

# ADVENT 2016



anticipate...

**"But as for me, I watch in hope for the LORD,  
I wait for God my Savior; my God will hear me."  
Micah 7:7**

# SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 4, 2016

9:30 a.m.

Gathering Time  
Passing of the Peace  
Greeting

*Please complete the connect card and place in the offering plate.*

Invitation to Worship

\*Opening Hymn 135

*Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

Lighting of the Advent Hope Candle

Judy Kline and Jonathan Madera

Mandy and Peter Griffin and Jada Jones

Hymn of Response 141

*Come, Lord Jesus*

Ministry Highlight

Giving Christmas Away

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 11: 1-6, Jeannine Nordlund

Matthew 3: 1-12, Jason Huso, Manuela Martinez

\*Song

*Anchor*

Giving and Living Out of Our Abundance

Choral Offertory

*Advent Message (Martin How)*

*Children in grades Pre-K through 2nd grade are invited to continue worshipping in Children's Church.  
Please meet the teachers in the back of the Sanctuary after the offertory.*

Message

anticipate...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, vs 1,2,4

*We Wait for a Great and Glorious Day*

\*Sending Words

Micah 7:7

Postlude

*Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus (arr. Charles Callahan)*

*Prayer Time for health and wholeness is offered in the Prayer Chapel following Worship.*

## OUR LIFE TOGETHER

**Visit our Advent Resource Table** in Upper Fellowship Hall, where you will find "Anticipate", FCC's Advent Guidebook/Calendar, "Rediscovering Advent", a devotional book from Christianity Today (suggested donation: \$1), along with other resources for children, youth and adults.

**Stay connected:** Stop by the Welcome Center to order a CD of any worship service. Weekly worship bulletins and podcasts can be found on the church website under the Worship and Arts tab. CD's of the November 27 Adult Spiritual Growth Hour, featuring our missionaries, Karl and Sue Peterson, can also be ordered.

**Christmas Memorial forms and envelopes** are available today 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 Rachel Hank's mailbox in the church office. **The deadline is Sunday, December 18.**

**Adopt-A-Cop** - it is time to send our Adopt-A-Cop Christmas cards. Please have your greeting to your officer at church by Sunday, December 11th, placing it in the Adopt A Cop mailbox in the church office. We do have 2 officers who would like a person/family to pray for them. If you would like to send a Christmas card and pray for a St. Paul police officer, please contact Jan Mollet (Adopt-ACop Coordinator): 651-329-1221, [rjmollet@gmail.com](mailto:rjmollet@gmail.com).

### OLIVER!

**Oliver rehearsals have begun! (children grades 1-6)**  
**Sundays, 11:00am-12:00pm, Wednesdays, 6:15-7:30pm**  
*Lower Fellowship Hall*

On Sundays, parents can bring their children downstairs right after Worship, where they will have their own treats. Please make sure to fill out a release form at check-in if you have not completed this form yet. Performance dates are February 25 and 26, 2017. Stay tuned to learn how you can volunteer. If you have questions, please see Richard Voth, [richard@first-covenant.org](mailto:richard@first-covenant.org). or Donovan DeGaetano, [donovan@first-covenant.org](mailto:donovan@first-covenant.org).

## UPCOMING EVENTS IN DECEMBER

**Gospel Choir Rehearsals, Thursdays, December 8, 22, 6:00-7:00pm, Choir Room**  
All are welcome to join us as we practice in preparation to sing on Christmas Eve. CDs are available at the Welcome Center. Questions? See Richard Voth.

**Adult Spiritual Growth Hour, Sunday, December 11, 11:00am**  
*Upper Fellowship Hall*

Our church supports the Bobangala Clinic as a part of the Congo Clinic Initiative (CCI) with the Paul Carlson Partnership (PCP), along with First Covenant Church in Red Wing and Bethlehem Covenant Church in Minneapolis. As we head into our third year of this partnership, know that your giving will allow our clinic to move into the "water phase" of the CCI to address the ongoing issues of access to clean water. To learn more about the ongoing work of PCP, join us next Sunday at 11:00am to hear from our Global Missions Team and Tom Verdoorn. Questions? Contact Becky Bryant (Global Missions Chair) at [thebryants2@gmail.com](mailto:thebryants2@gmail.com), or Tom Verdoorn (PCP Board Chair) at [tom.verdoorn@gmail.com](mailto:tom.verdoorn@gmail.com)). Our Christmas Eve offering is designated for the Paul Carlson Partnership.

**Children's Special Christmas Music Performance, Sunday, December 18, 9:30am**  
Children pre-k and k will be providing special music for the December 18th Worship Service, singing a Christmas carol, delighting us with hand bells, and performing a Christmas poem. Sandy Whitby will be rehearsing with them on Sundays during the Sunday School hour, (11:00am-12:00pm), and on Wednesdays during Little Big G's, (6:30-7:30pm). There will be a final dress rehearsal on Saturday, December 17th, from 10:00-11:00am. Please contact Sandy Whitby with any questions: [sandywhitby3@gmail.com](mailto:sandywhitby3@gmail.com).

**Christmas Caroling in the Neighborhood, Sunday, December 18, 12:00pm**  
Children, youth, adults and families are invited to join us as we spread the joy of the season through caroling in our neighborhood and to our community. We will head out from church in separate groups and then rejoin for Dale Pearson's famous chili at Pastor Anne and Gordy's house (*1108 East Hyacinth Avenue*). Wear your Christmas attire: santa hat, elf hat, Christmas sweater, etc. Please sign up at the Advent Resource Table so we know how many to expect. Questions: Contact Christine Nault at [cquass@msa.com](mailto:cquass@msa.com).

**Black Nativity: A Tradition of Love and Light, Wednesday, December 21, 7:30pm**  
*Penumbra Theater, 270 N. Kent Street, St. Paul, MN 55102*  
First Covenant Church is joining our partner, Family Values for Life, as a limited number of specially priced tickets are available to us for only \$5. Purchase tickets at the table in the Upper Fellowship Hall area following Worship, using cash or a check (made out to Family Values for Life). This event is sponsored by FCC's M68 Team and FVFL. There is free, on-site and street parking. Ticket purchase deadline is TODAY! For more information, contact Susan Carlson, 651-247-8082.