

**First
Presbyterian
Church** IN VICTOR
WHOEVER YOU ARE.
HOWEVER YOU HAVE COME.
YOU ARE WELCOME HERE.



First Presbyterian Church

70 East Main Street
Victor, NY 14564
585-924-2289
www.victorpres.org

Pastor: Rev. Michael McNamara

Organist: Ayn Patrowicz

AV: Bill Martz

Greeters/Fellowship: Steve Mowers,
Barb Cromwell & Donna Schake

Liturgist: Sue Delmonico

Advent Candles: Heather McAdoo

Order of Worship December 24, 2023, 10am
4th Sunday of Advent: Love

**Please stand if you are able.*

Prelude "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" arr. by Cindy Berry

***Lighting of the Advent Wreath** Heather McAdoo

The nations shall beat their swords into plowshares,

And there's spears into pruning hooks

Nation shall not lift up sword against nation.

Neither shall they learn war anymore.

The wolf shall dwell with the lamb

The leopard shall lie down with the kid

The calf, and the lion and the fatling will lie down

together

And a little child shall lead them.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad

the desert shall rejoice and blossom,

like the crocus, to chill blossom abundantly

and rejoice with joy and singing,

the Lord will give you a sign

look, the young woman is with child

she'll bear a son

and name him Emmanuel "God is with us."

Welcome & Announcements

***Call to Worship** Psalm 89 (trans. Nan Merrill)

Through the Heart of all hearts,

You opened the way to Life

Your steadfast Love came among us

Giving us strength.

Fear shall not overcome us,

We will not give in to doubt.

For your Love casts out fear

**And gives rise to forgiveness of those who would
do us wrong.**

***Opening Hymn No. 2** "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

Gathering Prayer

Unison Prayer of Confession

God of the future, you are coming in power to bring

all nations under your vision of love. We confess

that we have not expected your kingdom, for we live

casual lives, ignoring your promised judgement. We

accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the

earth, refuse your justice and peace.

Unison Prayer of Confession (cont.)

In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world.

Assurance of Pardon

***Passing the Peace**

Time with Children

Prayer of Illumination

Holy God, our hope and strength, by the power of your Spirit prepare the way in our hearts for the coming of your Word, so that we may see the glorious signs of your promise fulfilled; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scripture Readings

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Now when the king was settled in his house and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind, for the Lord is with you."

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan, "Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?' Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel, and I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you, and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place and be disturbed no more, and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel, and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house.

Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever."

Scripture Readings (cont.)

Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Sermon

"Resilience and Faith"

***Hymn of Response** *GTG No. 92* "While We are Waiting, Come"

Offering

***Doxology**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

***Closing Hymn No. 31**

"Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"

Benediction

Postlude

"Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"
arr. by Anna Laura Page