

4th Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2024



First Presbyterian Church
220 North Cullen Street - Rensselaer, Indiana 47978
219-866-7005

Rev. Dr. Michelle J. Bartel, Preaching
Kristi Slaby , Liturgist
Stephanie Davisson, Accompanist

Welcome
to
First Presbyterian Church
219-866-7005
www.firstpresrensselaer.org
www.facebook.com/First-Presbyterian-Church-Rensselaer

Church Mission Statement: We are a Presbyterian church responding to new mission frontiers presented by our changing culture. Guided by our Lord Jesus Christ, we love, serve and embrace all people.

Sunday Offering: \$1,353.00

Attendance: 31

Pastor: Rev. Michelle J. Bartel, Ph.D.

Youth Minister: Stephanie Davisson

Director of Music: Stephanie Davisson

Office Administrator: Bethany Dodge

219-866-7005

Maintenance/Housekeeping: Pat McKinney

Prayer concerns: Jennifer Perez, Larry Alexander, Joan Butler, Tony's grandmother, Joyce Cady, Carol Geisel, Dawn Jefferson, Rob Jefferson, Trent Jefferson, Kristian Jefferson, Aaron & Bridgette Helms & family, Joy Mendenhall, Sharon DeWees, and Pat Sheffler.

If you would like a child's folder or a wireless hearing assistance device, let the usher know.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name,

thy kingdom come; thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

Lead us not into temptation;

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory,

for ever. Amen.

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✦ Please stand in body or spirit

Prelude

Choir: Introit

Welcome

Rev. Michelle Bartel

Call to Worship and Lighting of the Candle:

Kristi Slaby

Leader: Our souls magnify the Lord,

People: And our spirits rejoice in God our Savior.

Leader: For God has looked with favor upon us, and called us blessed,

People: God is with us; God remembers the promises made to our ancestors.

Leader: We sing to God, knowing that God will bring about justice for all.

People: God is entering our world and our lives again in a new way. Come, let us worship the Lord.✦ Hymn of Praise #104 *Oh Lord, How Shall I Meet You*

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

O God, we read in our scripture passages that you are the path of peace, and the God who fulfills promises of justice to your beloved people who are suffering.**We confess that we are often not peaceful at all. We insist on our own way, and avoid the hard work of making peace with one another in justice. Restore in us your salvation, O God, that we might radiate the love, peace, and justice to which you call us. Amen.**Choir Anthem: *Could This Be the Day?*

Assurance of Pardon (based on Micah 5):

Leader: "And he will stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord ... And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace." In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

People: Alleluia, Amen.✦ Response #581 *Gloria Patri*

Announcements

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading Micah 5:2-5a

p. 865 OT

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

Psalm Reading Psalm 80:1-7

p. 540 NT

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading Luke 1:39-55

p. 57 NT

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon: My Spirit Rejoices

"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior"

Hymn of the Word # 757 *Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples*

OUR RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Joys and Concerns of the Congregation

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (we use "debts and debtors" in the prayer)

The Offering

(The Offering plates will not be passed. You may place your offerings in the plates on the pedestals either before or after Worship.)

✦ Doxology #607 *Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow*

✦ Prayer of Thanksgiving

Holy God, with Mary we seek to magnify you in our worship and in our deeds. Accept these gifts and bless them for Christ's ministry. May they lift the lowly and fill the hungry. May they reveal your glory present with us today and still yet to come. Amen.

✦ Hymn of Sending #314 *Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness*

✦ Benediction

Congregational Response *Let There Be Peace on Earth*

Postlude



First Presbyterian Church

Christmas Eve Service

Tuesday, Dec. 24th, 2024 At 5pm

Bring your friends and families to
help us celebrate the birth of our
Savior!

