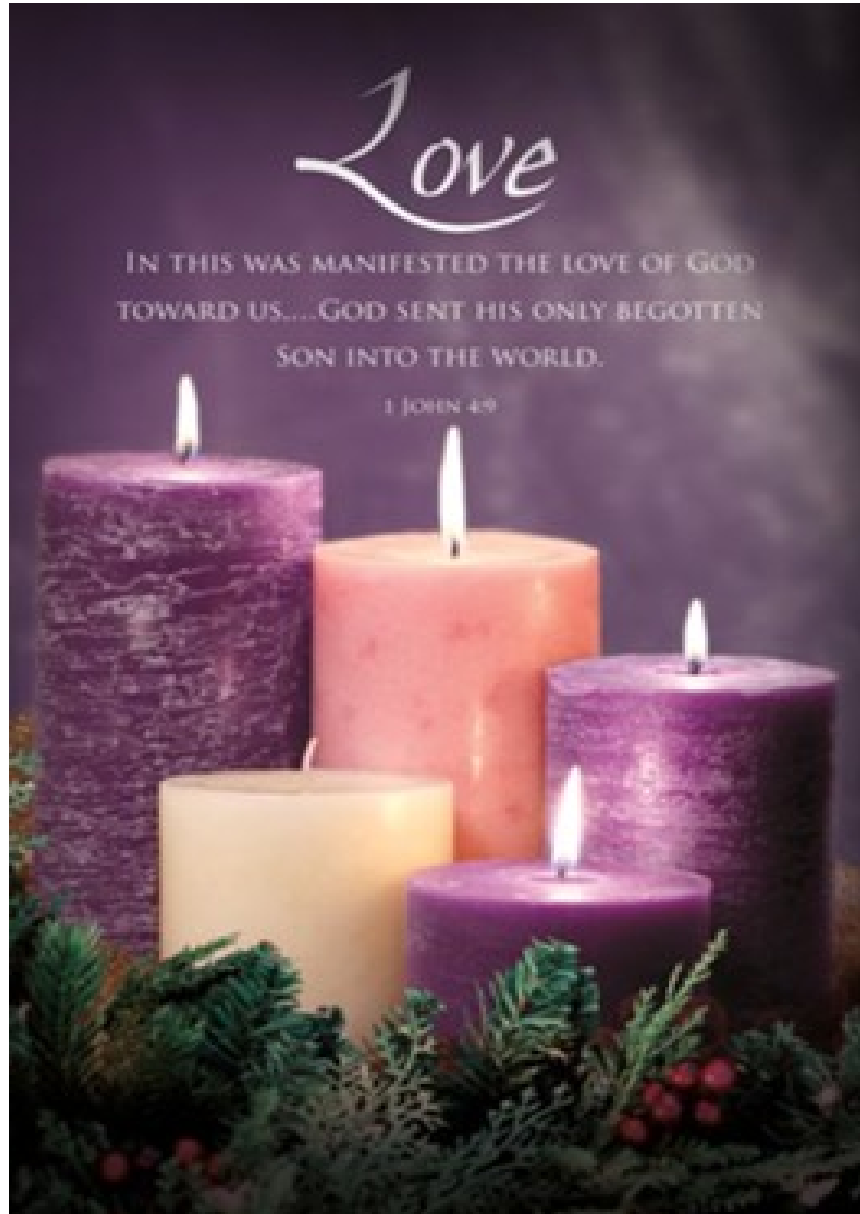
*The Doxology		Page #809
*Hymn	“ <i>Gentle Mary Laid Her Child</i> ”	Page #156
*Benediction		
Postlude	“ <i>In Dulci Jubilo</i> ”	Gilbert Martin



*We pray the Lord’s blessing of joy, peace,
and Wonderful hope to you and your loved ones
this Christmas and in the coming year!*

The First Presbyterian Church

Organized July 22, 1843



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2021

Service for the Lord's DaY

December 19, 2021
*Congregation May Stand

Fourth Sunday of Advent
10:00 a.m. Worship

Prelude *"Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine"* Gilbert Martin

Welcome and Announcements James Brandon

***Call to Worship:** Hebrews 10:19-22

Invocation

***Hymn** *"Angels From the Realms of Glory"* Page #174

***Responsive Reading:** Luke 1:46-55

Leader: And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord,

People: And my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

Leader: For He has regarded the low estate of His handmaiden. For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed;

People: For He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name.

Leader: And His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation.

People: He has shown strength with His arm, He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts,

Leader: He has put down the mighty from their thrones, and exalted those of low degree;

People: He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent empty away.

Leader: He has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy,

All: As He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to His posterity for ever."

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Connie and Les Hutchinson



Tune of "Away in a Manger" page 147

"We Light Now the Candle"

We light now the candle, the Candle of Love.
 It's Advent this morning, light shines from above.
 God loves us so much that He sent us His Son.
 To save us, redeem us, our souls He has won.

Prayer of Confession: From *The Book of Common Worship* (unison)
Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved You with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done Your will, we have broken Your law, we have rebelled against Your love. We have not loved our neighbors, and we have refused to hear the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Silent Confession (continue in silent prayer)Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

***The Gloria Patri**

Children's Message

"The Christmas Family"

Pastor Scott Cress

CHURCH CALENDAR

Today, December 19 ~ Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:00 a.m. Choir Practice, Sanctuary

10:00 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary

11:00 a.m. Christmas Reception, Fellowship Hall

Monday, December 20

Tuesday, December 21

Wednesday, December 22

Thursday, December 23

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24

6:30 p. Christmas Eve Service, Sanctuary

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25



Next Sunday, December 26

10:00 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary

11:00 a.m. Coffee Fellowship, Fellowship Hall

11:20 a.m. Sunday School, Classrooms

WELCOME

On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we sincerely welcome all who have come to worship. May Christ the Lord touch us with His grace, so that we may each be refreshed in mind, renewed in spirit and filled with the love of God. Please join us on Christmas Eve to celebrate our Savior's birth!

A SPECIAL WELCOME TO ALL VISITORS worshipping with us this morning. We ask that you please include your name and address when filling out the Friendship Pads and pass the pad along the pew so others may do the same. After everyone has registered, send the pad back along the pew so you can learn the names of those sitting with you. Attendance Last Sunday: 73

The FLOWERS on the Communion table are given today by Barb and Tim Auseon in celebration of their 62nd Anniversary.

PASTOR: Rev. Scott Cress
CHOIR/ORGANIST: Dean James
WORSHIP LEADER: James Brandon
BUILDING CLOSER: Les Hutchinson
DEACON: Connie Hutchison
USHERS: James Brandon, Marty Games, and Carol Ringenberg

PRAYER REQUESTS: Ellie Leutheuser (McGuire Room 212) and John Long

CONTINUING PRAYER REQUESTS: Curt Carver, Carissa Benavides, Jack Bowles (*Cousin J.Long*), Charles Cress (*Pastor's Father*), Kara Dietrich, Jim Elliott (*Pastor's friend*), Bill Ewald (*Brother-in-law C.Carver*), Brynn Ferguson, Melinda Foulke-Beckwith, Kevin & Bridget Fowler (*Parents B.Portteus*), Maxine & George Gaffney (*Friends B.Kneen*), Tim Gordon (*Cousin M.Rollins*), Bill Gunn (*Brother B.Lipps*), JB Jenkins (*Brother-in-law Irma*), Francesca & Robert Jones (*Irma's Niece & Husband*), Kurt Leutheuser (*Son E.Leutheuser*), Ann Mardis (*Friend Carol Ringenberg*), Nita Phillips (*Friend L.Fogarty*), Jackie Schaefer (*Friend Taylors*), Joanne Rollins (*Marsha's Sister-in-law—cancer*), Sherri Selmer (*Friend Cress Family*), Laura VanWormer (*Friends L.Fogarty*), Donald West (*3 yr-old heart surgery*), Marsha Green-Ziegler (*Sister S.Downey*); **PRAY FOR MILITARY:** LT. Andrea Cornett (*USN*), Dorion Duby (*National Guard—Husband Elayna*), Spencer Eves (*USNA-Grandson Judy & Ron Adams*); LT. Col. Garron Garn (*US Marines*), LT. Zachary Laden (*US Navy, Grandson Taylors*), Captain Ben Larson (*National Guard--Grandson C.Dear*); Major Andrew Osborn (*Army, Nephew B.Kneen*), Davis Regalado (*USMC-Friend J.Benzing*); LT. JG Sydney Rouble (*USN RN—Granddaughter Bishers*); **PRAY FOR MISSIONS:** Lingap Foundation, Outreach Foundation, and Samaritan's Purse; **PRAY FOR OUR SHUT-INS:** Mary Bearman (*home*), Mary Rose Dryer (*home*), Onalee Foulke (*Drews Country Living*), Arlan Gilbert (*Drews Village Green*), Lois James (*Medical Care*), Ellie Leutheuser (*McGuire Room 212*), and Kit Tamblyn (*home*)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTMAS RECEPTION TODAY AFTER WORSHIP! Join us as we celebrate the season together with a lot of joy, laughs, and delicious snacks and appetizers. *We hope you will stay and join us!*

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE (December 24): Once again, we are coming to that special day of the year that we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. So, don't miss our Christmas Eve Service at 6:30 PM the evening of December 24th in the sanctuary. Invite your family and friends and let's celebrate the miracle, the joy and the wonder of Christmas together!

CHRISTMAS OFFERING: This year all donations received in the Christmas Offering envelopes will go to the Hillsdale Salvation Army to provide food and assistance to people in need in Hillsdale County. The pew envelopes may also be used by writing "*Christmas Offering*" on the memo line. Thank you for giving generously!

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED (December 23-January 3): In order for our staff to celebrate the holidays with their families, the Church office will be closed Thursday, December 23rd through Monday, January 3rd. **The Church office will re-open on Tuesday, January 4th with new office hours from 9 AM to 3 PM.** Warmest wishes to you and your families for a safe, peaceful, and a happy Christmas and a healthy New Year!

FLOWER CALENDAR: To all of you who have graciously donated Communion table flowers for our Sunday services, we thank you for your kind contributions. The Worship Committee appreciates your gift in memory of loved ones or in celebration of your special event! The new Flower Calendar has been placed in the hall by the Parlor. Please take a moment to place your name on the Flower Chart for giving flowers on any given Sunday in 2022. Thank you!

MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY: Join us for Wednesday evening study of John's Gospel. The fun begins at 6:30 PM. You may participate in-person in the Pastor's study (*please RSVP*) or live on Zoom. Check fpchillsdale.org for the Zoom info.

NEW SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE: The Session voted to officially change the Sunday morning service time. The change will become effective permanently on January 9th.

1000 SPIRITUAL CONVERSATIONS: Join with us this year as we share Jesus with our words. Remember: If you have an intentional conversation this week, then make sure

you mark it down next to the proper category in the binder located in the Fellowship Hall. And don't forget to pray for this new initiative!

THE NEW GIVING ENVELOPE BOXES FOR 2022 can be picked up today in the Alcove on the small table. **NOTE:** The *Initial Offering Envelope* is to defray the cost of printing the giving envelopes and the amount received is posted to General Income. The Giving Boxes also contain special offering envelopes for *Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas*. Call Irma in the Church office if you can't find a box with your name on it.

UPDATES FOR CHURCH RECORDS: As 2021 comes to a close, it is time to update our Church records. If you have any changes of addresses, birthdays, or anniversaries the Church office might not be aware of and were not included on those lists, please contact Irma in the Church Office. Thank you!



Thank you to everyone who has been so helpful this year in making our fellowships so warm, so welcoming, and so wonderful! The hands that have decorated our spaces or prepared the delicious dishes for dinners are greatly appreciated by this Committee. While we do it all for you we cannot do it without you.

As we begin to plan ahead for 2022, we welcome the involvement of every single one of you. Please step up even more! The Coffee fellowship signup sheet is already in place on the side table in Fellowship Hall. More helpers are needed so as to distribute the job more widely and more fairly. For those who do bring snacks in the future, please be certain that they are brought in air-tight containers. Thank you again and may God bless you richly with peace, joy, and love this blessed season.

~The Fellowship Committee