

tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. <sup>29</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. <sup>30</sup>Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. <sup>31</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. <sup>32</sup>“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup>Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. <sup>34</sup>It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. <sup>35</sup>Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, <sup>36</sup>or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. <sup>37</sup>And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

**Sermon** Rev. Sharon Carter

**Responding in Faith**

**Affirmation of Faith** *Apostles' Creed (ecumenical)* p. 14

**The Service of Giving**

Prayer of Dedication Offering Music  
**+Response** *Angels We Have Heard on High (refrain only)* #23

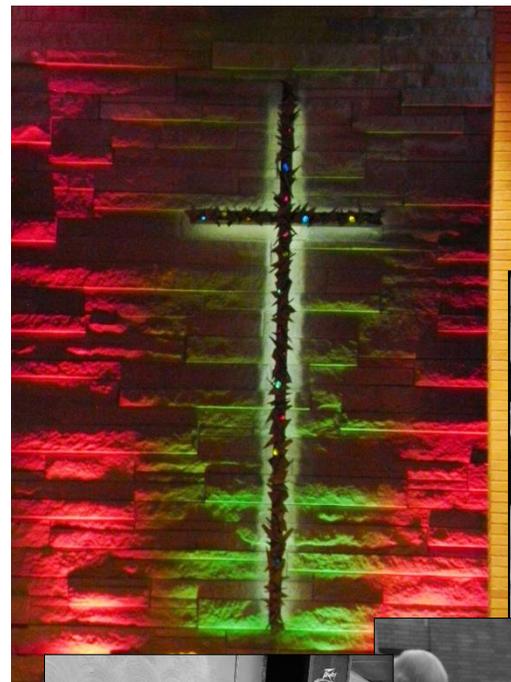
**Notes**

**The Service of Holy Communion  
 Sharing of Joys and Concerns  
 Great Prayer of Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
 Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**  
 Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**  
 It is truly right...who forever sing to the glory of your name:  
**Holy holy holy is the Lord of hosts. (2x)**  
**The whole world is full of God's glory.(3x)**  
**Holy is the Lord!**

Great is the mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died, Christ is risen,  
 Christ will come again.**  
**Communion of the People  
 Prayer after Communion**

**Going into the World**  
**+Hymn** *Go Tell It on the Mountain* #29  
**+Charge and Benediction**  
**+Postlude**



FELLOWSHIP



MISSION



WORSHIP



THE BODY OF CHRIST  
 THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Community of Faith Presbyterian Church  
 December 3, 2017  
 +Stand as you are able  
*Leader reads plain type, Congregation reads bold*

**Preparing Ourselves**

Prelude  
 Welcome and Announcements

**Lighting of the Advent candle**

L: We light this candle as a symbol of the hope we have in the promise of the Lord's coming.

**P: For God will fulfil God's promise to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. A righteous branch will spring up for David who will execute justice and righteousness in the land.**

Let us pray: **Holy One, you have promised us that the day of our salvation is near. Keep us faithful in love and watchful in prayer so that we may stand with confidence and joy at the coming of Christ, our ruler and redeemer. We pray this in the name of Christ, who taught us to pray together: *Our Father in heaven, hallowed be 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.***

+Hymn *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* #9

**Call to Confession**

**Confession** Let us pray: Lord, have mercy on us. **We are not ready for your coming. We live in sin, as if there were no justice. We live in fear, as if there were no grace. Forgive us, Lord. Show us your mercy and steadfast love. Lead us in your truth, and teach us your paths, for you are the God of our salvation. (moment of silence.)**

**Assurance of Forgiveness**

L: In Jesus Christ we are all forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.  
**P: In Jesus Christ we are all forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

Song *like a child v.1* STF2092

**The passage from Isaiah is a lament from the people toward God. What laments would you like to share with God?**

**The Peace**

L: As God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another: the Peace of Christ be with you.

**P: And also with you.**

Anthem *Celtic Advent Carol* Barrett

**Hearing the Word**

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Amid much confusion and many signs that lead away from you, O God, we seek your truth. As we hear your word, we ask that you open our hearts to the wonders of your work. Amen.**

**Scripture Readings**

**Isaiah 64:1-9** O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence— <sup>2</sup>as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil— to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! <sup>3</sup>When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. <sup>4</sup>From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. <sup>5</sup>You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. <sup>6</sup>We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are

**The passage from Mark tells us to keep awake and watch for the signs of Christ's return. What do you believe about Christ's return? How do you keep yourself ready? Or, how do you live into being a part of the body of Christ that is present here and now?**

like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. <sup>7</sup>There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. <sup>8</sup>Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. <sup>9</sup>Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

Hymn *How Great Thou Art* #467

**Matthew 13: 24-37** "But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, <sup>25</sup>and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. <sup>26</sup>Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. <sup>27</sup>Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. <sup>28</sup>"From the fig