

## SERMON

“Longing Marked by Patience and Hope”  
Rev. Chris Bowen

## HYMN OF RESPONSE

“O Holy Night (Hear the Gospel Story)”

## THE BENEDICTION

## SERMON NOTES

### CONTACT

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# First Presbyterian Church

Fellowship Hall Service | December 24, 2017  
Fourth Sunday of Advent

## GATHERING SONG

“Joy to the World”

## CALL TO WORSHIP *from* Isaiah 40:9, 11,; 7:14; Matthew 1:23

Leader: O Zion, messenger of good news, shout from the mountaintops!

**People: Shout it louder, O Jerusalem. Shout, and do not be afraid. Tell the towns of Judah, “Your God is coming!”**

Leader: He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

**People: Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call his name Immanuel, which means, God with us.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE

“O Come, O Come Immanuel”

## CONFESSION OF SIN

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image, through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. *Amen.*

## ASSURANCE OF THE GOSPEL

## HYMNS OF PRAISE

“The First Noel”

“What a Beautiful Name”

## OFFERING

“Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery”

## PRAYER FOR CHRIST’S PEOPLE

## CONFESSION 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 Spirit,  
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 Spirit,  
the holy \*catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

*\*Universal*

## GREETING OF PEACE

Leader: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All: **And also with you.**

## LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE

Leader: *Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord*

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Leader: Today is the Fourth Sunday of Advent and we will light the Candle of Joy. We light this candle to remind us that when Jesus is born in us we have joy and that through him there will be everlasting joy on earth. As we look at this candle we celebrate the joy we find in Jesus Christ.

## SCRIPTURE READING *from Isaiah 11:1-10*

Leader: In the Old Testament, the word “joy” is nearly always associated with an act of God, and even more specifically, with an act of God delivering his people. Each time God’s people were rescued, the Israelites were joyful and rejoiced in God’s love for them. But each time they soon forgot God’s deliverance and turned away from God. In a cold and dirty stable in the small, unimportant town of Bethlehem, God again delivered his people. This time, however, it was not just for a time, not just until the next warring nation came across the river. This time it was forever, for eternity. Let us pray.

All: **Today, as we celebrate Advent and think of joy, let’s not forget. Let’s remember and live each day in the knowledge and understanding of what God has done for us through the person and work of our Lord and Redeemer, Jesus Christ.. We are delivered! Come, Lord Jesus, come! Amen.**

*Children’s church for kids 4 years old through 1st grade is available at this time. Leaders will meet the children just outside the Fellowship Hall and walk them to the PreK-K room or parents may walk them back.*