

# First Presbyterian Evanston

## Sunday Worship

**December 6, 2020 – 10 a.m.**  
**Second Sunday of Advent**

### **FOCUS**

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**Prelude**            *Nun Komm der Heiden Heiland*  
                              (Savior of the Nations, Come)  
                              *(Gottfried August Homilius, 1714-1785)*

### **Welcome & Announcements**

### **EXALT**

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**Opening Hymn**    Prepare the Way, O Zion  
*(Words: Frans Mikael Franzen, 1771-1847, adapt. Charles P. Price, 1980, alt. 1989;*  
*Music: "Then Svenska Psalmboken," 1697, arr. American Lutheran Hymnal, 1930,*  
*arr. Elda McGinty Peralta, 2014; CCLI Song #1623557)*

Prepare the way O Zion  
Your Christ is drawing near  
Let every hill and valley  
A level way appear  
Greet One who comes in glory  
Foretold in sacred story  
O blest is Christ that came  
In God's most holy name

Christ brings God's rule O Zion  
He comes from heaven above

His rule is peace and freedom  
And justice truth and love  
Lift high your praise resounding  
For grace and joy abounding  
O blest is Christ that came  
In God's most holy name

Fling wide your gates O Zion  
Your Savior's rule embrace  
And tidings of salvation  
Proclaim in every place  
All lands will bow rejoicing  
Their adoration voicing  
O blest is Christ that came  
In God's most holy name  
O blest is Christ that came  
In God's most holy name

## **Lighting the Second Candle of Advent: Peace**

### **Prayer of Confession**

**All: Loving and faithful God, as we begin the season of Advent, we celebrate that Jesus has come and that he promises to come again. Jesus came to bring light and hope, but our hearts are often shrouded by darkness and denial. Jesus came to bring joy and peace, but our hearts are often encased by bitterness and anger. Jesus came to bring life and love, but our hearts are often hardened by resistance and contempt. As Jesus entered the world to conquer sin and death, we open our hearts in confession to be cleansed from our sinfulness and to be restored to the image of Jesus. Thank you, God, that**

**you so loved the world that you gave your son so that we might not perish but have eternal Life. In the name of Jesus, we pray, Amen.**

Leader: And now, Lord, hear our silent prayers of confession.  
*(People offer their own private silent prayers to the Lord)*

### **Assurance of Pardon**

Leader: Luke's gospel tells us: "Praise the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has visited and redeemed his people. He has sent us a mighty Savior."

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

**All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

## **ENCOUNTER**

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### **Children's Moment**

### **Passing of the Peace of Christ**

### **Faith in Action – Angel Tree**

**Scripture**                      Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people,  
    says your God.  
2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
    and cry to her  
that she has served her term,  
    that her penalty is paid,  
that she has received from the Lord's hand  
    double for all her sins.

3 A voice cries out:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

4 Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.

5 Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

6 A voice says, “Cry out!”

And I said, “What shall I cry?”

All people are grass,  
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

7 The grass withers, the flower fades,  
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;  
surely the people are grass.

8 The grass withers, the flower fades;  
but the word of our God will stand forever.

9 Get you up to a high mountain,  
O Zion, herald of good tidings;  
lift up your voice with strength,  
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,  
lift it up, do not fear;

say to the cities of Judah,  
“Here is your God!”

10 See, the Lord God comes with might,  
and his arm rules for him;  
his reward is with him,  
and his recompense before him.

11 He will feed his flock like a shepherd;

he will gather the lambs in his arms,  
and carry them in his bosom,  
and gently lead the mother sheep.

**Sermon**

The God who comforts  
*Rev. Dr. Raymond Hylton, Senior Pastor*

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**RESPOND**

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**Sharing of Tithes, Offerings, and Thanksgivings**

**Sacrament of the Lord's Supper**

**Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried;  
He descended into hell;  
the third day He rose again from the dead;  
He ascended into Heaven,  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit;  
the holy catholic Church;  
the communion of saints;  
the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body;  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

**Closing Song**

Winter Snow

*(Words & Music: Audrey Assad, 2009;  
CCLI Song # 5492031)*

You could've come like a mighty storm  
With all the strength of a hurricane  
You could've come like a forest fire  
With the power of heaven in Your flame

But You came like a winter snow  
Quiet and soft and slow  
Falling from the sky in the night  
To the earth below

You could've swept in like a tidal wave  
Or in an ocean to ravish our hearts  
You could've come like a roaring flood  
To wipe away the things we've scarred

But You came like a winter snow  
You were quiet soft and slow  
Falling from the sky in the night  
To the earth below

Ooh no Your voice wasn't in a bush burning  
Your voice wasn't in a rushing wind  
It was still it was small it was hidden

You came like a winter snow  
Quiet and soft and slow  
Falling from the sky in the night  
To the earth below

You came falling from the sky in the night  
To the earth below

## **Benediction**

**Postlude**     *Nun Komm der Heiden Heiland, Setting II*  
(Savior of the Nations, Come)  
*(Johann Walther, 1685-1748)*

## **Worship Service Leaders**

**Rebecca Chu**, Prelude, Opening Hymn, Postlude

**Hannah McConnell**, Dir. Of Worship & Music, Welcome, Piano, Vocals, Audio & Video Editing – Opening Hymn

**Allison Deady, Darshaya Oden**, Vocals; **Kon Savoy**, Drums – Opening Hymn

**Fred Bryant**, Guitar; **Tina Laughlin**, Percussion;

**Christie Miller**, Clarinet – Opening Hymn & Closing Song

**Jim Teague**, Communications Coordinator, Bass Guitar – Opening Hymn & Closing Song, Faith in Action, Apostles' Creed Video, Video Editing

**Ben Suzuki**, Advent Candle Lighting

**Caryl Weinberg**, Dir. of Mission, Confession & Assurance of Pardon

**Rev. Amanda Golbek**, Minister of Children & Youth, Children's Moment

**Richard Jones**, Scripture Reading

**Rev. Dr. Raymond Hylton**, Senior Pastor, Sermon, Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

**Bryan Carmody**, Apostle's Creed Voiceover

**Crofton Coleman**, Worship Band Director, Keyboards, Vocals, Video & Audio Editing – Closing Song

**Neal Ostrovsky**, A/V Coordinator, Sound Equalization

**TBA**, Zoom Prayer Companions

### **Mission Statement**

***First Presbyterian Church of Evanston  
exists to know Christ and to grow in him  
as we serve and make disciples in Evanston,  
the Chicago area, and the world.***

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