

# *Welcome to Worship*

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*December 15th, 2024 (Advent 3)*



**PRELUDE MUSIC**  
**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
**MINUTE FOR MISSION**  
**INVITATION TO REST**

### **ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING**

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

**Let us start small.**  
**Let us begin with what is right in front of us.**  
**Let us do the good that is ours to do and let us do it with joy!**

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

**May these lights remind us of what could be.**  
**May these lights inspire action.**  
**May the warmth of these lights fill us with joy.**

**GATHERING HYMN**                      **#100**                      **My Soul Cries Out (vs 1&2)**

### **KYRIE**

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*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)**

**Liberating God,**

**There are days when the world can feel like it's crumbling. There are days when I doubt that I can make a difference. I ask myself,**

**What could these two hands do?**

**What could this one voice say?**

**Shake me free of my own paralysis and self-doubt. Remind me that I am not called to fix everything.**

**I am simply called to do the good that is mine to do. With hope in my heart and a fire in my bones, I pray. Amen.**

## **KYRIE**

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***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**

**#88**

**O Come O Come Emmanuel (vs 6)**

## **SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

## **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (Unison)**

**Listening God,**

**We know that you are constantly speaking to us. Through music, scripture, nature, and relationships, you make yourself known again and again.**

**In gratitude, we long to return the favor.**

**In gratitude, we long to meet you halfway.**

**So in this moment, we are quieting the noise in our heads.**

**We are closing our eyes.**

**We are leaning in. We are listening.**

**We are doing the good that is ours to do.**

**Speak to us through the chaos.**

**Speak to us as only you can.**

**With hope in our hearts we listen, we pray, amen.**

**SCRIPTURE READING 1.....Isaiah 58: 9b - 12**

**READING 2.....Luke 3: 7-16**

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

**SERMON.....Rev. Gregory Isaacson**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**#119**

**Hark the Herald Angels Sing**

**PRAYERS & GIFTS OF THE PEOPLE**

Lord in your Mercy. **Hear our Prayer.**

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

**Affirmation of Faith**

John the Baptist’s followers once asked him, “What shall we do?” Church, knowing the state of the world, what is your answer?

**In the Spirit of Jesus Christ, we say:**

**Do not be discouraged by the weight of the world.**

**Instead, hold fast to hope.**

**Roll up your sleeves.**

**Feed the hungry.**

**Tend the garden.**

**If you have two coats, give one away.**

**Do the good that is yours to do.**

**In doing so, you will see God.**

**For this we believe: small acts of love *can* make a difference. Amen.**

**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**

**#100**

**My Soul Cries Out (vs 3&4)**

**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](mailto:office@crookstonfirstpres.org)**

**Check out our Website: [www.crookstonfirstpres.org](http://www.crookstonfirstpres.org)**

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## Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**10:45 am                      Worship**

**11:45 am                      Coffee Fellowship**

<b>2:00pm</b>	<b>Bells of Praise &amp; Area Woman's Chorus Concert</b>
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**Ushers & Greeters.....Bill & Gloria Watro**

**Organist.....George French**

**Music Director.....Sandy Perkins**

**Reader.....Marsha Odom**

## Tuesday December 17<sup>th</sup>

**6:00pm: Area Woman's  
Chorus**

## Wednesday December 18<sup>th</sup>

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

## Thursday December 19<sup>th</sup>

**1:00pm: Book Study  
6:00pm: Session**

## Next Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024

**10:45 am                      Worship**

**11:45 am.                      Coffee Fellowship**

**Ushers & Greeters.....Wally Hoselton & Dale Charais**

**Organist.....Hazel Mendez**

**Music Director.....Sandy Perkins**

**Reader.....Sandy Perkins**

# Special Announcements

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## **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](mailto:pastorozaki@gmail.com) or (951) 532-5105

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## **Bells of Praise & Area Woman’s Chorus Concert**



Sunday Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024 @ First Presbyterian 2:00pm



You're invited to our

# Blue Christmas Service

Sunday, Dec. 15 at 6pm

**WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
701 Eickhof Blvd - Crookston, MN

Loss of a loved one, money worries, anxiety, loneliness, difficult family relationships? Blue Christmas is a service of remembrance and reflection on God's deep love amidst our pain.

ALL ARE WELCOME

*Refreshments following the service*

Questions: 218-281-3593




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