



**“Promises Unfold: Promises of Joy”
3rd Sunday in Advent
December 13, 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.

ORDER OF SERVICE *The assembly speaks the bold verses*

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" (vs. 3) – Richard Bruxvoort Colligan

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

Advent Candle Lighting

We sing, "Joy to the world!"
Joy to the world.
The *whole* world.
The world God has in God's hands.
The world that seems to be shrinking and spinning faster every day.
The world of seas and mountains, rivers and streams.
The world of the honeysuckle and evergreen, morning snow and firesides.
Joy to the world!
Joy to the world -
To every person and to every dream.
Joy to you.
Joy to me.
Joy to the world -
For love is real,
And God is here.
The sun will shine.
Darkness will not overcome it.
Joy to the world!
Joy to *this* world.
Amen.

Music "We Light a Candle" (vs. 3) – Richard Bruxvoort Colligan

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

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.**

Isaiah 61:1-11

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
²to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
³to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.

⁴ They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.

⁵ Strangers shall stand and feed your flocks,
foreigners shall till your land and dress your vines;

⁶ but you shall be called priests of the Lord,
you shall be named ministers of our God;
you shall enjoy the wealth of the nations,
and in their riches you shall glory.

⁷ Because their shame was double,
and dishonor was proclaimed as their lot,
therefore they shall possess a double portion;
everlasting joy shall be theirs.

⁸ For I the Lord love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

⁹ Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.

¹⁰ I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹ For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

Music *“Joy to the World” - #267 (vs. 1, 2 & 4)*

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

Sermon

Pastor Andrea Fluegel

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

It takes all of me to draw near to justice—My whole, sinful, honest self. There is no option for part of my heart to break, for a fraction of my mind to recognize truth, for just one of my legs to march. It's all or nothing, my life or our lives, daylight or darkness. Maybe that's why justice is so hard. In order to be just, it takes all of who we are— Sins, scars, guilt and all. So I pray— Break my whole heart, God. Break my heart and in the cracks, in the fractured places, plant seeds of strength so that justice will grow in me and I in it, like a wildflower that can't be tamed. Bit by bit I cling to your word. Bit by bit, I turn my heart into a garden for your justice to take root. It is not an option for part of my heart to break.

Music *"Away in a Manger" - #277*

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

Prayer Conversation

"God," I asked, "What brings you joy?" "Oh, my child," God said. "The list is so long. Hearing you say my name and seeing you soak in this beautiful creation bring me joy. When you stand with family, neighbors, and strangers, and sing or work together, my heart risks overflowing with joy. When you remember the children, and the quiet, and the hurting—I swear my heart could take flight." "And when your heart takes flight," I asked, leaning forward with curiosity, "then what happens?" And God leaned back and laughed the most musical, heart-filled, soul-reaching laugh I'd ever heard, and that's when I remembered—joy is contagious, and it is a gift. And then I started singing.

Prayers of the People

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.

Spirit of the Lord God, you bring good news to the oppressed, bind up the brokenhearted, proclaim liberty to the captives, and release the prisoners. You comfort all who mourn, and shower your people with the oil of gladness instead of mourning; a mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. We will greatly rejoice in the Lord, our whole being shall exult in God, for the sake of the one who brought righteousness to life, Jesus Christ our salvation.

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

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Anoint the lonely with a spirit of hope; open our eyes to the needs of those around us and keep us steadfast in service and care for others. Anoint the sick and suffering with a spirit of healing; restore wholeness to those struggling with disease and illness. Anoint this community, whether we are at home across this nation and world, with a spirit of witness; open our lips that we may proclaim your praise wherever we may find ourselves this week.

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

God of exiles and wanderers, you repair what was once destroyed. We pray for people who have been displaced from their homes by fire, flood, earthquake, or storm. Support the work of Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Disaster Response, and all disaster relief organizations in their recovery efforts.

Tender God, you know sorrow and joy alike. We pray for those in our families, congregation and community who are not joyful in this holiday season. Comfort those who grieve, be a companion to all who are lonely, tend those who are sick or struggling with depression, and gather all people in your healing embrace.

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 *"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" - #270*

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise;
join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"

Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
Hail, incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel! *Refrain*

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth,
born to give us second birth. *Refrain*

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.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Advent Sunday Worship

We continue our Advent worship experience. 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.

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**. You can listen to this radio play beginning December 18 by calling 1-978-599-7887. *Just stay on the line to listen to the content.*

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.

Gathered and Sent Bible Study

You can now listen to the Gathered and Sent Bible study each week by calling **1-978-599-7887**. No Internet needed. A new Bible study on the upcoming Sunday's scripture reading is released every Monday morning. Pastor Andrea Fluegel discusses the scripture with a member of the congregation.

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).

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.

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
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