

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

11:00 a.m. December 3, 2023

Welcome and Opportunities of the Church

- * Lighting of the Advent Wreath: *Prophecy Candle*.....Tim & Nancy Templeton
Striking of the Hour

Prelude: *Prelude on a French Noel*.....Rhinehart

THE WORSHIP OF THE LORD

- Call to Worship.....Isaiah 25:9
- * Processional Hymn of Praise: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*.....HB No. 147
- * Prayer of Adoration, Confession, and Lord's Prayer
- * Assurance of Pardon.....Exodus 34:6-7
- Anthem: *What Is this Lovely Fragrance*.....arr. Willan

THE FELLOWSHIP OF PRAYER AND SERVICE

- First Reading.....Isaiah 7:10-17
- Presentation of God's Tithes and Our Offerings
- Offertory: *In Dulci Jubilo*.....arr. Held
- * Doxology.....HB No. 544
*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

* Prayer of Dedication

** Children's Message.....Elijah Hoyer

* Hymn: *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*.....HB No. 148

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

- Sermon Text.....Luke 1:26-38
- Sermon.....*A Gloriously Frightening Announcement*
- Prayer of Thanksgiving and Petition

* Affirmation of Faith:

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

* Hymn of Dedication: *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*.....HB No. 152

* Benediction

* Gloria Patri.....HB No. 546

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

* Postlude: *People Look East*.....French Carol

* Those who are able, please stand.

**Children through 2nd grade are dismissed to Children's Church.

Inspired by the love of Christ, and enabled by the Holy Spirit, we serve God through worship, education and fellowship that we may proclaim His grace and share His love in the world.

*We extend a warm welcome to all who worship here today.
Visitors are invited view our website www.firstarp.org for more information.*

If you would like to receive the regular church-wide communications via email and/or mail, please contact the church office with your information.

THIS WEEK

SUNDAY, December 3

First Sunday in Advent

8:30 a.m.Prayer Time, parlor

9:00 a.m.Worship Service

10:00 a.m.Sunday School

11:00 a.m.Worship Service

5:30 p.m.Youth Group

MONDAY, December 4

6:30 p.m.Ruth Circle (No. 3)

TUESDAY, December 5

7:00 a.m.Men's Ministry Prayer Team

WEDNESDAY, December 6

5:30 p.m.Foundations for the Faith

7:15 p.m.Adult Choir Practice

THURSDAY, December 7

8:30 a.m.First Thursday Prayer Team

10:00 a.m.Deborah Circle (No. 2)

4:00 p.m.Early Service Singers Rehearsal

7:00 p.m.Esther Circle (No. 1)

SATURDAY, December 9

7:00 a.m.Men's Bible Study

9:00 a.m.Safety Training

11:00 a.m.Christmas Family Event at Children's Theatre

SUNDAY, December 10

Second Sunday in Advent

8:30 a.m.Prayer Time, parlor

9:00 a.m.Worship Service

10:00 a.m.Sunday School

11:00 a.m.Worship Service

2:00 p.m.New Officer Training; Dagenhart Faith Room

5:30 p.m.Youth Christmas Party

Daily Reading Plan: Week 49—December 3-December 9

Day 1 Esther 7-10, Revelation 3

Day 2 Ezra 7-10, Psalm 97, Revelation 4

Day 3 Nehemiah 1-3, Revelation 5

Day 4 Nehemiah 4-6, Psalm 98, Revelation 6

Day 5 Nehemiah 7-9, Psalm 140, Revelation 7



Looking Ahead

- **New Officer Training** Sunday, December 10 at 2 pm in the Dagenhart Faith Room there will be a training for our newly elected Deacons and Elders.
- **Youth Christmas Party** Sunday, December 10 at 5:30 pm we will gather at the Berger house for an ugly Christmas sweater contest, food and white elephant gift exchange.
- **Lessons & Carols** Sunday, December 17 we will have our annual Lessons & Carols services at both 9 & 11 am.
- **Christmas Eve Services** There will be a single worship service at 10 am followed by our 3 candlelight services at 3 pm (Just Joy oriented), 5 pm and 9 pm.
- **Single Service Sunday** There will be one service at 10 am on Sunday, December 31.
- **2024 Information Update** As the church office begins preparing to print the 2024 Member Directory, please send us any contact changes from the last year that will help us communicate with you better in the new year.
- **2024 Flower Calendar** is available for sign-ups in the T-hall. Providing flowers on a Sunday is a wonderful opportunity to honor or remember a loved one, or celebrate a special day.

FOR MORE DETAILS on these events and many others:

- Check out our *Newsletter* or *Weekly Update*
- Call or email the church office:
803-327-2009 or lross@firstarp.org

Anthem

What Is this Lovely Fragrance?

Old French Carol // Arr. Healey Willan
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CCLI #2229993

What is this lovely fragrance wafting like to the scents of flow'rs in spring!
Shepherds, O tell us, whence such beauty, Hear you not heav'nly caroling?
What is this lovely fragrance wafting like to the scents of flow'rs in spring.

What is this light so fair, so tender Breaking upon our wond'ring eyes?
Never the Morning Star so radiant Followed his course o'er eastern skies.
What is this light so fair, so tender, Breaking upon our wond'ring eyes?

Shepherds, O haste with eager footsteps Seek the Saviour, born today.
Low at His feet we lay our treasure, Heart's adoration, love for aye, Love for aye.
Shepherds, O haste with eager footsteps Seek the Saviour, born today.

From the English Standard Version of the Holy Bible

First Reading // Isaiah 7:10-17

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹ "Ask the LORD your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights."

¹² But Ahaz said, "I will not ask; I will not put the Lord to the test."

¹³ Then Isaiah said, "Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. ¹⁵ He will be eating curds and honey when he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, ¹⁶ for before the boy knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, the land of the two kings you dread will be laid waste. ¹⁷ The LORD will bring on you and on your people and on the house of your father a time unlike any since Ephraim broke away from Judah—he will bring the king of Assyria."

Sermon Text // Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

³⁴ "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

³⁵ The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶ Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. ³⁷ For no word from God will ever fail."

³⁸ "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

Usher Captains Jackson Emerson & Brandon Berger
Counters for today Mitch Sanders & Scott Allan
Greeting Warren Norman & Tim Templeton
Safety Ken Miller
Worship Assistance Max Smith

General Fund 2023	October 2023	Year-to-date
Receipts	\$79,063	\$815,844
Expenses	\$68,466	\$762,181
Surplus (Deficit)	\$10,597	\$53,662
Budgeted Monthly	\$83,322	—

*The Poinsettias are given to the glory of God and in
memory of...*

- * **Walter, Jean & John Revell; Jack, Anne & Johnny Alexander; Robert, Barbara, Adah & Noah Lesslie** from Robert & Jeanie Alexander
- * **Our parents: Jimmy & Shirley Norris** and **Bill & Henri Altman** from Bill & Nanette Altman
- * **John Bailey** from Jane Bailey
- * **Mr. & Mrs. Richard Bridges** and **Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Miller** from Dick & Linda Bridges
- * **Her loving parents, Gibbs & Nancy Prevost** from Lynn Chonko
- * **Adam Cox & Will Cox** from Jack & Emily Cox
- * **Mr. & Mrs. Ray Lewis Gardner** and **Mr. & Mrs. Hugh Boyce Faulkner** from Wayne & Susan Gardner
- * **John Ward Logan** from Linda Logan Entrekim
- * **Rev. Dr. Tony Grant** from Beth Grant
- * **Jessie H. Harper** and **Margaret R. Harper** from Mr. & Mrs. Don Harper
- * **Maudell & John Gullede, Carlos Williams, Ruth & Archie Helms,** and **Bernice & Leonard Williams** from David & Gail Helms
- * **Virginia Ann Kellett** and **Ed Kellett** from Howard Kellett
- * **Norma White, Morris Glidewell,** and **James & Grace Kiser** from Tim & Connie Kiser
- * **Robert & Barbara Lesslie** from Jeff & Katie Lesslie
- * **Adah Elizabeth** and **Noah Ryan** from Daddo & Momma
- * **Rhonda Logan** from Johnny, Katherine, Jeffery, Caroline, Bryson, Ward, Anne & Jones, and Merritt
- * **Charles Madsen** and **Frank Shugart** from the Madsen family
- * **Jason Marshall, Lawton Horton, Myrl Echols** from Tim & Sylvia Marshall
- * **Bill Culp** from Nancy Moore
- * **Harriet & Jennings Neely, Sr.** and **Jennings Neely, Jr.** from Linda Neely
- * **Walter & Jeanie Revell, Russell Tanner,** and **John Revell** from Jeanie & Walter Revell
- * **Harold & William Rhodes** and **Eva & Harold Rhodes** from Sylvia Rhodes
- * **Brandon Hardison** and **Betty & Doug Roper** from Dianne & Tom Roper
- * **Jimmy Simpson** from Beth Simpson
- * **All of our loved ones we are missing during this holiday season** from Ragan & Judy Simpson
- * **Forrest & Betty Musselman** from Jan & David Stephenson
- * **Betty King** and **Lucille Templeton** from their granddaughters Emma, Raye & Meg
- * **Jan Maners Small** from Frank & Cindy Wilkerson

*The Poinsettias are given to the glory of God
and in honor of...*

- * **Our children: Cristi & Alex Corcoran,** and **Chelsea Altman** from Bill & Nanette Altman
- * **Heather, Seth & Ben Gregory** love from Yaya
- * **Orlando Jones** and **Jon & Aimee Oliphant** from Susan & Buddy Cassels
- * **Merritt Edward Pope** from Linda Logan Entrekim
- * **Margaret Lucas** and **John & Dottie Gettys** from John, Christi, Jack, Grier, and Evan Gettys
- * **The Choir & Musicians** and **Nursery Volunteers** from Debi Hallman
- * **Ann Louise & Roger Neely, West, Neely & Ward Kellett,** and **Mary Campbell & Vic Davis** from Howard Kellett
- * **Our granddaughter, Reid** from W.C. & Lois Kirkpatrick
- * **Anne Glidewell** from Tim & Connie Kiser
- * **Ann & Ken Miller** from Jeff & Katie Lesslie
- * **Oliver Jarrell** from Cole & Kay McKinney
- * **Dotty Madsen, Joyce Shugart, Patrick Robinson & Ryan Tinker** from the Madsen family
- * **Frances Horton** from Tim & Sylvia Marshall
- * **Ya-Ya & Poopah (Ann & Ken Miller)** from Cody & Hannah Miller
- * **Barry & Sarah Dagenhart** and **Jon & Aimee Oliphant** from Nancy Moore
- * **Dora Dean Tanner** from Walter & Jeanie Revell
- * **Howard Kellett** and **Jack & Ann Roddey** from Frank Robards
- * **Our grandchildren** from Carol & Theresa Smith
- * **Jody FitzGerald** from Jan & David Stephenson
- * **Pastor Jon and his family** from Wilma Taylor-Bucy
- * **Nancy & Tim Templeton** from their children Emma, Alex, Raye, and Meg