

Welcome to Worship



December 1st, 2024



**PRELUDE MUSIC
WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS
INVITATION TO REST**

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

One: In a weary and worn world, how do we begin again? Where do we start?

**All: Let us begin with the good news!
Let us begin by trusting that we are a blessing,
loved by a gracious God.
Let us begin with music and singing!
Let us begin with warmth and welcome. Let us begin with hope.**



One: Yes, let us begin with hope.
Today we light the candle of hope to shine a light in a worn and weary world.

**All: May this be our foundation. May this be our fresh start.
May this be our new beginning.**

One: May hope flow forth from here. Amen!

GATHERING HYMN #82 Come thou Long Expected Jesus

KYRIE

*O come, O come, Immanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.*

Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

CONFESSION OF NEED (Unison)

Affirming God,

Your first words to creation were words of love. You looked at this earth and said, “It is good.”

You spoke affirmations through the prophets. You spoke blessings over Mary. You spoke belonging through Christ.

At every turn, you have reiterated that we are a blessing, made in your image, held in your love. Forgive us for forgetting this truth. Forgive us for measuring our worth by society’s measuring stick instead of yours. We believe. Help our unbelief. In Christ’s name we pray, Amen.

KYRIE

***O come, O Bright and Morning Star, and bring us comfort from afar!
Dispel the shadows of the night and turn our darkness into light.***

Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

SILENCE for confession and resting In God’s grace.

DECLARATION OF GRACE (Responsive)

Family of faith,

I don’t know the last time someone told you that you are good, just as you are.

I don’t know the last time you heard that you are loved and created in the image of God.

I don’t know the last time you trusted those words and truly believed that you are a blessing. However, in case it has been a while,

hear these words from Isaiah:

God says,

“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.

I have called you by name. You are mine.”

We are forgiven. We are loved. Let it leave you awestruck.

Thanks be to God! Amen!



RESPONSE HYMN

#88

O Come O Come Immanuel (vs 6)

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST (Responsive)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (Unison)

Affirming God,

How often do you speak to us, and how often do we miss it?

How often do you whisper blessings over us that we refuse to hear? Open our hearts.

**Create space in us to not only hear these words,
but to believe the good news tucked between them.**

We are hungry for your wisdom, so speak to us now.

With hope and curiosity, we listen.

With hope and curiosity, we dare to begin again.

Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING 1.....Isaiah 43:1-7

READING 2.....Luke 1:26-38

Leader: The word of the Lord. People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON..... Rev. Michael Ozaki

HYMN OF THE DAY

92

While We Are Waiting Come

PRAYERS & GIFTS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord in your Mercy. Hear our Prayer.

THE LORD’S PRAYER (forgive us our “sins”)

Affirmation of Faith-

We believe in a blessing God, who calls us Beloved.

We believe that this blessing showed up in the life of Mary,

and was also bestowed upon the hemorrhaging woman,

the poor in spirit,

the children, the crowds, the Jews, the Gentiles,

the faithful and the doubting.

So in faith, we trust that God’s blessing,



like ripples on the water, forever reaches toward us.
And with wild hope, we believe that because of this blessing,
we are covered in love.
We are more than enough.
Thanks be to God!
Amen.

Communion:

- Invitation
- Prayer of Thanksgiving
- Words of Institution
- Communion of the People
- Prayer



BLESSING AND CHARGE (Responsive)

Beloved children of God receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, the grace of Jesus Christ, and the blessing of the Lord forever.

Alleluia! Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

#93

Lift Up Your Heads (vs 1&3)

DISMISSAL (Responsive)

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

POSTLUDE



A Warm Welcome to our Guests and Visitors!

*Our church has a wonderful array of ministries that seek to spread the gospel into the world.
If you are interested in finding out more about the church community or are interested in
becoming a member, please contact us at:*

Pastor – Rev. Michael Ozaki

Cell: 951.532.5105

PastorOzaki@gmail.com

Administrator – Anne Kopecky

Office: 218-281-4853 e-mail: office@crookstonfirstpres.org

Check out our Website: www.crookstonfirstpres.org

Sunday, December 1st, 2024

10:45 am Worship

11:45 am Coffee Fellowship

Ushers & Greeters.....Dan & Vicki Svedarsky

Organist.....George French

Music Director.....Sandy Perkins

Reader.....Sandy Perkins

Communion Server/Prep.....Jill Schisano & Gloria Watro

Tuesday December 3rd

6:00pm: Woman's Chorus

7:00pm: Jingle Jazz

Concert at Wesley

Wednesday December 4th

12:00pm: Pause for Peace

6:00pm: Bell Practice

Thursday December 5th

1:00pm: Book Study

Saturday Dec 7th, 2024: 10:00am - PW Christmas Brunch

Next Sunday, December 8th, 2024

10:45 am Worship

11:45 am. Coffee Fellowship

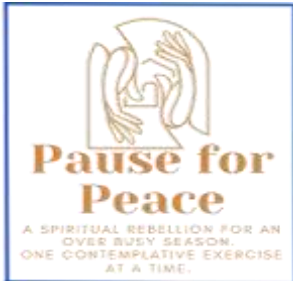
Ushers & Greeters.....Wayne & Lori Folkers

Organist.....Hannah Krueger

Music Director.....Sandy Perkins

Reader.....Lynne Mullins

Special Announcements



Pause for Peace

Wednesdays In Advent @ 12:00 – 12:45pm

Gathering in a trusted circle with simple questions and a bit of ritual, “Pause for Peace” trusts that when we share and listen to each other’s stories we hear God in new ways.

Designed to be an easy and intuitive process that anyone can jump into comfortably, “Pause for Peace” invites you to take a break from the rush of the season to breathe deeply, share honestly, listen openly and perhaps experience the “Peace of God that surpasses all understanding” together. No preparation or registration required.

Questions? Contact pastorozaki@gmail.com or (951) 532-5105



Bells of Praise & Area Woman’s Chorus Concert



Sunday Dec. 15th, 2024 @ First Presbyterian 2:00pm



Wesley United Methodist Church

Benefit Concert

Jingle Jazz

Tuesday, December 3

7:00 pm

at Wesley United Methodist Church
701 Eickhof Blvd - Crookston, MN

Crookston Area Community Jazz Band

Crookston Area Women's Chorus

Coffee & Dessert will be served

**There will be a Free-Will Offering to
benefit the local Care & Share**

Questions: 218.281.3393