

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE** (read together)

May we go with God's blessing, remembering what has been and who we have loved, and striving forward for what is yet to be in the name of Jesus, the light bearer; Amen



Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

December 24th at 5:00 pm
Worship and Communion

**No Christmas Morning Service

First Presbyterian Church
Red Wing

The poster features a dark blue background with a large, bright star at the top left. Below the star is a white silhouette of a nativity scene, including a manger with baby Jesus, Mary, Joseph, and three camels. The text is in white, with the title in a larger, elegant font.



GRIEF SHARE

GriefShare is a nondenominational seminar/grief support group that is facilitated by leaders who have lost loved ones of their own. Our next session will begin on Monday, January 8, 2018 at First Lutheran Church in Red Wing. We will meet from 7:00-8:30 P.M. For more information call Tina at 651-301-1548 or Suzy at 507-398-3729 or www.griefshare.org.

The poster has a background of tall, thin grasses against a cloudy sky. The text is in white, with 'GRIEF SHARE' in a large, bold font and a stylized flame-like graphic between the words.

Come Join Us

Worship Time at 10:30 AM
Christian education for ages 3-Adult at 9:15 AM
Worship at 10:30 AM
Fellowship at 11:30 AM

Children are always welcome in worship.

Nursery for those 5 and under



WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Tonight, we gather here in this place of refuge,

Many: for we are lost, we are lonely, we are afraid.

One: Tonight, we gather daring to wonder if God has indeed come in Jesus,

Many: bringing the rejection we have known, our loss, our failed relationships, and holding our heartache in our hands.

One: Tonight, we gather with neighbors and strangers, a family made one by our brokenness,

Many: coming with our hearts full of hope, and our pockets filled with doubts.

One: Tonight, we gather just as we are,

Many: for God has promised to meet us here and to love us for who we are.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

One: This first candle we light to remember those whom we have loved and lost. We pause to remember their name, their face, their voice, the memory that binds them to us in this season. (Pause).

Many: May God's eternal love surround them.

One: This second candle we light is to redeem the pain of loss; the loss of relationships, the loss of jobs, the loss of health. (Pause) We pause to gather up the pain of the past and offer it to God, asking that from God's hands we receive the gift of peace.

Many: Refresh, restore, renew us O God, and lead us into your future.

One: This third candle we light is to remember ourselves this Christmas time. We pause and remember these past weeks and months; the disbelief, the anger, the down times, the poignancy of reminiscing, the hugs and handshakes of family and friends, all those who stood with us. (Pause) We give thanks for the support we have known.

Many: Let us remember that dawn defeats darkness.

One: This fourth candle is lit to remember our faith and gift of hope which the Christmas story offers to us. (Pause) We remember that God who shares our life promises us a place and time of no more pain and suffering.

Many: Let us remember the one who shows the way, who brings the truth and who bears the light.

POEM *I will Light Candles this Christmas* by Howard Thurman

SONG #90 Wait For the Lord (3 times)
Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 40: 1-11

POEM *Wild Geese* by Mary Oliver

SONG #90 Wait For the Lord (3 times)

SCRIPTURE Psalm 121

POEM *The Journey* by David Whyte

SONG #90 Wait for the Lord (3 times)

SCRIPTURE Revelation 21: 1-7

POEM *Heavy* by Mary Oliver

SONG #90 Wait for the Lord (3 times)

REFLECTION

PRAYER STATIONS

PRAYER

***HYMN** #144 "In the Bleak Midwinter" (verses 1 & 4)

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan;
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him: give my heart.