

First Presbyterian Evanston

November 28, 2021 – 9:30 a.m.

First Sunday of Advent

FOCUS

Prelude

Sonata in F Major

(Music: G.F. Handel, 1685-1759)

Welcome & Announcements

EXALT

Opening Hymn

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates (*Blue Hymnal #8*)

(Words: Georg Weissel, 1642, transl. Cathering Winkworth, 1855;

Music: Thomas Williams, 1789, harm. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872; CCLI Song #1863214)

(verse 1)

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates,

Behold, the King of glory waits;

The King of kings is drawing near;

The Savior of the world is here!

(this verse not in blue hymnal)

O blest the land, the city blest

Where Christ the Ruler is confessed.

O happy hearts and happy homes

To whom this King of triumph comes.

(verse 2)

Fling wide the portals of your heart;
Make it a temple, set apart
From earthly use for heav'ns employ,
Adorned with prayer, and love, and joy.

(verse 3)

Redeemer, come! I open wide
My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide.
Let me Thy inner presence feel;
Thy grace and love in me reveal.

Confession of Sins & Assurance of Pardon

**All: Holy God, we open our hearts to you this day,
thankful for your goodness to us
and yet so aware of the sins that separate us from you:
The fear that stifles us,
The prejudice that blinds us,
The ignorance that hobbles us,
The doubt that plagues us.
The busyness that keeps us from preparing room for you
in our lives.
Please forgive us God, and transform us to be more like Jesus:
Jesus, whom we look to for courage;
Who sees our world for what it is
but enters it in love even in the most difficult places;
Jesus, who in faith embraces your will
for his life and death on earth.
This we pray in the name of our Savior, Jesus. Amen.**

(Time of silent confession.)

Leader: From Romans, hear these words of assurance:

You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die.

All: But God demonstrates his own love for us in this:

While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Sisters and brothers, believe the good news of the gospel.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Lighting the First Candle of Advent – Hope

**All: Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,
Make thee a bed, soft, undefiled within our hearts,
that they may be all quiet chambers kept for thee.**

Song of Response Come Light our Hearts

(Words & Music: Sandra McCracken, 2015; CCLI Song #7054135)

For You, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait.

For You, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait.

Truly our hope is in You,

Truly our hope is in You.

For You, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait.

For You, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait.

Truly our hope is in You,

Truly our hope is in You.

O Lord of life, our only hope,

Your radiance shines

On all who look to You in the dark.

Emmanuel, come, come light our hearts.

O Lord of life, our only hope,
Your radiance shines
On all who look to You in the dark.
Emmanuel, come, come light our hearts.

ENCOUNTER

Children's Moment

Passing the Peace of Christ

Scripture

Luke 21:25-36

25 “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. 26 People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 27 Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. 28 Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

29 Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; 30 as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. 31 So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. 32 Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. 33 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

34 “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that

day does not catch you unexpectedly, 35 like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. 36 Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

Sermon

Stay Alert

Rev. Dr. Raymond Hylton, Senior Pastor

RESPOND

Sharing of Tithes & Offerings

Anthem of Response

Waiting

(Words & Music: Thomas Keesecker, 2011)

*We are waiting, We are waiting
for the Lord to come down and be with us.
Come, Lord Jesus, come.*

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

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.

Closing Hymn

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (*Blue Hymnal* #2)

(Words: Charles Wesley, 1744; Music: Rowland Hugh Prichard, 1831; CCLI Song #31999)

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious Kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all-sufficient merit
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Benediction

Postlude

Venite Emmanuel
(Music: Pietro Yon, 1886-1943)

Today's Worship Service Leaders

Hannah McLeod, Flute, Prelude & Anthem

Rebecca Chu, Organist, Hymns, Anthem, Postlude

Hannah Dixon McConnell, Director of Worship & Music, Piano, Prelude, Welcome, Confession, Children's Message, Chancel Choir Director

Members of the Chancel Choir, Anthem

Karen & Peter McLeod, Gracie & Sarah Hu, Handbells

LeRoy Klemt, Elder, Scripture Reading

Rev. Dr. Raymond Hylton, Senior Pastor, Sermon, Prayers of the People, Benediction

Noah McLeod, Interim A/V Coordinator

Alexis Langlois, Audio Volunteer

Jim Teague, Communications Director, Projection

John Carlson, Jake Collins, &

Qin Zhou, A/V Volunteers

Joe Sickles, Building Team

David Carling, Front Desk

Stephanie Keene & Tuah Jenta, Ushers

Marilyn & Paul Haase, Greeters

Marilyn Haase & Eugenia Jeong,

Prayer Companions

First Pres Announcements

Angel Tree goes virtual again in 2021 - First Pres has a rich history of supporting Prison Fellowship's Angel Tree. Over the years, our tradition has been to pull a tag off the Christmas trees and provide a gift to a child whose parent is incarcerated. Like last year, due to COVID, Angel tree will be done "virtually" again in 2021. Our Virtual Angel Tree web page is now available! Please help the First Pres Deacons support Prison Fellowship's Angel Tree by sponsoring an Angel. Our church has promised to provide gifts for 85 children. The link to Virtual Angel Tree is

<https://firstpresevanston.org/angel-tree/>. The Access Code, which is unique for First Pres, is INPZA. We hope to have all of our Angel Tree commitments fulfilled by December 13, so please make your donations before then. Thank you for your support and generosity!



Fellowship time in Roy Hall, TODAY - Join us today after the service in our 2nd Floor gym as our Deacons host our Sunday social gathering.

Advent Adult Education Class begins TODAY - Our annual all-congregation Advent course will be taught by FPCE member David Ivaska. Entitled "Tough Questions at Christmas – Surprised by Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace," the class will meet for four weeks in the Sanctuary and online via Zoom.

Sign up ASAP to participate in our annual Christmas pageant - Participating in the pageant is a great way to explore the Nativity scriptures! All children and youth 3 years old through high school are invited to participate. We will share this presentation at the 9:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, December 19! Rehearsals will be during Sunday school (11 a.m. to Noon) TODAY and for the next two Sundays. We will also have a dress rehearsal on Saturday, December 18. Email Pastor Amanda at agolbek@firstpresevanston.org to sign-up!

Gingerbread House decorating event December 5 - Our annual Gingerbread house decorating event takes place next Sunday from 3-5 p.m. in Roy Hall. Families will need to register online at <https://firstpresevanston.org/gingerbread-2021/> to reserve their gingerbread houses. The cost is \$10 per house . Please note: Due to supply chain challenges we may have to limit the number of houses each family is able to reserve.

Youth/Children's Education – Sundays at 11 a.m.

- **Infants thru 3 year olds** – Nursery care is available on the first floor, up the short stairs to the south.
- **4 year olds thru 5th grade** – Gather in the dining room each Sunday.
- **6th and 7th grade** – Meet in the 3rd floor Youth Lounge.
- **Confirmation Class: 8th and 9th grade** – Meet in room 206.
- **10th thru 12th grades** – Contact Pastor Amanda for Education Hour options.

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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.***



This QR code will take you to a web page with links for giving and recording your attendance at today's service via the Connect Card.

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