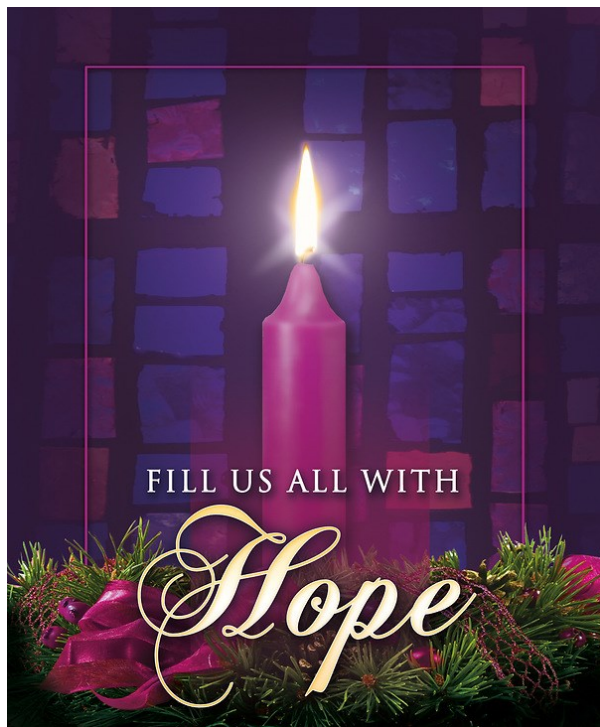


**First
Presbyterian
Church** IN VICTOR
WHOEVER YOU ARE.
HOWEVER YOU HAVE COME.
YOU ARE WELCOME HERE.



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: Clay Girouard & Steve Mowers

Liturgist & Candles: Dave & Sue Henderson

Order of Worship December 3, 2023, 10am
1st Sunday of Advent: Hope
(*Please stand if you are able.)

Prelude "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" arr. by John Purifoy

***Lighting of the Advent Wreath** *Isaiah 2:4*
The nations shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
**nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.**

Welcome & Announcements

***Call to Worship** *Psalm 80 (trans. Nan Merrill)*

Eternal Listener, give heed to your people, You who are our Guide and our Light! You, who dwell amidst the angels, shine forth into the heart of all nations! Enliven your people with compassion that peace and justice might flourish.

Restore in us, O Holy One, let your face shine upon us, teach us love!

Gentle teacher, help us turn to you in prayer, fasting from our negative thoughts. In your steadfast love, you weep with our tears, tears that rise from fear, doubt and illusion. You uphold us when we feel the sting of pride, when our anxiety threatens to paralyze us.

Restore in us, O Holy One; let your face shine upon us, teach us love!

Look upon us and see what Love can do; rejoice in the new birth that You create! Be glad where your Seed has found fertile soil. May those who have borne the fruit of love radiate your Spirit into the world! May we always walk and co-create with You; receive the gratitude of our hearts, as we share in the Great Plan!

Restore us, O Holy One! Let your face shine upon us, teach us to love!

***Opening Hymn No. 36** "In the Bleak Midwinter"

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. (cont.)

(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**

Anthem “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”, arr. by Richard Shepard (used with permission by St. James Music Press, license No. #13142)

Alex & Ben Song, violinists

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

Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence.
From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
There is no one who calls on your name
or attempts to take hold of you,
for you have hidden your face from us
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Scripture (cont.)

Mark 13:24-37

“But in those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.
“Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’
with great power and glory. Then he will send out the
angels and gather the elect from the four winds, from the
ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.
“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch
becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that
summer is near. So also, when you see these things
taking place, you know that he is near, at the very
gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away
until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth
will pass away, but my words will not pass away.
“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the
angels in heaven nor the Son, but only the
Father. Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when
the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey,
when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each
with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on
the watch. Therefore, keep awake, for you do not know
when the master of the house will come, in the evening or
at midnight or at cockcrow or at dawn, or else he may
find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say
to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

Sermon

“Preparing Church”

***Hymn of Response** No. 5 “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

Offering

***Doxology**

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

***Closing Hymn** *GTG No. 137*

“He Came Down”

Benediction

Postlude

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”
arr. by David Paxton