

First Presbyterian Church of Sandpoint, Idaho

November 30, 2025 11:00 a.m., 1st Sunday of Advent

*Catherine Lyle, Pastor; Annie Welle, Piano; Dana Stockman, Choir Director
Carol Curtis, Worship Leader; Jane Fritz & Sue Helander, Ushers; Don Helander, Livestream*

PRELUDE MUSIC, LIVESTREAM BEGINS

LIGHT THE CHRIST CANDLE, WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS

RING THE BELL, MOMENT OF SILENCE

OPENING PRAYER

Gracious and Loving Creator, we give you thanks for this time of Advent as we prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of Jesus. We give you thanks for traditions that separate us from the war drums of the greedy and call us into a sacred space and time. A time for the kingdom with your people with their reigning redeemer Jesus. A time when we set our souls free to be fully loved and live into your reign as Christ the servant King. May we find more hope than our traditions typically inspire and may that hope pierce through the darkened clouds of our time. May the path of hope be our way of life. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

HYMN #53 “What Child Is This” *Chorus, Verse 1, Chorus*

The nature of humanity seems to point to the need for a “savior,” especially when we feel things are out of control. People in the time of Jesus’ birth were no different. They hoped for a new reality of communal wellbeing in the midst of corruption and violence. Peace only existed by definition of the empire. The collaboration of religious and state authorities for the sake of the rich and the demise of the poor was a hard reality for most.

We light this candle of Hope for those who need it most.

For all who search for a place to belong.

For all who are frightened by imposing forces.

For all whose future seems uncertain.

Our question for today at the scene of the nativity is this: “For what do we hope in our time that will be ‘good news for ALL people?’”

What child IS this?

“This, this, is Christ the King who reigns with hope forever.”

*OPENING HYMN #142 “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”

*RESPONSIVE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.** Thanks be to God!

*SUNG RESPONSE #577 “Glory Be to the Father”

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

SCRIPTURE READINGS Lamentations 3: 46-57, Luke 2:1-5

CHILDREN’S MOMENT “What walls must hope break through in our lives today so we can be like Jesus?”

WORDS OF WITNESS “It is hard to be hopeful in times like these but not as hard as it is to be hopeful when you already have everything.”

Catherine Lyle, Pastor

*HYMN OF RESPONSE #2 “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY Lord in your mercy... **hear our 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

OFFERING, OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY #593 “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen. Amen....

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*CLOSING HYMN #540 “God Be with You Till We Meet Again”

*CHARGE, BENEDICTION, FOLLOW THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

As we prepare to go into the world, let us ask and answer the question we came with. What child IS this? This is the one born into a time when hope was hard. What child IS this? This is the one whose lowly status would send a message of hope that alleviation of oppression is a holy endeavor. What child IS this? This, this is the “King of Kings” who shows us the way of true hope for all people.

We are a congregation of people

Loving, living, learning the joy of faith.

POSTLUDE, LIVESTREAM CONCLUDES

WORDS TO SONGS

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What Child Is This

Refain:

This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!

What Child is this, who laid to rest,
On Mary’s lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?

Refrain

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!

All hail the power of Jesus' Name!
Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem,
And crown Him Lord of all!
Bring forth the royal diadem,
And crown Him Lord of all!

Ye chosen seed of Israel's race,
Ye ransomed from the fall,
Hail Him who saves you by His grace,
And crown Him Lord of all!
Hail Him who saves you by His grace,
And crown Him Lord of all!

Let every kindred, every tribe,
On this terrestrial ball,
To Him all majesty ascribe,
And crown Him Lord of all!
To Him all majesty ascribe,
And crown Him Lord of all!

O that with yonder sacred throng
We at His feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song,
And crown Him Lord of all!
We'll join the everlasting song,
And crown Him Lord of all!

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

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 every nation,
Joy of every 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.

God Be with You Till We Meet Again

God be with you till we meet again;
Loving counsels guide, uphold you,
With a Shepherd's care enfold you:
God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again;
Unseen wings protecting hide you,
Daily manna still provide you:
God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again;
When life's perils thick confound you;
Put unfailing arms around you:
God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again;
Keep love's banner floating o'er you,
Strike death's threatening wave before you:
God be with you till we meet again.

