

# The Work of Hope

DEVOTIONAL GUIDE  
2021

First Presbyterian Church of Hastings  
Welcoming All. Living Love. Transforming Lives.



**Dear Advent Pilgrim,**

**Few people know this, but once upon a time, Advent was much more like Lent. It was a season of repentance and restoration during which one would prepare for the coming of the Christ child not by adorning the hallways and wrapping presents but by clearing space within their hearts and reorienting their lives toward God. This year, once again, we are encouraging our friends and members to partake in a holy advent through daily prayer and a commitment to serve others. Contained within this packet, you'll find a prayer for each day of Advent. The prayers were written by staff and members of First Presbyterian Church, and they correlate to the lectionary readings for each Sunday in Advent. You'll also find herein a list of items that are needed by some of our vital ministry partners. Each day during the season, we invite you to take a moment, light a candle, recite a prayer, and place one of the items in a box in your home. Think of it as a "reverse Advent calendar." You may bring the items to church during regular office hours and place them in the parlor. This year's items will go to benefit the following agencies: Hastings High School Food Pantry, Catholic Social Services, Crossroads Homeless Shelter, and enCourage Advocacy Center (formerly SASA). This Advent, may we prepare to encounter the God who meets us in our need by preparing us to meet others in their need.**

# The Work of Hope 2021

Each day during Advent place an item in a box and say a prayer. Bring the box to church to add to our collection.

- |                                 |                                  |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>1. Dish Soap</b>             | <b>14. Laundry Detergent</b>     |
| <b>2. Women's Razors</b>        | <b>15. Cough Drops</b>           |
| <b>3. Pillows</b>               | <b>16. Deoderant (Men's</b>      |
| <b>4. Feminine Hygiene</b>      | <b>&amp; Women's)</b>            |
| <b>Products</b>                 | <b>17. Paper Towels</b>          |
| <b>5. Kitchen Cleaner</b>       | <b>18. Broom w/Dust Pan</b>      |
| <b>6. Baby Wipes</b>            | <b>19. Disposable Gloves</b>     |
| <b>7. Twin Sheets (new)</b>     | <b>(size L &amp; XL)</b>         |
| <b>8. Toothbrush &amp;</b>      | <b>20. Acne facewash</b>         |
| <b>Toothpaste</b>               | <b>21. Scrubbing Brushes</b>     |
| <b>9. Bathroom Cleaner</b>      | <b>22. Baby Bottles</b>          |
| <b>10. Diapers (size 2,5,6)</b> | <b>23. Bleach</b>                |
| <b>11. Blankets</b>             | <b>24. Spaghetti &amp; Sauce</b> |
| <b>12. Body &amp; Hand Soap</b> | <b>25. Disinfectant</b>          |
| <b>13. Dish Cloths</b>          | <b>26. Mac &amp; Cheese</b>      |
|                                 | <b>27. Helper meals</b>          |

## **Week 1: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-12**

"How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

### **Week 1: "Loved & Loving" by Greg Allen-Pickett**

Let's face it, we live in a culture saturated with the pursuit of material abundance. That reality comes into sharp focus in this holiday season, and we have been conditioned to believe that our love for others is directly proportional to the gifts we give and receive. As Christians, however, we are called to a radically different Advent. We are invited to spend the next four weeks preparing our hearts and minds to celebrate Christ's birth 2000 years ago, while waiting in loving anticipation for Christ's return.

Let's embrace the celebration and loving anticipation of Advent by ignoring messages of marketing and instead focusing our attention on the places where God's love is breaking into the world. And let's recognize that we can be agents of God's love for others.

God's love can be found in ordinary moments and ordinary things. Procuring dish soap, toothbrushes, and cough drops makes manifest God's love. So to do acts of loving kindness shared with others. Even an act as simple as authentically asking someone how they are doing in the midst of the hustle and bustle of this busy season, and then taking time to really listen to their answers can make God's love real. As the Apostle Paul wrote to the Thessalonians, "May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all." May we begin this season of Advent focused on the kind of love that we receive from God and are called to share with others.

### **November 28: Prayer by Sara Babcock**

God of ordinary moments and extra-ordinary love, guide our hearts towards those around us this season. Help us to listen with new ears and see with new eyes the people closest to us, those who may feel distant, and everyone in between. As we enter a season too often marked with high expectations, grant us grace for ourselves and for others. Bring us comfort in these dark days and aid us in living in the way your son, Jesus Emmanuel, taught us. Amen.

**Item: Dish Soap**

### **November 29: Prayer by Senior High**

Dear Lord, please help us to understand that love is not only about material possessions and signs of wealth. We can be agents of your love in the world this advent season by giving selflessly and meeting people's needs. Help us to set aside the busyness of this time of year and take time out of our lives to spread your love. Thank you for always guiding us in the right direction and giving us an example after which we can model our own lives. Amen. (1...2...3...Jesus!)

**Item: Women's Razors**

### **November 30: Prayer by Becky Meyer**

Dearest Lord, as we enter into the Advent season, help us to simplify our activities and traditions so we can focus our celebration on your Son's birth. Sadly, there is much bitterness and anger in the world. May all bitterness and wrath, evil speaking and anger, be put away. Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Calm our fears and show us how to be a blessing to others. Help us remember that the message of Christmas is that hope, love, peace, and joy exist. Thank you, O God, for the gift of love you have given to us, your son Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Item: Pillows**

## **December 1: Prayer by Sarah Wolf**

Lord God, your unconditional love is ever-present in our lives: a cornerstone of our existence. Too often, however, we find ourselves looking towards the material comforts of the world as an indicator for how we value others—and for how they, in turn, value us. Commercialism enriches the pockets of corporations, but our hearts remain hungry for spiritual fulfillment. Aid our eyes in turning from splashy advertisements and financial temptations and, instead, direct them towards seeing and serving the needs of others in our community. Bestow upon us the desire to be agents of change who yearn to make a positive impact on those around us. Increase our love for humankind so that we may cherish our sisters and brothers in Christ. Help us lift our spiritual bushel baskets so that we can reflect your light and love for all the world to see. Amen.

**Item: Feminine Hygiene Products**

## **December 2: Prayer by Sally Hatcher**

Heavenly Father, it is easy for us to accept your love and thank you for what is near: our families, our homes and the comforts we take for granted. We need your help to focus on loving those outside our circle, city, and country. Help us to love and provide for those who are different---whether in education, economic status, or ethnicity. May we, dear Father, use the gifts you've given us more carefully and look for opportunities to share with those we don't know. Help us care for the needy in our community and also to stretch our reach to include those displaced by war, corruption, and famine. We are all your children. Help those of us with so much provide for our brothers and sisters in need throughout the year, wherever on this earth they may be. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

**Item: Kitchen Cleaner**



### **December 3: Prayer by Heirs Apparent Class**

Heavenly creator, as you prepare us for the birth of your son, Jesus, we also prepare our hearts and homes during this advent season. As we prep for Christmas baking, remind us to add your life-giving ingredients into the recipe, for these offer the true meaning of Christmas.

The anticipation of Advent excites us as much as the traditions of holiday food we have shared through generations. As we prepare our shopping lists, let us think not just about sugar, eggs, and flour, but about those intangible things we can add. Let us stock up on the spiritual substance of warmth and belonging, faith in you and each other, hope for better times ahead, and love throughout our community. Amen.

**Item: Baby Wipes**

### **December 4: Prayer by Heirs Apparent Class**

Emmanuel, guide our hands as we continue this season of preparation. Help us to act with patience and kindness as we cook and bake and prepare to celebrate with others. May the things we prepare for others become more than their components. May they become a symbol of love and sign of your presence with us. And when our preparation is over and the mess has been cleaned away, help us remember that Jesus' life, teachings, death and resurrection cleanse us and our souls.

Let the gifts we give to others - Christmas food, heartfelt greetings, and anything else - provide nourishment, bring warmth and joy, and deliver comfort to those celebrating alone this year. Remind us that even the ordinary tasks of preparing and sharing holiday goodies should be done in your name and for the benefit of others.

In the name of our blessed Messiah, Amen.

**Item: Twin Sheets**

## **Week 2: Philippians 1:1-11**

Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.

It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus.

And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

### **Week 2: "Joy in Process" by Kili Wenburg**

The week's Advent focus is joy, which Paul expresses effusively in today's scripture passage. I admit that when I see pain, injustice, and tragedy around me, I find it difficult to feel joyful. Did Paul live in a world so different from ours? I doubt it, yet Paul claims that he is "constantly praying with joy" in "every" prayer "for all of you." Surely at least some of the people for whom he prayed and some of the themes about which he prayed were not obviously joyful, yet he stayed connected to joy...how?

Perhaps Paul did not see joy as something that must wait until all circumstances were "good." Indeed, he expresses intense joy at the same time as he expresses awareness that things are still in process: "the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion." In other words, when Paul looks at a person or a situation, he sees not only that person or situation but also he sees God at work there. Does that mean he's in denial about the bad things that might be present? No, it's just that those bad things are not his ultimate focus; God is. When God is the focus, the source of confidence, joy is there.

Waiting is an annual Advent discipline, but this year, as we wait for God to finish God's good work in the difficult people and situations around us, we remember that we need not wait for joy.



### **December 5: Prayer by Greg Allen-Pickett**

God of sorrow and joy, you have created us as complex creatures, capable of experiencing multiple emotions at the same time. We look around the world and can feel the sorrow in those who are suffering, perhaps even in ourselves. At the same time, we look around the world and see many reasons for joy. During this season of Advent, remind us that we are capable of feeling both sorrow and joy, often at the same time. Let our tears mingle with our laughter, and our sorrow with our joy as we approach this holiday season. Help us to hold these all tenderly as we wait with hope and expectation for your kingdom to come. Amen.

**Item: Toothbrush and Toothpaste**

### **December 6: Prayer by Middle School Youth**

Gracious and loving God,

This is a busy time of year, and the holidays can be stressful for people. Yet, you are at work here even when everything is not perfect. Help us to keep the focus on you when there are so many things to distract us. When we focus on you, joy is there, and we can feel joy no matter what is going on. In your name, we pray, Amen.

**Item: Bathroom Cleaner**

### **December 7: Prayer by Grant Hunter**

God, the joy of the world is all around us. May you continue to illuminate our hearts so that we may find the extraordinary in our ordinary lives. In doing so, grant us the wisdom and courage never to waver in your word and in your love. We shall not tarry in finding the joy in your creation, finding love for one another, and finding the discipline it takes to experience compassion and patience. In your name—and with the utmost joy—we pray. Amen

**Item: Diapers (size 2, 5, & 6)**

### **December 8: Prayer by Rose Koepp**

God, sometimes I feel discontented and discouraged because I'm not happy all the time. However, the words of Paul remind me that the goal in life is not to find happiness but to produce a harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of you. You knew that there would be pain and suffering, heartache and loss, yet you have allowed us to walk through this life. You came to Earth in human form and died a painful death so that we may know grace, and find joy in the knowledge that our sins are forgiven and we are restored. This walk of life may seem to be drudgery at times, but when life has me down, I pray that you will help me to remember your incredible gift of grace, which brings joy to my soul. Amen.

**Item: Blankets**

### **December 9: Prayer by Neil Riley**

Gracious God, I come to you with joy today. While I may struggle at times to remain joyful, I strive to focus on the positive, even knowing our work is not done. I take comfort in you, knowing that in you I will find peace and joy. So often when I pray, my attention can focus on the problems, conflicts, and struggles. Allow me to focus on the good and share the joy I find in you with others who may have fallen on challenging times. Lord, I put my faith in you to guide me in living a life that glorifies you. Amen.

**Item: Body & Hand Soap**

### **December 10: Prayer by Sandra Wimer**

Dear Lord, thank you for loving me and establishing me as your child. Sometimes I struggle to realize the joy of your presence, and at other times you enable me to breeze along in the awareness of it. It is a wonder that you remain with me as I walk this road of life, even though I must be an embarrassment to you. Thank you for not giving up on me. Thank you, dear Lord, for the family of faith and for the ways you bring joy to my life.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

**Item: Dish Cloths**

### **December 11: Prayer by Damen Jensesn-Heitmann**

I'm surrounded, O God, by imperfection. It resides everywhere and also dwells within my friends, family, and me. I recognize it in the way folks talk about one another, cut down and destroy, and act almost exclusively with naked self-interest. We inhabit a culture that is far less than the perfect ideal you envisioned. So it is difficult to believe in joy. I often think it is only for the naïve, that it is encountered mostly by those willfully ignorant of the realities of the world. Joy, O God, pure and permanent, is obscured and subdued by the chaos and indifference of the world. During these darkening days, help me know some measure of your joy. Let me marvel at seeing my breath in the cold. Let me spot the shimmering beauty of frost. Let me laugh. Let me dance. Let me bask in those things that are good in the world. Help me to know that joy exists, and let it obscure the imperfection. Amen.

**Item: Laundry Detergent**

## **Week 3: Philippians 4:4-7**

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

### **Week 3: "Peace Amid Worry" by Sara Babcock**

My Advent looked different last year -- I'm sure yours did as well. And while I'd like to think this year will be a return to normal, I'm not sure that's possible. I am a fundamentally different person than I was in 2019, full of new worries for my loved ones and the world at large. There is a lot to lament. And yet, Advent, the season of peace, is here again. How do we find peace in a world filled with so much worry?

I'm struck by Paul's charge to the Philippians. "Let your gentleness be known to everyone." My worrying and lamenting often seeps out of me and spills over into conversations. Paul's charge reminds me to lead with gentleness, to take a deep breath and put worries aside. Easier said than done, I know, but as long as I'm striving towards gentleness I am able to set aside worries. I find peace in Paul's advice: give worries to God, and God will hold onto them. And we know that God hears our worries because, during Advent, we wait for Emmanuel -- God-with-us.

I still worry. I feel the unrest of the world. But I'm working to not worry alone. As we prepare for the coming of Christ may we find peace in knowing that God is and will be with us.

## **December 12: Prayer by Byron Jensen**

Most Gracious and Heavenly Father, our preparation for Christ's arrival is both a blessing and a burden: a blessing as we anticipate the birth of a Messiah who takes away the sins of the Earth. and a burden as we worry about decorating the home, purchasing gifts, hosting family and friends, fixing Christmas dinner, prognosticating into a New Year, and probably straining our budget. Such worries and stresses—caused by hustling and bustling over the river and through the woods, overwhelm the thought that Christ was born a lowly manger, to parents who placed their own significant worries—through prayer, into the hands of God.

Lord, give us time to breathe. Help us reflect on Mary and Joseph's prayers. Grant us a peace that passes all understanding. Let us celebrate Christ's impending birth with a renewed sense of hope, opportunity, and a community that supports everyone. Amen.

**Item: Cough Drops**

## **December 13: Prayer by Damen Jensen-Heitmann**

Worries and doubts. Troubles and vexations. We find, O God, that we often get stuck on these things. And when we do, it tempts us to sink into ourselves. It can lure us to move more and more deeply away from our loved ones, away from our communities, away from the world around us, and away from you. As we light candles in the darkness, sing songs, and gaze at twinkling lights, let us remember the promise of Emmanuel: you are with us. You neither abandon nor forsake us. And when we are weary and carrying heavy burdens, you invite us to follow you. Call us beyond ourselves this Advent. Call us towards our neighbors. Call us towards our loved ones. Call us toward you. Amen.

**Item: Deoderant (Men's & Women's)**

## **December 14: Prayer by Senior High Youth**

Dear Lord, while we find ourselves dwelling upon our day-to-day lives, we ask that you remind us that we are not alone in our worry. We ask that you help us get through our worries about jobs, school, money, relationships, and whatever else may be bothering us. We know that these worries and struggles all come and go. However, during the season of Advent, we understand and recognize the peace you bring to us in the gift Emmanuel. While we ponder the comfort you bring to us during this season of waiting, we ask that you remind us of your constant presence. Amen. (1...2...3...Jesus!)

**Item: Paper Towels**

## **December 15: Prayer by Greg Allen-Pickett**

Dear Prince of Peace: here we are again, standing at the edge of the manger, hoping to catch a glimpse of you during this Advent season. You are the embodiment of love, joy, and peace. Through your birth and life 2000 years ago, you invite us to follow your example and embody love, joy, and peace in our world. Help us to do that in our daily lives. Help us to hit the pause button during the hustle and bustle of this season and breathe in your peace. Then remind us that we are called to share that peace with others, today and every day. May your peace, which passes all human understanding, guard our hearts and minds. Amen.

**Item: Broom with Dust Pan**

## **December 16: Prayer by Lois Hafer**

Heavenly Father, this past year has brought many challenges and worries for all of us...worries about our physical and mental health during the pandemic, worries about our families, our friends, our communities, our jobs, and worries for those around the world who live in fear or poverty. We lift up our worries and burdens to you in prayer and supplication. Please give us strength each day and help us remember that we are never alone. Shine Your light on us so that we may find peace and gentleness amid this chaos and worry. Be with us as we await the coming of the Messiah. As we prepare our hearts and minds during this Advent season, we give you thanks for always being by our side, easing our worries, whatever they might be, and helping us find peace in You. In Your name we pray, Amen.

**Item: Disposable Gloves (Size L & XL)**



## **December 17: Prayer by Tuesday Bible Study**

Ever-present and Loving Creator, life is a struggle for us. The constant change that engulfs our lives brings us anxiety, worry, doubt, and frustration. We wish that we could exist beyond time, but we can't. We are finite and imperfect in our understanding and perspective. So much, O God, is beyond our control. And we worry about it. In our moments of worry, we rest in the knowledge that your gentleness, your kindness, and your love are available to us. During this season of Advent, we seek to turn from our worry and towards your presence. And as we know your gentle spirit, we ask that we may be able to be a reflection of that gentleness to others. Amen.

**Item: Acne Facewash**

## **December 18: Prayer by Constance Malloy**

Loving and Merciful God, I rejoice in your steadfast presence and your unswerving love for me, despite my unworthiness. I ask your help in showing sensitivity and kindness toward others so that I may understand their needs and fulfill them as I can, with creativity and generosity, no matter how different from me they may seem. Please help me to bring my anxieties to you and prayer and then trust that you will grant me peace, for which I am always thankful. These things I ask in the name of your son, Jesus. Amen.

**Item: Scrubbing Brushes**

## **Week 4: Luke 1: 46-56**

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever." And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

### **Week 4: "The Work of Hope" by Damen Jensen-Heitmann**

At First Pres, we always talk about hope, but it gets a special emphasis during Advent. We sing about it. We pray over it. We even light a candle in its honor and talk about it being born in the person of Jesus. And it all feels light and rather simple.

But do you know what seems like a lot of work? Birth. That whole process seems rather, if you'll forgive the pun, labor intensive. We don't talk about it a lot, but Mary puts in some work here. Nine months of pregnancy means carrying, sustaining, and growing. It brings with it exhaustion, swollen ankles, and discomfort. Which says nothing about the actual birth process and the worry, frustration, and effort required to raise a child. Giving birth, perhaps especially to hope, requires work.

So too is work required for many of the hopes Mary names in her prayer for this week. Hungry stomachs aren't filled via immaculate reception. Someone has to cook and offer. The lowly don't simply rise like bubbles in water. Someone has to equip, enable, and open a door or two. Hope requires work. That's all there is to it. So let us not simply wait for hope this year. Let us also identify and join in the work that will enable its birth. Let us join in the work of hope.

## **December 19: Prayer by Sara Babcock**

Creator God, Mother and Father of all, help us to embrace the work we are called to – to extend mercy, lift up the humble, and fill the hungry. Strengthen us on days when the burnout is real, when hope seems too big a task. Break our hearts open when they want to harden over, when the work feels like too much. Help us to find that which nurtures us, so that we may in turn nurture others. As we prepare our hearts for the arrival of your son, renew our commitment to the work of your Kin-dom. In Jesus's name, Amen.

**Item: Baby Bottles**

## **December 20: Prayer by Damen Jensen-Heitmann**

I thank you, O God, for the gift of this season, for the time to reflect, to question, and to be assured yet again of your eternal presence. Grant, dear Lord, that the nurture and challenge that I have encountered continue to grow my heart in you. Move me, only always, toward loving acts. Enable me continually to find joy in the imperfection of my life and world. Encourage me perpetually to bring my worries to you. And let me draw close to a humble manger. Amen.

**Item: Bleach**

## **December 21: Prayer by Middle School Youth**

Dear Heavenly Father, we are hoping for a world where no one is hungry and no one is lonely. But Lord, we have to work for this type of world, and sometimes we think more about ourselves than others. Please forgive us for our selfishness. We can work to help make this world a better place for others. In Jesus' name, we pray, Amen.

**Item: Spaghetti & Sauce**

## **December 22: Prayer by Jennifer Boeve**

Gracious God, give us the humility to remember that we are both the lowly and the rich in various areas of our lives. While your Word is a source of hope at our lowest points, help us to remember that we are more often the rich that need to be emptied. Help us to empty ourselves of our status, our pride, our self-image, our money, and all other things that distract us from our purpose of bearing the image of Your hope in our world. Give us the courage to endure the discomfort that comes with doing the work of hope. Remind us that carrying, sustaining, and growing your hope means not only loving those whom we already love but loving those who need our love most. Amen.

**Item: Disinfectant Spray**

### **December 23: Prayer by Andy Barrows**

Good and gracious God, we are your servants, and as we celebrate the coming of your son, Jesus, we approach you in need of inspiration to strengthen our hope for a better future. There are times when we feel helpless to repair the damages we have inflicted on the priceless gift You bestowed upon us when we were entrusted with the stewardship of this beautiful world. There are times when we feel helpless to heal the wounds we have inflicted on our brothers and sisters in whom we see more differences than similarities. O God, hope helps us to deliver a better future, believe in our own abilities to do your work, love our neighbors as we love ourselves, bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ. Hope helps us to know, without reservation, that in bringing about the well-being of others, we bring about our own well-being. God, open our hearts and minds to embrace the love upon which the future with hope is founded. We ask this in your name. Amen.

**Item: Macaroni and Cheese**

### **December 24: Prayer by Greg Allen-Pickett**

Dear Emmanuel – God with Us: Is there anything more hopeful than this truth that we celebrate on Christmas Eve, that you promise to be with us, and then you fulfill that promise tonight? Throughout the narrative arc of scripture from Genesis to your Revelation, you repeatedly promise to be our God, and we promise to be your people. On this Christmas Eve, may each of us be filled with hope of this promise, that Jesus is born tonight, Emmanuel, God with us! And then may each of us do the work of hope to uphold our end of the promise, that we are your people. May we show that work through our acts of love, joy, peace, and hope to the world. Amen.

**Item: Macaroni and Cheese**

May you be blessed to receive and join in  
God's hope this day and all days.

First Presbyterian Church of Hastings

# Christmas With First Presbyterian

## CHRISTMAS EVE 2021

To Grandmother's House  
2:30PM

A service of caroling and rejoicing is held at College View. Chancel Choir and Pastors hold a service for residents and their family members.

A Family Christmas  
5:30PM

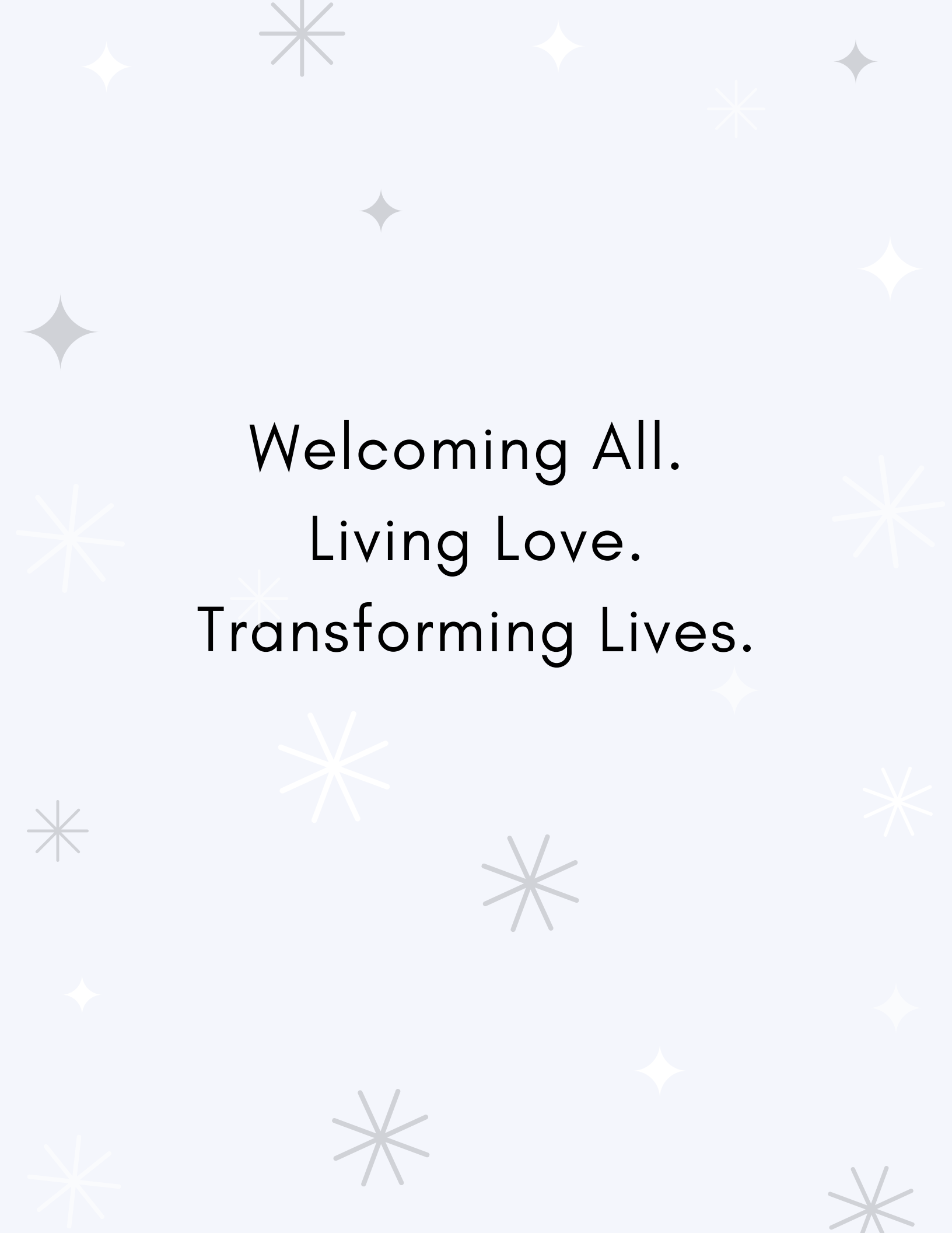
A lively service held in the sanctuary features traditional hymns, organ, a child-friendly message, and singing by candlelight.

Traditional Service  
7:30PM

Held in the sanctuary, this service contains traditional hymns, music by the family choir, and singing by candle light.

Holy Night  
11:00PM

A contemplative service is held in the chapel to greet the newborn child with simple music and prayer.

The background is a light blue-grey color, decorated with various star and asterisk shapes in white and grey. These shapes are scattered across the entire page, creating a festive and celebratory atmosphere. The text is centered in the middle of the page.

Welcoming All.  
Living Love.  
Transforming Lives.