

# 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)

# First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 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

*Light of the World* (Lauren Daigle)

Lighting of the Advent Hope Candle

Sharla, John and Robby Scullen

Scripture Reading

Mark 13:24-37, Sherilyn Howes, Samuel Lokensgard-Wallace

\*Song of Response 748

*Someday Soon*

Giving and Living Out of Our Abundance

Choral Offertory

*Rise Up Shepherds!* (Price/Besig)

*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

Waiting in Hope

Pastor Anne Vining

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

*We invite all who follow Jesus as Lord to receive and celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion with us.*

\*Affirmation of Faith

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

\*Closing Hymn 772

*We Wait for a Great and Glorious Day*

\*Sending Words

Postlude

*Once He Came In Blessing* (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 first 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 communion, *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**, *all start in Room 104 together*

**(Children's Sunday School starts at 11:20am)**

**Please pick up your children at 12:00pm in the following rooms:**

**Pre-K - K**, *Room 106*

**Grades 3-4**, *Room 104B*

**Grades 1-2**, *Room 104A*

**Grades 5-6**, *Room 201 (upstairs)*

**Adult Spiritual Growth Hour**, *Upper Fellowship Hall*

All are welcome to join us as we discuss the topic: "Waiting in Hope", led by Janet Peterson.

**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 the 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 your 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

**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 4 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](mailto: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 Sunday, December 17 in order to have names printed in the bulletin.

## OUR PARTNERS

**Fruit of the Vine Food Shelf:** The food shelf is now open to serve our East Saint Paul neighbors every Saturday morning from 9:30 to 11:30am in Lower Fellowship Hall (the old Heritage Room). Walk-ins are welcome. Registration is required, and there are some income eligibility standards. Fruit of the Vine also needs more volunteers. If you are interested, please pick up a brochure at the Welcome Center. You can also donate food, non-perishables and canned goods only, on the white shelves at the church east entry.

**Jonathan House:** Our parsonage across the parking lot will soon be housing for asylum-seeking refugees. There is a need at the house for sturdy shelving for basement storage. If you can help with this, please contact Jeannine Nordlund, [jeanninenordlund@gmail.com](mailto:jeanninenordlund@gmail.com). Thank you!

## THIS WEEK

**Gospel Choir Rehearsals, Thursdays, December 7 and 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. Questions? Contact Steve Pittman, Gospel Choir Director, [steve@first-covenant.org](mailto:steve@first-covenant.org).

## **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:

- **Sundays, December 3 and 10:** Stop by the Christmas Tree in Upper Fellowship Hall today or next Sunday 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 15, 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](mailto:kay.quant@hotmail.com) or 651-771-4153.

### **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. For more information, pick up a postcard at the Advent Resource Table. If you have any questions please contact Donovan DeGaetano at [donovan@first-covenant.org](mailto: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.

### **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.

### **PLANNING AHEAD**

#### **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, [mjcline8@gmail.com](mailto:mjcline8@gmail.com).