November 29, 2020 First Sunday of Advent

First Presbyterian Church of Sandpoint, Idaho

Andrew Kennaly, Pastor Annie Welle, Pianist

Worship Leader: Mickey Quinn

BEGIN FACEBOOK LIVE, OPENING MUSIC

LIGHT CHRIST CANDLE, RING THE BELL, SILENT REFLECTION

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE (see write up below)

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY & THE LORD’S PRAYER

Let’s take a minute and hold silence together as we pray in our hearts…

Give ear, O God, and let your face shine. Your faithfulness delivers us. When life gets difficult to bear, you carry us. Thank you for the hope of your calling, for sharing your word of grace, mercy, and love, for your peace which is beyond understanding. Help us learn to release the tyranny of our own thoughts, the noise of our cluttered hearts, and the delusions we entertain, so we may know you more deeply, love you more simply, and embrace you unencumbered by lesser things. As we gather in grace, we pray what Jesus shares with disciples, saying,

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.

The Peace of Christ be with you. (And also with you). Thanks be to God!

SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 64:1-9, read by worship leader

SCRIPTURE READING Mark 13:24-37, read by Pastor

WORDS OF WITNESS “Foundational Spaciousness, Essential Voids”

OFFERING

One way to respond to God’s leading in your life is to give of yourself in time, talent, and treasure. Supporting the mission and ministry of First Presbyterian Church helps support expressions of love in the world. Financial gifts can be placed in the offering plates at each entrance door, or sent by regular mail to 417 N. Fourth Ave. in Sandpoint ID, 83864, or donated online at the church website: [www.fpcsandpoint.org](http://www.fpcsandpoint.org)

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

As Advent Season begins, so many spiritual truths depend on starting out well. We have a clean slate, a new beginning, and faith in God’s faithfulness. May we desire the desire for transformation, giving ourselves over to mystery as an inside job. Meeting the shining face of God deep within our soul, may we grow in love of God the Father, the grace and peace of Christ, Jesus, our Lord, and the abiding, expressive Presence of the Holy Spirit, who is with us NOW, even as forever. Amen.

SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST WITH THE WORLD

CLOSING MUSIC, ENDING FACEBOOK LIVE

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

 The Season of Advent is the beginning of the Christian Year. Forty days before Christmas help us prepare. The word *Advent* means “coming,” involving a season of waiting and remembering the anticipation of God’s people throughout the centuries.
We celebrate the coming of Christ Jesus.

 **This first Sunday of Advent** we light the candle of **HOPE**, remembering God’s faithfulness. In ancient days and the deep in our own experience we celebrate sustaining light in our Risen Lord. We live in hope, yearning for full awareness of Christ’s return. Our hope is grounded on God’s promise of life in Christ.

 As the Apostle Paul reminds us in Romans chapter 5, “hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has
given us.” Living in hope, waiting for God’s Advent in Christ, remembering our resurrection faith, we now light the first Candle.... (*light one purple candle)*

Shall we pray? Lord help us to wait upon you. Help us to live in the hope of resurrection faith even in the most difficult times. Shine the light of your face and set
us free. In the hope of Christ Jesus, we pray, AMEN.