

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

GATHERING: *A time to meet, greet and welcome one another.*

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS (PPT)

CHIMES

GATHERING

*CALL TO WORSHIP – ISAIAH 12:2-3

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord and call upon the holy name of the most high God.

People: The Lord is our strength and our salvation.

Leader: Proclaim the mercy of the One who comes as one of us.

People: The Lord is our strength and our salvation.

Leader: Trust and do not be afraid.

People: The Lord is our strength and our salvation.

Leader: with joy you will draw water from the wells of peace.

People: The Lord is our strength and our salvation.

Hallelujah!

Leader: Come, let us worship together.

*OPENING PRAYER

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Parker Nelson
& Jacob Witt

Reader 1: Listen to God's Word from Luke 3:15-16. "As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

Reader 2: If we follow Jesus Christ, we will get everything we hope for, and more than we bargained for. We light our third candle to praise God, whose Spirit comes to us with disturbing and wonderful blessings.

Reader 1: Living Christ, give us faith to trust you, hope to follow you, and love to live for you.

ALL People: We trust you, we love you, we praise you. Amen.

*HYMN "People Look East" #161

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

The Lord is near. In your presence, Holy God, we confess that we need repentance. We have broken your commands against idolatry. We do not live in peace with your creation or your people. We have not trusted your word, and we are afraid. Forgive us, restore us, and turn our shame into praise, for the sake of the One who proclaims the good news and for the sake of all the world. Amen.

(MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER)

DECLARATION OF PARDON

*GLORIA PATRI #733

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

RESPONSIVE SCRIPTURE READING – Psalm 146 (seated)

Leader: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

People: I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

Leader: Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help. When their breath departs, they return to the earth; on that very day their plans perish.

People: Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry.

Leader: The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.

People: The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.

Leader: The Lord watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

People: The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the Lord!

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM: "Our Gifts" (see insert)

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – "A Brief Statement of Faith 11.1 & 11.3"

11.1 In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

11.3 We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments. We violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION, WITH LORDS 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 (seated) "O Lord Hear My Prayer" (v.1) #484

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer; when I call answer me. O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer, come and listen to me.

RESPONDING

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY #34

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

Gracious God, in gratitude for all that you have given us, we bring our tithes, offerings, and labor to help feed a world hungry for healing and hope; for the same of Jesus Christ. Amen.

SENDING

*HYMN "I Wonder as I Wander" #225

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

****CHORAL RESPONSE**

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever,
Amen.

POSTLUDE

“Our worship has concluded, now our service begins.”

*Please rise in body or Spirit.

*Portions of today's service were taken from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 1*. Kimberly Bracken Long, editor, 2012.; *Feasting on the WORD Advent Companion, 2015*; *Advent Christmas and Epiphany: Liturgies and Prayers for Public Worship*. Brian Wren, 2008, *Psalms for All Seasons: A Complete Psalter for Worship*. Co-published by Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, Faith Alive Christian Resources, and Brazos Press: Grand Rapids, MI. 2012, and the *Book of Confessions: Part I of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Louisville: The Office of the General Assembly, 2016*. Used by permission CCLI #661022.

HELPFUL INFORMATION

MISSION

Our mission for the months of November and December is **New Life Center**.

Please see board in narthex or next column of items that can be donated.

ASSISTED LISTENING DEVICES

Assisted listening devices are available in the back of the church or ask an usher. Large print bulletins and songs are available in the back of the church or ask an usher.

ROOM LOCATIONS

The nursery is on the same level as the Sanctuary on the west side of the south wing. Fully accessible Restrooms are immediately east of the Sanctuary on the upper level, and east of the Fellowship Hall on the lower level.

REMINDER

Please avoid wearing perfume, cologne and scented lotions. The scents travel, linger and bother others who are allergic or have conditions that are triggered or worsened by the scents. Thank you!

CELL PHONES

Please mute or turn off your cell phones during worship. Thank you!

SERVICE AND FELLOWSHIP

Head Usher: Lee Dobrinz

Coffee Servers: Potluck

NEEDS FOR SERVICE:

We are in need of more ushers and people willing to serve coffee. There are sign-up sheets in the narthex. If you have questions or feel hesitant about signing up, please talk with Sue Hanna.

PER CAPITA The apportionment for 2018 is \$44.00 per member. Please remember to include this in your giving.

WEEKLY REMINDERS

December 16, 2018 – December 22, 2018

Sunday, December 16

Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
SS Christmas Program 10:00 a.m.
Followed by Potluck

Monday, December 17

Choir 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 18

Men's Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 19

Prayer 9:30 a.m.
Session 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 20

PW Card Group 1:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 23

Worship 10:00 a.m.

UPCOMING ANNIVERSARIES

12-18-82 ~ Andrew & Gayle Thostenson

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

12-19~Nich Leopold
12-20~Brian Elhard



*When were we going there?
Who is coming next weekend?
Are you having trouble keeping your
busy life organized?*

**Get YOUR 2019 Calendar TODAY!!!!
\$7.00 each - See Becky DeJong in the narthex,
after church! Proceeds go to the YOUTH program.**

FINANCIAL UPDATE from 12/9/2018

Attendance Last Week: 82	Giving Last Week:	\$1,595.00
	Need Weekly:	\$2,811.26
Per Capita for 2018: \$8,052.00	Given to Date:	\$4,349.44
(\$44.00/member)	Balance Owed:	\$3,702.56
Building Fund Balance: \$30,401.22	Loan Payment:	\$3,146.54



Community Presbyterian Church

**702 Sheyenne Street
West Fargo, North Dakota
Phone: 701-282-4135**

**Email: office@cpcwf.org ~ Web:
www.cpcwf.org**

**Pastor Email: pastorcathie@cpcwf.org
Church Office Hours: Mon-Thurs
8:30 to 12:30 p.m.**

**December 16, 2018
Third Sunday of Advent**

**Ministers: The People of God
Pastor: Rev. Catherine B. Bishop
Organist/Pianist: Larry Swingen**

**To know God; To be led by the Holy Spirit;
To share Christ.**

