

Welcome to Worship



December 8th, 2024



PRELUDE MUSIC
WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS
MINUTE FOR MISSION
INVITATION TO REST

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

One: In a weary and worn world, how do we begin again? Where do we start?
Let us begin together. Let us begin arm in arm.
Let us begin by holding each other up, instead of tearing each other down. Let us begin with words of peace.

Yes, let us begin with peace. Today we light the candles of hope and peace.

May these lights remind us of what could be.
May these lights mark a new beginning. May peace flow like a river, and may it start with us.

Arm in arm, hand in hand, side by side. May we begin again. Amen.

GATHERING HYMN **#314** **Longing For Light (Vs. 1 & 2)**

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)

I have tried to make my own way.

I have tried to lace my own shoes, to build my own house, to kindle my own faith. I have said a thousand times, “turn back,” as if I am fine on my own.

But the days are long, and I am forgetful. I need your help. Can you remind me?

We will remind you of this everlasting truth: You are not alone.

Where you go, God goes. You are held in grace. Trust in this good news.

Thanks be to God! I remember. I believe.

Now we need your help. We, too, have tried to make our own way.

We have tried to lace our own shoes, to build our own houses, to kindle our own faiths. We have said a thousand times, “turn back,” as if we are fine on our own. But the days are long, and we are forgetful.

We need your help. Can you remind us?

I will remind you of this everlasting truth. You are not alone.

Where you go, God goes. You are held in grace. Trust in this good news.

Thanks be to God! We remember. We believe. Alleluia! 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)

Friends, no matter how many times we lose momentum, doubt our own ability, or tell ourselves that the problems of the world are simply too big, God sees what we cannot. God calls us by name, surrounds us in grace, and invites us to begin again.

Trusting in this good news, join me in proclaiming these words of forgiveness:
We are loved. We are forgiven. We are invited to do the good that is ours to do.
Thanks be to God for this new beginning. Amen.

RESPONSE HYMN

#314

Longing For Light (Vs.5)

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

SPECIAL MUSIC:

Hannah Krueger

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (Unison)

Holy God, the words of this world whip around us like a mighty wind. We are caught up in news reports, in text messages, in emails and notifications. We are drowning in updates from the media, caught off guard by the constant hum of it all.

But here on this bright morning we remember you too are speaking.

Still the voices around us. Calm our minds and center our hearts so that we can hear your words above the wind.

We are leaning closer.

We are at the edge of our chairs. We are beginning again.

Speak to us, as only you can. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING 1.....Ruth
1

READING 2.....Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

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

SERMON.....Rev. Gregory Isaacson

HYMN OF THE DAY

#106

Prepare The Way O Zion

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 with-us God:

a God who walks with us in the valley, dances with us on the mountaintop, sings with us through the night and rejoices in the morning.

We believe that this with-us God wired us for relationship, saying to creation on the very first week, "Humans should not be alone."

Therefore, in an effort to be who God called us to be, we strive to live like the Trinity— connected, united, and centered. We believe in the power of community.

We commit to learning each other's names.

We choose to journey with each other, like Ruth with Naomi.

And we remember that no one can go through life alone.

Thanks be to God, for lighting our way.

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

#105

People Look East (Vs. 1 & 5)

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 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

Tuesday December 10th

6:00pm: Area Woman's
Chorus

Wednesday December 11th

12:00pm: Pause for Peace
6:00pm: Bell Practice

Thursday December 12th

1:00pm: Book Study

Next Sunday, December 15th, 2024

10:45 am Worship

11:45 am. Coffee Fellowship

2:00pm Bells of Praise & Area Woman's Chorus Concert
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Ushers & Greeters.....Bill & Gloria Watro

Organist.....George French

Music Director.....Sandy Perkins

Reader.....Marsha Odom

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





Care and Share
of Crookston
Presents

Open Hearts, Open Doors

Dinner & Silent Auction
Saturday, February 1st, 2025
CROOKSTON INN

5:00 p.m. - Social Hour
6:00 p.m. - Dinner
7:00 p.m. - Silent Auction
& Games

BUFFET:
Barbecue Ribs
Creamy Chicken with
Garlic & Spinach
With Sides

All proceeds will go
towards a Walk In Freezer
for the New Hope Food Shelf

\$50 per ticket

TICKETS:

Available to purchase at American Federal Bank, Care and Share or any
Care and Share Board Member. For Questions call 218-281-2644