



“Promises Unfold: Promises of Hope”  
1st Sunday in Advent  
November 29, 2020

**WELCOME**

*Thank you for worshipping with us today!*

*If you have an email address and want to be on POP’s weekly announcement list, please let the church office know. You can find worship each week at <https://princeofpeace-er.org/podcasts/>.*

*DVD’s of the previous Sunday’s worship are available by contacting the church office at 715-479-9263.*

*If you would like to support the mission of Prince of Peace so that we can continue worship, community outreach, and other ministries, you can give any amount by cash, check, online, through the Give+ app by Vanco, or by sending a text to 833-394-7887 (text your dollar amount and follow the prompts). Thank you for your generosity.*

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**ORDER OF SERVICE**    *The assembly speaks the bold verses*

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**Preparing for Worship**

As you enter this time of worship and sanctuary, you are invited to rest and prepare to receive.

Quiet your mind.

Trust in God. Trust Christ. Trust in the Spirit.

Find a comfortable position and place to just “be.”

Breathe in God’s goodness . . . let go of your “to do” lists.

Breathe in God’s grace . . . let go of anxiety and fear.

Breathe in God's abundant love . . . let go of self-doubt.

Be opened to abide in God's loving arms.

**Music**      **"We Light a Candle" (verse 1) – Richard Bruxvoort Colligan**

We light a candle for hope  
And our world that's longing for hope  
We light a candle for hope  
And our world that's longing for hope Holy One,  
Shine with the fire of our lives, oh  
We light a candle for hope  
And our world that's longing for hope.

**Advent Candle Lighting**

In hope, Israel dreamed of a Messiah so many years ago.  
In hope, Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem praying for hospitality.  
In hope, the wise men followed a star believing that God would guide them along the way.  
Like Israel, we sing, "Come, O come, Emmanuel."  
Like Mary and Joseph, we pray for a world that acts like we belong to one another.  
Like the wise men, we travel to this space trusting that God draws near to us—  
guiding us along the way.  
This Sunday, we light the candle of hope because we could not be Advent people without it.

*Light the first candle on your Advent wreath or any candle or flashlight you have at home.*

May this candle remind us that God's light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness did not overcome it.  
May this light serve as an invitation to draw near to God—  
for in the light of this candle we can feel God's warmth,  
we can see more clearly, and together, we can hope for a better day. **Amen.**

**Music**      **"We Light a Candle" (verse 1) – Richard Bruxvoort Colligan**

We light a candle for hope  
And our world that's longing for hope  
We light a candle for hope  
And our world that's longing for hope Holy One,  
Shine with the fire of our lives, oh  
We light a candle for hope  
And our world that's longing for hope.

**Advent Prayer**

God of mystery and miracles,  
Your Word brings light into the dark places of our lives;  
Your presence gives us strength to endure  
when we are pushed beyond our own strength.

You find us in our lostness and,  
with love beyond our imagining,  
you lead us home.

All this you offer in and through Jesus Christ.  
Yet, we resist you.  
We resist loosening our tight grip on our lives.  
We hesitate to trust you  
for you may lead us where we do not want to go.

You know the places in our hearts  
and in our minds  
where we are well-defended  
against your intrusions.

In this season of longing,  
grant us grace to bring all that we are to you, O Christ  
— all the broken places  
— all the lost wanderings  
— all the weariness from trying to live lives that are pleasing to you.

Hold them all in the fullness of your love.  
Then, be born in us,  
that we may find our home,  
our life,  
our joy  
in You, Lord of light and love. **Amen.**

### **Daniel in the Lions' Den**                      *Daniel 6:6-18*

<sup>6</sup>So the presidents and satraps conspired and came to the king and said to him, "O King Darius, live forever!" <sup>7</sup>All the presidents of the kingdom, the prefects and the satraps, the counselors and the governors are agreed that the king should establish an ordinance and enforce an interdict, that whoever prays to anyone, divine or human, for thirty days, except to you, O king, shall be thrown into a den of lions. <sup>8</sup>Now, O king, establish the interdict and sign the document, so that it cannot be changed, according to the law of the Medes and the Persians, which cannot be revoked." <sup>9</sup>Therefore King Darius signed the document and interdict.

<sup>10</sup>Although Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he continued to go to his house, which had windows in its upper room open toward Jerusalem, and to get down on his knees three times a day to pray to his God and praise him, just as he had done previously. <sup>11</sup>The conspirators came and found Daniel praying and seeking mercy before his God. <sup>12</sup>Then they approached the king and said concerning the interdict, "O king! Did you not sign an interdict, that anyone who prays to anyone, divine or human, within thirty days except to you, O king, shall be thrown into a den of lions?" The king answered, "The thing stands fast, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be revoked." <sup>13</sup>Then they responded to the king, "Daniel, one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king, or to the interdict you have signed, but he is saying his prayers three times a day."

<sup>14</sup>When the king heard the charge, he was very much distressed. He was determined to save Daniel, and until the sun went down he made every effort to rescue him. <sup>15</sup>Then the conspirators came to the king and said to him, “Know, O king, that it is a law of the Medes and Persians that no interdiction or ordinance that the king establishes can be changed.”

<sup>16</sup>Then the king gave the command, and Daniel was brought and thrown into the den of lions. The king said to Daniel, “May your God, whom you faithfully serve, deliver you!” <sup>17</sup>A stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet and with the signet of his lords, so that nothing might be changed concerning Daniel. <sup>18</sup>Then the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting; no food was brought to him, and sleep fled from him.

**Music “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” - #254**

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,  
born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us;  
let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art,  
dear desire of ev'ry nation,  
joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,  
born a child, and yet a king;  
born to reign in us forever,  
now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal Spirit  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all-sufficient merit  
raise us to thy glorious throne.

**Daniel Saved from the Lions Daniel 6:19-27**

<sup>19</sup>Then, at break of day, the king got up and hurried to the den of lions. <sup>20</sup>When he came near the den where Daniel was, he cried out anxiously to Daniel, “O Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God whom you faithfully serve been able to deliver you from the lions?” <sup>21</sup>Daniel then said to the king, “O king, live forever! <sup>22</sup>My God sent his angel and shut the lions’ mouths so that they would not hurt me, because I was found blameless before him; and also before you, O king, I have done no wrong.” <sup>23</sup>Then the king was exceedingly glad and commanded that Daniel be taken up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no kind of harm was found on him, because he had trusted in his God. <sup>24</sup>The king gave a command, and those who had accused Daniel were brought and thrown into the den of lions—they, their children, and their wives. Before they reached the bottom of the den the lions overpowered them and broke all their bones in pieces.

<sup>25</sup>Then King Darius wrote to all peoples and nations of every language throughout the whole world: "May you have abundant prosperity! <sup>26</sup>I make a decree, that in all my royal dominion people should tremble and fear before the God of Daniel:

For he is the living God,  
enduring forever.

His kingdom shall never be destroyed,  
and his dominion has no end.

<sup>27</sup>He delivers and rescues,  
he works signs and wonders in heaven and on earth;  
for he has saved Daniel  
from the power of the lions."

## Reflection

*Pastor Andrea Fluegel*

### **Advent Poetry Prayers *Draw Near to Wonder* - adapted from poetry by Sarah Are**

I wonder if the earth is waiting for a Messiah like I am—

Trees bending toward love,  
fireflies keeping a promise to be light,  
the moon returning over and over again  
with hope that the world will look differently this time.

I wonder if I'll ever really know when it happens—

Those moments when God is in my midst.

Those all the time,

everywhere,

rare kind of moments that I'm terrible at trusting but know like a rainstorm.

I wonder, because I am human.

I wonder, because *not* wondering leaves me stuck.

So I wonder.

Will the stars ever fall?

Will I see you face to face, and you see me?

Will the moon come back tonight and sigh, saying,

"Ah yes. I can see that God is here. This is what I've been waiting for."

### **Music            "*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*" - #257 (vs. 1, 3 & 7)**

#### *Verse 1*

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

#### *Refrain*

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

*Verse 3*

O come, O come, O Lord of might,  
as to your tribes on Sinai's height  
in ancient times you gave the law  
in cloud, and majesty, and awe. *Refrain*

*Verse 7*

O come, O King of nations, come,  
O Cornerstone that binds in one:  
refresh the hearts that long for you;  
restore the broken, make us new. *Refrain*

**Prayer Conversation**

“Creator God, tell me of another world,” I said. “A world where bodies don’t fail and all are born healthy, so people dance for days. A world where grief sets its prisoners free and heartbroken hearts find relief. Tell me of another world, God. A world where toddlers believe they can and clap for themselves every time they take another wobbly step. Tell me of the end of war. Tell me of a church whose walls become windows, and whose faith becomes a magnet— drawing people in with love’s pure pull. Tell me again about the lion and the lamb. Tell me of another world,” I said. Then God said, “Child, my child. You are my world. You are my heart, and you are my Church. What you speak of is hope. But you should keep speaking, and keep seeking, for it is such a beautiful prayer.”

**Music**                    *“If in Your Heart” - Ana Hernandez*

**If in your heart you make a manger for his birth,  
then God will once again become a child on earth.**

God of power and might, tear open the heavens and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

We pray for the ministry we share in Christ’s name. Open our hearts to your call for justice, peace, and healing. Attune us to the needs of the world as you draw near.

We pray for all people who care for others in our community and around the world. Fill them with compassion and the power to respond with justice for those who are oppressed, with welcome for those who are excluded, and with relief for those who suffer.

**If in your heart you make a manger for his birth,  
then God will once again become a child on earth.**

We pray for people who are in crisis as the seasons change: for those without homes facing severe weather, for those who are unemployed or underemployed, and for those in poverty or facing food insecurity. Guide us in supporting ministries in our community such as Caritas, the Vilas Food Pantry, Feed Our Rural Kids, the Weekend Backpack Program, the Salvation Army, and Tri-County Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. Relieve their burdens, sustain their bodies, and ease their minds.

We pray for the people in our families, congregation and community who live with depression, anxiety, chronic pain, addiction, compassion fatigue, and secondary post-traumatic stress disorder, and other invisible illnesses. Ease their suffering and support them when they struggle. We especially pray for health care workers, police officers, chaplains, funeral home directors, first responders, firefighters, and social workers. Give them the strength, compassion, and courage they need this day.

**If in your heart you make a manger for his birth,  
then God will once again become a child on earth.**

We now name all the people, places and circumstances on our hearts and minds . . .

We give thanks for the lives and witness of those who died while waiting for justice, peace, or healing, those whose names we know and those whose names are known only to you. Sustain all who still yearn for the completion of your redeeming work.

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

**If in your heart you make a manger for his birth,  
then God will once again become a child on earth.**

#### **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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

#### **Music                   *"In the Bleak Midwinter"* - #294**

In the bleak midwinter,  
frosty wind made moan,  
earth stood hard as iron,  
water like a stone;  
snow had fallen, snow on snow,  
snow on snow,  
in the bleak midwinter,  
long ago.

Heaven cannot hold him,  
nor earth sustain;  
heav'n and earth shall flee away  
when he comes to reign;  
in the bleak midwinter  
a stable place sufficed  
the Lord God almighty,  
Jesus Christ.

What can I give him,  
poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd  
I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a wise man  
I would do my part;  
yet what I can I give him—  
give my heart.

### **Blessing and Sending**

God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,  
God of the wilderness wanderings,  
God of the prophets and messengers,  
God of the exiled and weary,  
God of grace and love,  
Bless you now and forever.  
✠ In the name of the Son, waiting to be born  
To bring hope into the darkness,  
Jesus Christ our Lord  
through the gift of the Holy Spirit,  
One God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Why are we waiting?

**For the coming of Jesus.**

How are we waiting?

**With patience and hope.**

Go in peace. Soon and very soon we are going to see the King.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Blessing and Sending**

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Advent Sunday Worship**

This Sunday, November 29, we will begin our Advent worship experience with the lighting of the Advent wreath. You are encouraged to participate by lighting your own Advent wreath, candles, or even flashlights (if no candles available). We will continue looking at how God's promises unfold in our lives through the words of the prophets like Isaiah, Joel, and the story of Daniel. We will conclude Advent with Mary's song and her visit to her cousin Elizabeth.

### **Love Lights**

Prince of Peace has the Advent tradition of lighting a Love Lights Tree. The Love Lights Tree provides an opportunity for individuals to honor their loved ones by making a donation to the Prince of Peace Endowment Fund. Donors may sponsor an ornament on the Love Lights Tree as a memorial or tribute to an individual who has touched their life. Traditionally, the Love Light Tree has been placed in the sanctuary and lit at the end of worship during Advent. This year the ornaments will be hung in the windows of the Fellowship Hall and will be lit up at night. We encourage you to drop by to view the Love Light ornaments from the parking lot. You can donate to Love Lights by contacting the church office at 715-479-9263.

### **Christmas Worship Experiences**

Mark your calendars. There will be three different Christmas worship experiences for you to participate in this season. Prince of Peace will have an **outdoor Christmas Eve service with candlelight at 4:30 p.m.** on the front lawn of the church. Due to rising numbers of COVID-19, we will keep socially distant and masked. This will be a 30-minute worship experience. You are welcome to bring your own chair or participate in your car. In addition, there will be a **Northern Great Lakes Synod Christmas Worship Service** on the Synod YouTube channel. We will provide a link closer to Christmas. DVDs will be available. This worship service will also be broadcasted on Marquette Channel 6 television station. Prince of Peace has worked in conjunction with Channel 6 and the Synod office to produce this worship experience for the Upper Peninsula and Northern Wisconsin. The third option is an audio-only, **Christmas radio play**. This will be available on the church website and on the Gathered and Sent podcast on Apple Podcast, iTunes, and Podbean app.

### **Volunteer for Snow Shoveling**

As the seasons change, we are in need of individuals to volunteer to help clear snow from entryways, walkways, and emergency exits at Prince of Peace. Sign Up for a week on the church website or by contacting the church office. If you have questions you can contact the church office or a member of the Property Team.

### **Volunteer for the Weekend Backpack Program**

Please sign up to help with the Weekend Backpack Program. Volunteers are needed weekly to continue this ministry. Contact the church office or visit the website to sign up. We are feeding 133 children each week through this program plus are feeding an additional 100 children through in-school pantries!

### **Worship DVDs**

DVD's of the previous Sunday's worship are now available at POP! They can be mailed or scheduled for pick up by contacting the church office via telephone (715-479-9263).

### **Return to Phase 1**

The Prince of Peace Council has decided to return back to Phase 1 due to the rising number of positive COVID-19 cases and deaths in Vilas and Oneida Counties as well as the number of students being quarantined due to close contact with a positive case in the Northland Pines School District. This means that we are suspending the limited communion worship for the meantime and reducing the number of volunteers for the Backpack Program and for other essential functions of the church. The Church Council continues to reassess what is happening in our local community on a frequent basis. The Oneida and Vilas Health Departments are strongly encouraging people to limit contact with people outside their immediate household, wear face masks/coverings, wash hands, and keep at least 6 feet (or more) distance from others if you need to go outside of your household unit.

### **CURRENT PHASE: 1**

- Fully digital worship and fellowship
- Critical staff and volunteers by invitation-only access to building
- All in-person activities suspended and moved to digital format where possible
- Visitors must wear a facemask and may not enter the building



### **MISSION STATEMENT**

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church is a community who believes in God's love, knows Jesus as Savior, and is blessed by the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Thankful for these gifts, we gather to pray and praise, explore God's Word and its meaning for our lives, strengthen each other in our witness, and serve each other and our neighbors in the world.

### **VISION STATEMENT**

Gathered by Grace ~ Sent to serve.

*Core Values: Spirituality, Community,  
Grace, Helping Others, Creativity.*

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 5030 Highway 70 West, Eagle River, WI 54521  
[www.PrinceofPeace-ER.org](http://www.PrinceofPeace-ER.org)