



**The First Presbyterian Church of Potsdam
November 29th, 2020
First Sunday of Advent**

THOUGHT FOR REFLECTION

“Advent is a time of wonder - the wonder of the Promised One. On this First Sunday of Advent we light this candle for hope and we know the wonder of the Promised One who gives us the gift of hope even when all seems hopeless.” - *Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*Please join in and speak in unison all **bolded** parts.

CALL TO WORSHIP (From *Touch Holiness*, by Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi)

One: O sing a new song

Many: O sing to God, all the earth!

One: Let the heavens be glad, let the earth rejoice,

Many: Let the sea roar, and all that fill it; let the field exult, and everything in it!

One: Then shall all the trees of the wood sing for joy before God, for God comes to judge the earth.

All: God will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with truth.

GATHERING PRAYER (by John W. Riggs)

God without beginning and without end, your promise comes to us, bringing hope. May we in turn come to your mountain, bending our swords and spears, seeking instruction, and walking in your light; in the name of Jesus the Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

OPENING HYMN

“Lift Every Voice and Sing”

#339 (see PDF)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Out of the depths of despair, we cry to you, O God. We are lost in a world of pain and suffering. When we put our trust in weapons of war, we find no peace. When we put our faith in our own resources, we feel the ache of our true needs. When we put our hope in the health of our bodies, we suffer pain and find no healing. Come to us, O God. Forgive our doubts and

fears. Heal our brokenness, that we may rejoice in your steadfast love. In the name of your great love, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

ANTHEM

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 33:14-16

¹⁴The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. ⁵Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; ⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

SERMON

"Even in a pandemic, Advent comes to us" - with Rev. Shaun Whitehead

HYMN

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

#82 (see PDF)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

Ground of all being, Mother of Life,
Father of the Universe,
your name is sacred, beyond speaking.
May we know your presence,
may your longings be our longings in heart and in action.
May there be food today for the human family
and for the whole earth community.
Forgive us the falseness of what we have done
as we forgive those who are untrue to us.
Do not forsake us in our times of conflict
but lead us to new beginnings.
For the light of life, the vitality of life

**and the glory of life are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

#93 (see PDF)

POSTLUDE

Thank you very much for joining us in today’s remote service.
May God’s health and peace find you in these uncertain times.

Worship Leader: Rev. Shaun Whitehead
Music Leaders: Keilor Kastella

Clerk of Session: Suzanne Waters
Session Members: Terry de la Vega, Alicia Newcombe, and Renee Stauffer

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