

# 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  
(651)774-0344 ~ [www.first-covenant.org](http://www.first-covenant.org)  
[office@first-covenant.org](mailto:office@first-covenant.org)

# Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 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 Song

*Noel* (Chris Tomlin)

Lighting of the Advent Joy Candle

Bob and Kathy Johnson

"Hope That Sends Us"

Children 3 years - 6th grade

\*Carol 146, congregation joins on vs. 2,4

*Joy to the World!*

Giving and Living Out of Our Abundance

Offertory

*One Star* (C. Jones Rogers trans. D.K. Hakes), Handbell Choir

"The Guest House"

Kate Makosky

Prayer of the People

\*Closing Carol, 120

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

\*Sending Words

Postlude

*Hark, the Glad Sound* (arr. Paul Manz)

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

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

## **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**

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

***During the Worship service today, 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. A special thank you to Sandy and Kevin Whitby, the children's teachers, parents/caregivers and of course, the children!***

**9:30am**

**Worship**

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

**Children's Church, all children will be staying in Worship today**

**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**

**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.**

**Nursery Care (birth through age 3), Room 105**

**11:00am-1:00pm**

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

## NEXT 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. Childcare for birth through age 3 will be provided. There will be no First Covenant Worship service in the morning. Our building partner, Followers of Christ Hmong Baptist Church will have Worship in the sanctuary at 11:00am.**

***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.***

## OUR LIFE TOGETHER

**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.

**Christmas Memorials: Due Today!** Christmas Memorial forms and envelopes are available at the Welcome Center. 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 today, in order to have names printed in the bulletin.

**2018 Church Directories** are available at the Welcome Center. One per household please.

**Giving Christmas Away 2.0 was a huge success!** We appreciate all who were a part of this incredible legacy in providing gifts. Thank you so much to all who helped in any way!

## YEAR END GIVING

**Please prayerfully consider how you can help** us make our year-end financial goal so that ministry can continue through the people and programs of First Covenant Church. As of December 14th, we have received \$29,466 in the month of December, leaving us needing an additional \$85,562 to meet our budgeted September-December goal of \$115,028 by year's end. Thank you for your generosity and support!

**Electronic Giving Option:** If you need a convenient way to make an additional gift before the end of the year or set up recurring contributions, check out our electronic giving options. As the pace of life speeds up around the holidays, you may find e-Giving a most welcome way to make contributions from either your checking account or credit card.

Visit the church website (<http://www.first-covenant.org>) and select GIVING from the Menu. Then click the Online Giving 'here' button and follow the easy instructions to set up your profile and donation. Or, complete a paper authorization form (found at the Welcome Center), and return it to the church office. Rachel Hanks, financial secretary, [rachelhanks11@gmail.com](mailto:rachelhanks11@gmail.com).

**Giving Envelopes:** Offering envelopes will be available at a table following Worship early in January. If you currently use envelopes for your weekly or monthly giving, they will be labeled and ready for you to pick up. Also, if you need envelopes, stop by the table. If you have had envelopes in the past and yet have not used them regularly, you may not have been automatically assigned a new set of envelopes. Questions? Please stop at the table in January, or contact Rachel Hanks, financial secretary, [rachelhanks11@gmail.com](mailto:rachelhanks11@gmail.com).

## THIS WEEK

### **Wednesday Night Program Christmas Break**

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

### **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](mailto:steve@first-covenant.org).

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 10:30AM WORSHIP

### **10:30am, Worship, Sanctuary**

Do not miss one of the favorite worship services of the year as we join together for communion and sharing. There will be no Spiritual Growth Hour this Sunday.

### **12:00-3:00pm, College and Career Christmas Gathering**

*Pastor Anne, Gordy and Curtis's Home (1108 Hyacinth Avenue E.)*

Hey college-aged (or just past college-aged) young people! We have a gathering just for you. Join us after worship for a time to catch up, watch the Vikings beat the Bears, play some board games and enjoy some delicious food. Hope to see you there!

## LOOKING AHEAD TO 2018

### **January 6-7**

**Michelle Sanchez Weekend** (see insert in your bulletin)

### **January 14-15**

#### **Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend**

9:30am, Worship with our partner churches

11:00am, Potluck Brunch with our partner churches