December 6, 2020 Second Sunday of Advent

First Presbyterian Church of Sandpoint, Idaho

Andrew Kennaly, Pastor Annie Welle, Pianist

Worship Leader: Paula Vincent

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

Maybe you have an Advent wreath at home, with candles that you can light as we light the ones here? Sometimes objects have a way of catching our attention and help us focus because we quiet other distractions. Lighting a flame on a candle takes our full attention. I would invite you, wherever you’re at, to look around at your surroundings. Pick something that catches your attention. Once you see something that stands out in this moment, pause just enough, turn toward it just a bit, and turn off your brain: don’t judge it, don’t analyze it; just receive it, whatever the object may be. This is the contemplative stance toward reality. Take a couple breaths, and invite God to continue speaking to your heart whatever lessons need to be revealed.

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

Releasing our attention from that object, we’re invited to greater awareness of God’s redeeming Presence surrounding us always. As we gather in grace, we give thanks to God for speaking in and to our hearts, even as 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 40:1-11, read by worship leader

SCRIPTURE READING Mark 1:1-8, read by Pastor

WORDS OF WITNESS “Good News from the Beginning”

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 we step into the dynamics of life and faith that continues to grow, may we live into our calling as those sent to share good news. Jesus invites us to begin again to grow in love of God the Father, the grace and peace of Christ, and the sustaining Presence of the Holy Spirit, who is the origin, the start, the beginning, 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 second Sunday of Advent** we light the first candle of HOPE, remembering God’s promises. We also light the second candle of **LOVE**. In hope, we celebrate the light of Christ, grounded on God’s love. In Ephesians we read, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love.” In faith, we now light the Advent Candles of hope and love....

(*light two purple candles)*

Shall we pray? Lord help us to wait upon you. Help us to live in hope. Help us to love others because you first love us. Thank you for your great love for all the world. Thank you for the light of Christ setting us free. In faith grounded on hope and love in Christ, we pray, AMEN.