

**We welcome you to stay after church and enjoy goodies  
and coffee.**

**Christmas Eve Service**

5:00pm

*We would be pleased to have poinsettias for the sanctuary in memory  
or honor of loved ones. If you are willing to provide one, please enter  
information on the sheet in the narthex so that we may acknowledge  
your gift in the bulletins.*

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**Sunday, January 1st**

**Greeters** – Janice Huisenga and Jolene Meyer

**Usher** – Craig Luchtel

**Offering** – LeRoy Johnson and Gordon Wade

**First Presbyterian Church**

**Carroll, Iowa**



December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011

B.J. Ukena

## THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 18, 2011

Carroll, Iowa

10:00 a.m.

THE PRELUDE “Lo! How a Rose E’ER Blooming”

Denton

### SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

#### PRAISING OUR CREATOR GOD

##### \*THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord. Make straight in the desert a Highway for our God.

People: “Every valley shall be lifted up and every mountain and hill made low; the uneven ground shall become level and the rough places will be like a plain.

Leader: Then the Glory of the Lord shall be revealed..

People: And all people shall see it together!

ALL: For the Lord our God has spoken his word of promise to us.”

##### \*HYMN NO. 13

“Prepare the Way”

#### CONFESSING OUR NEED TO BE FORGIVEN

A CALL TO CONFESSION (Leader): In the darkest corners of our lives, we carefully hide deeds which we scarce admit to ourselves. Let us trust God enough to speak the truth. Let us pray, each of us – quietly on our own:

THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in silent reflection): Are there things I’ve said in the last week that I wish I hadn’t? And what might I do to correct the hurt I may have caused? Are there things I SHOULD have said or done, but didn’t? Can I still make things right?

Jesus was the “Prince of Peace” and I’m his disciple. There are ways he taught that might have made my little corner of the world a little more peaceful. How did I do?

“Forgive us as we have forgiven...” I’ve prayed. How have I done on that one? And, how have I done in “putting Christ back into Christmas?” There is still some time. What can I do? Anything else bothering me? ...

. All: Amen

#### THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Forgive us, God, where we have disappointed you , and help us to change in ways that will make our world more like you want it to be: ALL: Amen!

RESPONSE HYMN No. 28 (vs. 3) “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

#### LISTENING FOR GOD’S WORD TO US

##### A PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 40: 1-11

A MOMENT WITH THE CHILDREN

THE EPISTLE LESSON

Philippians 1:3-11

\*THE GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 1:1-8

THE SERMON

“Preparing The Way”

Pastor B. J. Ukena

#### RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

\*SAYING WHAT WE BELIEVE (from the Brief Statement of Faith) IN UNISON:

In life and in death, we belong to God.

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human and fully God, who died and was raised for us.

We trust in God the Creator, whom Jesus called “Abba, Father”.

We trust in the Holy Spirit, ever present as the giver and renewer of life.

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life nor death can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

\*HYMN No. 38 “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERING OUR GIFTS OF SELF AND SUBSTANCE

Offertory

“Christmas Musette”

Kihlken

\*Hymn Response No 63 (vs. 3)

“As They Offered Gifts Most Rare”

\*The Prayer of Dedication

\*HYMN No. 63: vs 1,2,4 “As With Gladness Men of Old”

\*THE COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

“Shout The Glad Tidings”

Arison

\*(Those who are able are invited to stand)