

**\*Confession of Faith** – Westminster Confession 3.6

Just as God has determined that the elect shall be glorified, so, too, in the eternal and completely free purpose of his will he has foreordained all the means by which that election is accomplished. And so, those who are chosen, having fallen in Adam, are redeemed by Christ. They are effectually called to faith in Christ by his Spirit working in them at the right time, and they are justified, adopted, sanctified, and kept by his power through faith unto salvation. Only the elect, and no others, are redeemed by Christ, effectually called, justified, adopted, sanctified, and saved.

*GOD SENDS HIS PEOPLE*

**\*Closing Hymn**

*The Church's One Foundation*

#347

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude**

**Leading Today's Service**

Pastor	Mark Tippin
Accompanist	Veronica Turner
Liturgist	Leith Culver
Head Usher	MH Hennagin
Greeter	Mike Fankhauser
Nursery	Carol McClure Hannah Tippin

First Presbyterian Church is Reformed congregation and a member of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. For more information about First Presbyterian and the EPC denomination, visit our website and Facebook page.

If you have any questions, prayer requests, or are ready and excited to join our mission to reach all of Casper for Christ, contact the church office or Pastor Mark.

Website: [www.firstprescasper.com](http://www.firstprescasper.com)  
Pastor Mark: [tippim1@yahoo.com](mailto:tippim1@yahoo.com)  
Office: [firstpc@qwestoffice.net](mailto:firstpc@qwestoffice.net)  
Phone: 307-237-9509

**Welcome to our Visitors**

To all who are weary and seek rest; to all who mourn and long for comfort; to all who struggle and desire victory; to all who sin and need a Savior; to all who are idle and look for service; to all who are strangers and want fellowship; to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness; and to whosoever will come -- this church opens wide her doors and offers her welcome in the name of Jesus her Lord.

We are glad you are here to worship with us this morning! The pamphlet in the pew pocket will help you get to know our church better, and please fill out and return the visitor form also so that we can get to know you. We have fellowship and refreshments after the service in the parlor, which is through the doors at the front of the sanctuary.

Children are welcomed and encouraged to remain in the worship service, however a nursery is available for infants and preschool-aged children. Ask anyone around you for directions. Activity bags are also available in the rear of the sanctuary for children to use during the service.



804 S. Wolcott St. Casper, WY | [www.firstprescasper.com](http://www.firstprescasper.com) | [firstpc@qwestoffice.net](mailto:firstpc@qwestoffice.net) | 307-237-9509 | Pastor Mark Tippin

**ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2017

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

*\*Please stand if you are able*

**Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Advent Wreath**

The Vreeman Family

*GOD GATHERS HIS PEOPLE FOR WORSHIP*

**\*Call to Worship From Psalm 48**

**Leader:** His holy mountain, beautiful in elevation, is the joy of all the earth, Mount Zion, in the far north, the city of the great King. Within her citadels God has made himself known as a fortress.

**People: Let us stream to Mount Zion.**

**Leader:** As we have heard, so have we seen in the city of the LORD of hosts, in the city of our God, which God will establish forever. We have thought on your steadfast love, O God, in the midst of your temple.

**People: Let us stream to Mount Zion.**

**Leader:** Let Mount Zion be glad! Let the daughters of Judah rejoice because of your judgments! Walk about Zion, go around her, number her towers.

**People: Let us stream to Mount Zion, let us worship the Great King.**

**\*Opening Hymn**

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

#196

**\*Invocation**

**\*Singing of Psalm 45:1-7, 17** (To the tune of *Crown Him with Many Crowns*)

Verse 1

My heart doth overflow;  
A noble theme I sing.  
My tongue's a skillful writer's pen  
To speak about the King.  
More fair than sons of men  
Thy lips with grace o'erflow,  
Because His blessing evermore  
Did God on Thee bestow.

Verse 2

Thy sword gird on Thy thigh,  
O Thou supreme in might,  
And gird Thyself with majesty  
And with Thy splendor bright.  
To victory ride forth  
For meekness, truth, and right;  
And may Thy right hand teach to Thee  
The deeds of dreadful might.

Verse 3

Thine arrows sharpened are,  
Men under Thee to bring,  
To pierce the heart of enemies  
Who fight against the King.  
Thy royal throne, O God,  
From everlasting is;  
A righteous scepter evermore  
Thy kingdom's scepter is.

Verse 4

Thou righteousness hast loved  
And wickedness abhorred;  
On Thee, 'bove all, has God, Thy God,  
The oil of gladness poured.  
*Through every coming age  
I'll make Thy name to live;  
The peoples therefore evermore  
Their praise to Thee shall give.*

*GOD HEARS OUR CONFESSION*

**Ten Commandments Table I** (in unison)

Ten Commandments Table I (Exodus 20:1-11) Pew Bible [Blue] p. 61, [Red] p. 77

**Call to Confession**

**Prayer of Confession** (in unison)

**O Lord, do not count our sins against us. We do indeed confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by our own fault. We have brought false sacrifices before you as we come to worship. We have not entered this place of worship with a singular focus on Jesus Christ. Forgive us, gracious Lord. Cover us with the blood of Jesus Christ, your covenant messenger. (Silent Confession) Amen!**

**Assurance of Pardon**

Leader: Brothers and sisters, hear, believe and receive the good news of the Gospel – in Jesus Christ you are forgiven.

People: **Thanks be to God for his grace!**

**Passing of the Peace**

Leader: Peace be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

**Gloria Patri**

#735

**Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer**

(inside front hymnal cover)

**Anthem**

*GOD BRINGS US HIS WORD*

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Old Testament Scripture**

Isaiah 61:1-11, Pew Bible [Blue] p. 620, [Red] p. 789

**New Testament Scripture**

John 3:16-21, Pew Bible [Blue] p. 888, [Red] p. 1130

**Sermon**

*It's Up and It's Good!*

Mark Tippin

*OUR RESPONSE TO HIS WORD*

**\*Hymn of Response**

*In Christ Alone*

Insert

**Presentation of Tithes and Offerings**

Offertory

**\*Doxology**

#731