

THE BIRTH OF HOPE



A D V E N T 2 0 1 7

First Covenant Church of Saint Paul

first covenant church of saint paul ~ 1280 arcade street ~ saint paul, mn 55106
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Second Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2017

9:30 a.m.

Gathering Time

Passing of the Peace

Invitation to Worship

If you are a visitor, have a prayer request or have a change of address, please note this on a Connect Card found in the pew pockets. Place it in the offering plate.

*Opening Hymn 126

Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates

Lighting of the Advent Peace Candle

Sarah Carpenter, Tiffany Kline

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 40:1-11, Jill Weiss
Mark 1:1-8, Nate Stromberg

*Songs

*How Great Is Our God
God Is Able* (Fielding/Morgan)

Prayer of the People

Giving and Living Out of Our Abundance

Choral Offertory

Vamos, pastorcitos (Hasten Now, O Shepherds)

Colombian carol, (arr. Erwin Collins), Adina DeGaetano, flute

Children in grades Pre-K through 2nd grade are invited to continue worshipping in Children's Church. After the offertory, please meet the teachers in the back of the sanctuary.

Message

Finding Hope in Unlikely Places

Pastor Anne Vining

*Closing Hymn 133, vs 1-3, 5

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

*Sending Words

Postlude

Prepare the Royal Highway (arr. M. Burkhardt)

Prayer Time for Health and Wholeness is offered in the Prayer Chapel following Worship.

**You are invited to stand if you are able.*

TODAY

Welcome to Worship at First Covenant Church! Wherever you find yourself on your journey of faith, we are glad you are here! Please join us for a cup of coffee and a treat following Worship.

Today is the second Sunday of Advent. The advent season is the four weeks leading up to Christmas, as we anticipate the celebration of Christ's birth.

9:30am

Worship

Nursery Care, (birth through age 3), Rooms 105 & 106

Children's Church, children pre-k - 2nd grade are dismissed with leaders during Worship and will return with leaders during the final song of Worship, Room 104

Resource Table for children and youth: check out this table as you enter Worship for bulletins, crayons & Bibles for children, and Confirmation worship notes.

10:30-11:00am

Fellowship Time, Upper Fellowship Hall

11:00am-12:00pm

Nursery Care (birth through age 3), Room 105

Children's Rehearsal to prepare for December 17 (age 3-grade 6), Room 104

Youth Sunday School (grades 7-12), Graffiti Room

Are you a 7th-12th grader who isn't in the cast of Beauty and the Beast? Don't miss out on great conversation and Bible study lead by Pastor Anne during the Spiritual Growth Hour each Sunday.

Adult Spiritual Growth Hour, Upper Fellowship Hall

"Songs of Hope"- Join us this morning as Paige Mann leads us in an exploration of the history behind some of our most beloved Christmas Carols. We will sing them together as well!

11:00am-1:00pm

Beauty and the Beast Musical Rehearsal (grades 7-12), Lower Fellowship Hall

Visit the Advent Resource Table today as leave Worship. Here you will find an Advent devotional from Christianity Today, a devotional called "Oh Holy Night" for children and families, and our own Advent guidebook "The Birth of Hope, Advent 2017", along with other resources for you to use during this Christmas season.

*If you temporarily leave the sanctuary during a worship service, please return to your seats using the rear Narthex doors. This will minimize disruptions.
Thank you for understanding.*

A Note About the Advent Artwork

"Mary, an unremarkable young Jewish woman from the first century, probably never stood out in a crowd. Yet the glory of heaven and earth embraced her in joy because of the precious babe she carried, and the hope He represented". Janet Cameron, artist

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

2018 Church Directories will be handed out by the ushers as you leave Worship today. One per household please.

Friendly People Needed: Do you enjoy being greeted as you enter our church? We need your help in making sure every person feels welcomed on Sunday mornings. Greet as much or as little as you like. It pays dividends: all the smiles you can handle! We especially need volunteers for Christmas Eve. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Tricia Sargent, (651-235-5359), or the church office.

Stay connected: Weekly worship bulletins and podcasts of each week's message can be found on the church website under the Worship and Arts tab. Stop by the Welcome Center to order a CD of any Worship Service or Spiritual Growth Hour.

Adopt-A-Cop Christmas Greetings: We want to send a special Christmas greeting to our officers to remind them we are praying for each of them. Please have your Christmas note/card at church by tomorrow, December 11 and place it in the Adopt-A-Cop mailbox in the church office. There are a few officers who no longer have a person praying for them. If you would like to send a Christmas card and pray for a St. Paul police officer, please contact the church office or Jan Mollet (Adopt-A-Cop Coordinator), rjmollet@gmail.com, 651-329-1221.

Christmas Memorials: Christmas Memorial forms and envelopes are available at the Welcome Center today. The poinsettias that brighten the sanctuary for Christmas are purchased with the donations given in memory of loved ones, who will be listed in the bulletin on Christmas Eve. Include the names of your loved ones on the form, along with cash or a check made out to First Covenant Church. Place the envelope in the offering plate or in Rachel Hanks' mailbox in the Church office. The deadline is next Sunday, December 17 in order to have names printed in the bulletin.

PLANNING AHEAD

Wednesday Night Program Christmas Break

Wednesday, December 13 is our last regular Wednesday night programming until January 10. Handbell Choir, Sanctuary Choir, Jump Start and Youth Christmas Party will take place on December 20.

Adventurous Christians First Covenant Church Winter Retreat, March 9-11, 2018

Grand Marais, MN

Join us in the beautiful, snowy northwoods of Minnesota at our Covenant-owned camp Adventurous Christians. This retreat can be as active or relaxing as you want with skiing, hiking, snowshoeing, sauna-ing, eating, reading, fellowship and worship. More details and sign up will be at the Welcome Center in January. Please contact Mandy Griffin with any questions, mjkline8@gmail.com.

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS INFORMATION

GIVING CHRISTMAS AWAY 2.0 (GCA)

We need your help! Be a part of an incredible legacy that provides over 300 gifts for over 100 children and youth each Christmas season. There are many ways that you can help:

- **Last Day! Today, December 10:** Stop by the Christmas Tree in Upper Fellowship Hall to choose and sign out an ornament with a child's clothing need listed. Shop and return the unwrapped gifts by December 13 to the Christmas Tree or church office. If you are unable to shop, you may donate cash by contacting Kay Quant.
- **Thursday, December 14, 12:00-4:00pm, or Friday, December 15, 10:00am-2:00pm:** Help sort toys and organize gifts in preparation for distribution day. Sign up at the Christmas Tree.
- **Saturday, December 16, 12:00pm-4:00pm:** Volunteer on distribution day by being a greeter, helping at the tables, etc. Sign up at the Christmas Tree.

If you have any questions, please contact Kay Quant, kay.quant@hotmail.com or 651-771-4153.

HOPE THAT SENDS US, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

9:30am Worship, Sanctuary

During the Worship service on Sunday, December 17, our children ages 3 years– 6th grade will help us prepare for the Birth of Hope through song, hand bells, and the telling of the Nativity Story. If you have any questions please contact Donovan DeGaetano at donovan@first-covenant.org.

11:00am Intergenerational Spiritual Growth Hour, Upper Fellowship Hall

All ages are invited to this special gathering for a dramatic retelling of the Christmas Story from our own children, and to create your own Keepsake Nativity set.

JOIN THE GOSPEL CHOIR THIS CHRISTMAS!

Gospel Choir Rehearsal, Thursday, December 21, 6:00-7:30pm, Choir Room

All are invited to join us in Gospel Choir as we rehearse for our Christmas Eve 4:00pm Worship. CD's are available at the Welcome Center. Questions? Contact Steve Pittman, Gospel Choir Director, steve@first-covenant.org.

CHRISTMAS EVE, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 4:00pm

Join us as we celebrate our Savior's birth through intercultural and intergenerational worship that includes our Sanctuary, Gospel and Handbell choirs. Our building partner, Followers of Christ Hmong Baptist Church will have Worship at 11:00am in the sanctuary; you are welcome to join them if this time works better for you.