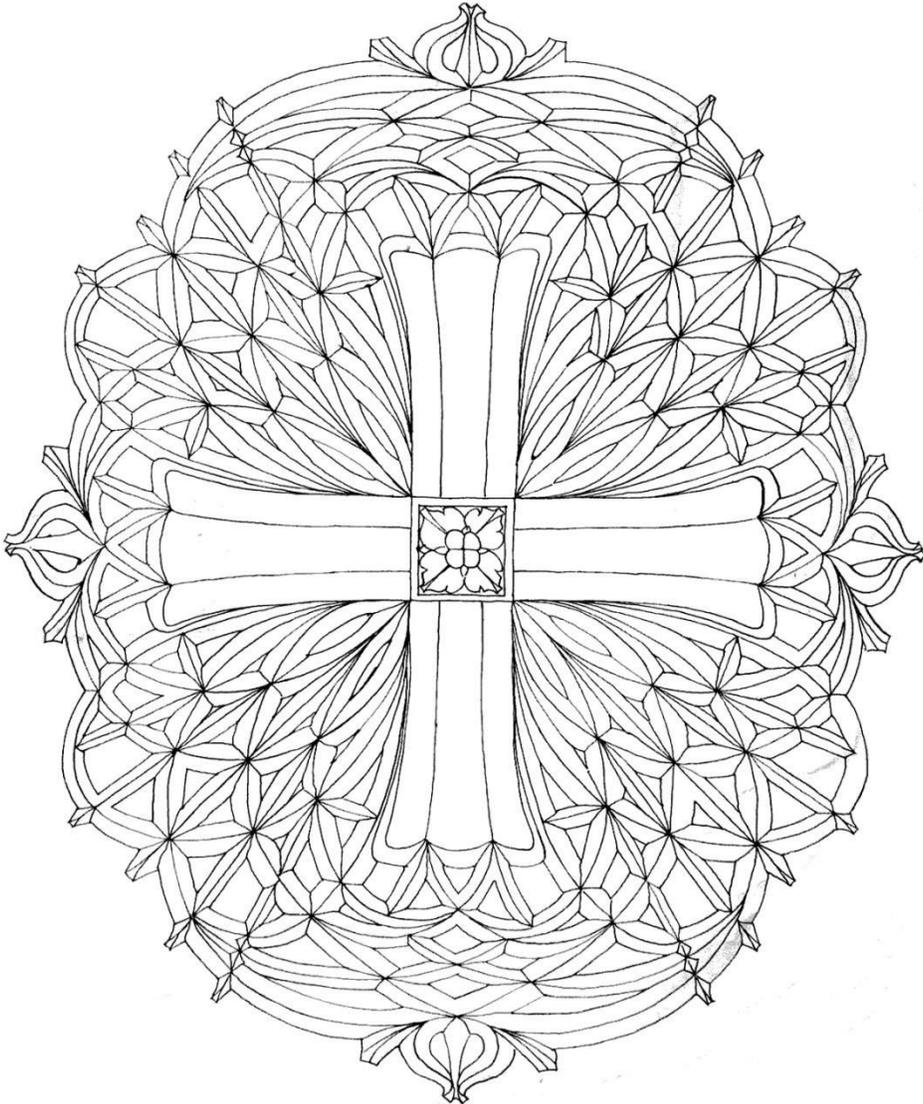


First Presbyterian Church
December 20, 2020

Fourth Sunday of Advent



*Serving Christ from the heart of the city to the ends
of the earth with love, faith and action.*

We Gather in God's Presence

Gathering Music

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

arr. Stephen Fiess

Call to Worship

Say to those who are fearful, "Be strong and do not fear! Behold, your God has not forsaken you!
With saving mercy, the Lord your God comes to redeem and rescue you! Rejoice and be glad!

**We light this candle as a sign of our hopeful waiting,
and our faith in the Lord our God.**

Hymn

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

No. 144

Prayer of Confession

Ed McLeod

We long to say, "yes," to you, Lord God, the way Mary did so boldly. We strive to "let it be with me," according to your will, Merciful One. And yet, too often we are timid or afraid. Too often we sell ourselves short, or worse yet, sell you short. Rekindle within us your truth, we pray. Awaken us to your will and set us apart for your service. Trusting in your steadfast love, we confess our sin now in a time of silence...

Kyrie | Lord, have mercy upon us, Christ have mercy upon us. Lord have mercy upon us.

Assurance of Pardon

Response to Pardon

Friends in Christ, in response to this gift of God's grace, how then shall we live?

**With gratitude, following after the Lord Jesus Christ, who calls us to love
God with heart, soul, mind, and strength, and our neighbors as ourselves.**

This is the way of Jesus, in whom we find life!

We Celebrate our Life Together

Joys and Concerns of the Church Family

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession 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.

We Listen to God's Word

A Moment for Children

Katy Schafer

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 9:2-7, Luke 1:26-38

Sermon

“Favored Ones”

Laurie Taylor Weicher

We Respond to God’s Word

Hymn

“My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout”

No. 100

Affirmation of Faith | From “A Brief Statement of Faith”

In a broken and fearful world

the Spirit gives us courage

to pray without ceasing,

to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,

to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,

to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,

and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,

we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks

and to live holy and joyful lives,

even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth,

praying, “Come, Lord Jesus!”

An Invitation to Generosity

Offertory

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

Richard Storrs Willis

Ashley Triggiano, piano

Prayer of Dedication

We Bear God’s Word into the World

Hymn

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

No. 119

Charge and Benediction

Benediction Response

**Go with us Lord, and guide the way through this and every coming day,
that in Your Spirit, strong and true, our lives may be our gift to you.**

Postlude

“In dulci jubilo”

arr. J. S. Bach

The Chancel flowers are dedicated to the glory of God and given in memory of our loved ones, by the Charles Hensey family.

The Advent Stand is given in memory of Dr. W. D. Pressly by his family.