

**First Church in Pembroke**  
**First week of Advent**  
**Sunday December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023**

**COMMUNION SUNDAY**

**PRELUDE:**

**MEDITATION PRAYER:**

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.” (Isaiah 9:6).

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Meet & Greet:**

**LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE OF HOPE**

(By Lyn Reading: Lyn will light one of the Purple Candles)

**CALL TO WORSHIP:**

P: Precious children of God, a Savior had been promised, and on God's timing it came to pass.

**C: God's timing is impeccable; he is never a moment too late nor a moment too soon!**

P: All of heaven became jubilant in preparation of the One who would come to take residence on earth.

**C: God's timing is indeed impeccable, because when the fullness of time had come God sent his only Son to us.**

P: Christmas is a time to learn more about a Redeemer and Friend who gave all to save us all.

**C: Someday we will see Him. Someday we will talk face to face with Him, and someday we will walk hand in hand with Him.**

**ALL: Today as we light the Candle of Hope let us realize that “whatever things were written in earlier times were written for our learning, that we, through patience and comfort of the scriptures, might find HOPE.” (Romans 15:4)**

**HYMN: B#116 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”**

**PRAYER OF INVOCATION:**

After 4,000 years of anticipation and about 400 years of total silence, the fullness of time had come when God the Father came to earth in the person of his Son Jesus Christ to reconcile sinful men (humans) unto

himself by his death on the cross! Lord, on this Advent morning may the stories of your birth continue to enchant and keep us focused on the wonders of your love. As we hope for a better world, may we be wise enough to keep your spirit of hope alive in our hearts and minds. Infuse us with your Holy Spirit and may hope, peace, joy and love be the emblems of our commitment to you. Shelter us through-out this Christmas season and may we always continue to seek your presence among us this day and always. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 1:1-16**

**SERMON: 'The Royal Genealogy'**  
**by Rev. Miriam Theodore**

**COMMUNION “Let Us Break Bread Together”**

**SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**PRAYER OF CONSECRATION**

**SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP**

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

With grateful hearts we praise you O God, for your great goodness in the gift of Christ. Through sacred memory, Christ has come to us and fed us at this table. Strengthen us by your grace to fellowship with Christ each day. Stir us to share Christ's cross in daily sacrificial service. Amen.

**OFFERTORY INVITATION: Malachi 3:10**

“Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house, and test me now herewith, said the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven, and pour out for you a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.”

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION:**

**A TIME OF SILENT PRAYER:**

**PASTORAL PRAYER:**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER:**

**MUSICAL RESPONSE:**

**HYMN: R#130 “Joy to the World! the Lord is Come”**

**BENEDICTION**