

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ROSWELL, NEW MEXICO**

**THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

December 24, 2017

10:00 A.M.

GATHERING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHIMES

PRELUDE

Fantasia on "*Adeste Fidelis*" (Smith)

LIGHTING THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

***OPENING HYMN #105**

"People, Look East" (French Folk Melody)

***OPENING PRAYER**

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God for whom all things are possible, we admit that our perceptions of the possible are jaded by our sinfulness, by our skepticism and cynicism. We have not yet grasped the hope and promise of your kingdom among us now. Knowing your work in human history for generations, we still cannot find the way to trust your hand at work in the world today, and in the future which belongs to you. Forgive us, we pray. Forgive our weak and broken trust. Renew in us the hope of your kingdom, present now and destined to be completed at the return of our Lord. On this Fourth Sunday of Advent, remind us of the hope we have received in the birth of the Bethlehem child. We pray in his saving name. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel!
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

***GLORY BE TO THE FATHER #581**

Gloria Patri (*Greatorex*)

**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.**

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Please exchange these words with your neighbors: “The peace of the Lord be with you.” “And also with you.”

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES

2 Samuel 7:8-13

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT LETTERS

Romans 16:25-27

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

“While Shepherds Watched” (Jungot)

***READING FROM THE GOSPELS**

Luke 1:26-38

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

A MOMENT FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

SERMON

“Nothing Will Be Impossible”

***HYMN #140**

“Once in Royal David’s City” (Gauntlett)

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

From *The Westminster Confession of Faith* (1649)

The Son of God, the second Person in the Trinity, being very and eternal God, of one substance and equal with the Father, did, when the fullness of time was come, take upon himself humanity’s nature, with all the essential properties and common infirmities

thereof; yet without sin: being conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost, in the womb of the Virgin Mary, of her substance. So that two whole, perfect, and distinct natures, the divine and the human, were inseparably joined together in one person, without conversion, composition, or confusion.

SHARING OF PRAYER REQUESTS

PASTORAL PRAYER

RETURNING TITHES AND OFFERINGS TO GOD

MUSICAL OFFERING

“Hark! The Sound of Angels” (Martin)

***PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW #606**

(Genevan Psalter)

**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 THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION**

***OUR LORD’S PRAYER**

**Our Father in heaven,
holy is your name;
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

SENDING

***CLOSING HYMN #121**

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” (Redner)

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

***POSTLUDE**

*Please stand if you are able where asterisks are printed.

Words in **bold print** are spoken by the congregation.