



02 DECEMBER 2018 AD

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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WELCOME to Spirit of Life Presbyterian Church!

If this is your first time here we want to say a special thank you for worshipping with us today. Whether you're visiting, seeking a new spiritual direction in your life, or simply looking for a church home, we pray that *SPIRIT OF LIFE* might be the place for you to grow. Living a life of faith is no easy matter—until we try living life without faith. We're glad you worshiped here today and want you to know that your presence is always welcome! **NOTE:** Large print bulletins & Children's activity bags are available at the usher station. We also offer nursery upstairs during worship and Sunday school.

***Thank you for silencing/turning off your electronic devices** during rehearsals and worship. This helps everyone stay focused.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

ADVENT CANDLE READING

Harves family

CONGREGATION SING "O Come O Come Emmanuel (hymn #9, v1)

READING

One: People of God, prophets like Habbakuk pointed to a future hope, a Savior.

All: No one knew when he would come.

One: They only hoped they would recognize the Messiah, the Son of God.

All: We wait with hope for the One who has come and is coming.

One: Today we light a candle to symbolize our hope. We hope in the One who will come.

(Light the candle of Hope.)

One: People of God, a New Hope is coming.

All: We will rejoice in the Lord.

CONGREGATION SING "O Come O Come Emmanuel (hymn #9, v2 & 3)

WELCOME

Rev. Rob Smith

CALL TO WORSHIP

Steve Lewis

One: We begin the first week of Advent, a time for seeking God's vision.

All: God in this time of waiting, when the world seems poised between time and eternity, keep us alert and awake to the signs of your presence all around.

One: Open our eyes, Lord, to see with renewed vision, to acknowledge what is good, know what is bad, and never to let go of the hope that can transform.

All: As we turn to you in worship may we be filled this day with hope, freed from all anxieties that get in the way of fully living as you call each one of us.

One: Let us worship God.

OPENING HYMN

"O Come All Ye Faithful" (#41, v1-3)

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Nikki Harves

PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION

Steve Lewis

One: You are the God of time and eternity, the God of now and the infinite.

All: You, the God with us, you wait, sometimes with patience, sometimes with urgency.

One: We, your people, gather here with anticipation longing to be faithful, yet acknowledge our tendency to remember one moment and forget the next, loving in one breath and unforgiving the next.

All: God in this first week of Advent, with songs of Christmas in the air and Christmas decorations all around, keep our focus to the signs of your presence all around us. Keep us alert to the knowledge of your forgiveness so that we can strive to be better, strengthened knowing of your unconditional love and light.

One: As we turn from all of the busyness toward you this morning, may we be filled with the awareness of your presence and emboldened to live as your disciples. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Rev. Rob Smith

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Rob Smith

RESPONSE HYMN

"O Little Town of Bethlehem" (#44, v1)

ANTHEM

"Carols Around" arr by Carl J Nygard, Jr.

Choir

HEARING

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Steve Lewis

SCRIPTURE

Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:2-4, 3:17-19

Steve Lewis

SERMON

"About Time: Time For Vision"

Rev. Rob Smith

RESPONDING

SERMON RESPONSE HYMN

"Come Thou Long Expected Jesus" (#2, v1-2)

CALL TO OFFERING

Steve Lewis

WELCOME TO THE TABLE

Rev. Rob Smith

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING/PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

One: (Prayer)

One: May the God of joy be with you!

All: And also with you!

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

All: 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.

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

CLOSING SONG

"The King of Glory"

CHARGE & BLESSING

Rev. Rob Smith

Volunteers for today, December 2, 2018:

Lay Leader: Steve Lewis

Advent Readers: Harves family

Audio Visual: Eric Scott

Children's Sermon: Nikki Harves

Ushers / Greeters: Gladys Mbonifor, Duane and Mary Brause, Joan Emden, Charles Assah, Deon Ford, Jake & Tracy Mangen, Connie O'Sullivan

Communion: Denise Lewis (Lead), Steve Lewis, Deon Ford, Nicole Fischer

DECEMBER CAREGIVER - Rosellen Fairall

SpiritCare Prayer Team:

1.507.263.5975 or 952.423.2212-Office

"First, I tell you to pray for all people, asking God for what they need and being thankful to Him. This is good, and it pleases God our Savior."

1 Timothy 2:1, 3

Volunteers for next Sunday, December 9, 2018:

Lay Leader: Duane Sweep

Advent Readers: Kube family

Audio Visual: Alfred Hicks

Children's Sermon: Nikki Harves

Ushers / Greeters: Denise Lewis, Gladys Mbonifor, Loretta Hunt, Duane and Mary Brause, Comfort Amadasun, Joan Emden, Charles Assah, Deon Ford, Connie O'Sullivan

Announcements ...

For Advent, we're keeping announcements to minimum. Please be sure to submit your announcement to the church office so we may include them in the printed bulletin. All announcements received by noon Wednesday will be included in the Sunday bulletin. Those received later than, will be included the following Sunday. ~Thank you.

Our nursery (2nd floor) is open during worship for children ages 1-6 years.

There are several congregational cards to sign (birthdays, illness, new members). Everyone please be sure to see Ruth Shepard to share a blessing with several in our own community!

Your printed directory is available at the back. It is not available digitally so be sure to grab your copy! Thank you, everyone, for assisting with providing your updated information and updated pictures.

Pastor Rob has set a scheduled time to be available for anyone who might wish to connect with him. **Regular "office hours" are at the Dunn Bros., 15265 Galaxie Ave, Apple Valley, on Tuesdays, 10am-12noon.** If you need to talk regarding life issues, church, or other things, please feel free to drop by or set up an appointment to meet with him.

Please sign up to be Cookie hostess for Sunday fellowship. Go to www.signupgenius.com/go/508044cadab2da5ff2-spirit. We need cookie hostess for Dec. 23, Dec. 30, Jan. 13, 20, and 27. Thank you!

Everyone is welcome to join us for the weekly study on Wednesdays, 10-11:30am, with Pastor Rob leading. Our current study is covering the book of Mark. Anyone can join at any time. Class meets at the new Orchard Path Presbyterian Homes located just down the road at 5400 157th St. W., Apple Valley (South on Pilot Knob and turn left onto 157th St W. Orchard Path to the right after the traffic circle.)

Meet In The Middle is in full swing! Kids can be dropped off at 4:30pm. At 6pm, parents can then join their kids for dinner provided by the church. From 4:30-6, kids will be: playing games, making arts and crafts, eating snacks, singing to the residents of Orchard Path Presbyterian Homes, Bible lessons and more!! No need to register ahead. Please contact Nikki Harves with any questions at nikkiharves@gmail.com.

Throughout the month, we collect our change and then we bring it, on the second Sunday of the month, to give in the "Change for change" bucket offering. Some are familiar with this, others may have questions. With the help of our children, we continue collecting change in our metal buckets on a monthly basis. This is a great teaching tool to help us show each other and the younger generation how fun it is to give when we hear the change drop in the buckets! Our next bucket offering will be collected on Sunday, December 9.

Spirit of Life Youth Choir meets every other Sunday. Next rehearsal is Sunday, December 9, 2018 from 11:10 am to 12:00pm. All Middle and High School Youths are welcome to join us any time. For more information, Please contact Alvine Laure Ekame at alvinelaure_cm@yahoo.fr.

This year, *Spirit of Life* will be presenting...

...**Choir Contata, December 16**, during our morning worship beginning at 10am. Our adult choir has been practicing every week in preparation for this very special Christmas worship.

...**Children's Christmas Pageant, "Twas the Night before Christmas"**

at 6:30pm, Sunday, evening December 16. Join us for Cocoa, Cookies and Kids! The youth will be performing along with our children's program. After the performances, please stay for cocoa, cookies and Santa!

...**Blue Christmas Service on Friday, December 21, 7pm.** For those experiencing loss or struggling to find the Christmas joy this year, a Blue Christmas is a service that is more contemplative than traditional Christmas worship. The readings, music, and message focus on God's comfort in hard times.

...**Annual Christmas Eve Service on Monday, December 24, 5pm,** will be a one hour family worship including Communion.

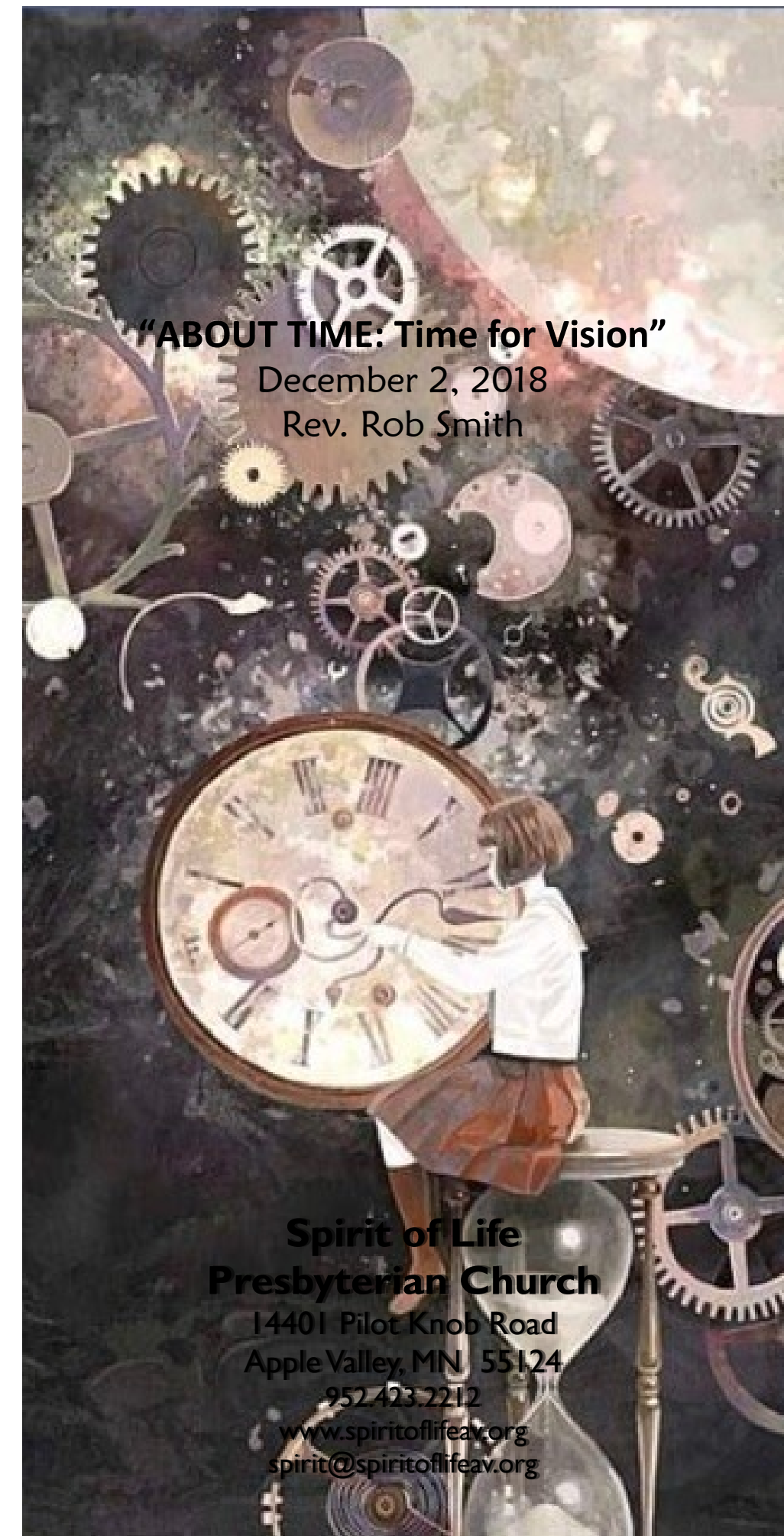
Is anyone interested in a 100-year-old upright piano? I don't have room for it in my apartment, and I would like to donate it to someone who would love it as much as I have. It needs some work on the outside, but it plays! See Peggy Roeske or call 952-270-7389.

Like us on Facebook (SpiritofLifePresbyterianChurch)
AND
Twitter (SpiritOfLife@SpiritOfLifeAV)

Per Capita for 2018 is \$34.50.

SPIRIT OF LIFE STAFF
Pastor: Rev. Rob Smith Email: pastorrob@spiritoflifeav.org
Parish Lay Pastor: Loretta Hunt
Clerk of Session: Denise Lewis
Nursery Caregiver: Trista Hansen
Office Administrator: Shari Shaw

OFFICE
10:00 AM—3:00 PM MON-THURS
FOR PASTORAL EMERGENCIES PLEASE CALL ROB @ 952.807.4413



"ABOUT TIME: Time for Vision"

December 2, 2018

Rev. Rob Smith

**Spirit of Life
Presbyterian Church**

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