



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN EVANSTON

# Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24, 2021 – 11 p.m.

## Our Mission:

*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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## FOCUS

### Prelude

In the Bleak Midwinter

(Music: Gustav Holst, 1874-1934)

*The First Noel*

(Music: English Carol, 17<sup>th</sup> century)

Angels We Have Heard on High

(Music: French Carol, 18<sup>th</sup> century)

O Come, All Ye Faithful

(Music: tune "Adeste Fideles," 1744)

What Child is This

(Music: English Ballad "Greensleeves," 16<sup>th</sup> century)

Good King Wenceslas

(Music: English carol "Tempus adest florum," 13<sup>th</sup> century)

Carol of the Bells

(Music: Mykola Leontovych, 1914)

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

(Music: 15<sup>th</sup> century chant "Bone Jesu dulcis cunctis")

The Little Drummer Boy

(Music: Katherine Kennicott Davis, 1941)

## Welcome & Announcements

### Opening Hymn

#### O Holy Night

*(Words: French poem, Placide Cappeau, English trans. John Sullivan Dwight; Music: Adolphe Adam, 1847, arr. John Rutter, 1981; CCLI Song #32015)*

*(Soloist sings first verse)*

*O holy night! The stars are brightly shining,  
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth.  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,  
Till he appeared and the soul felt its worth.  
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices,  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.*

*(Choir & congregation join on the chorus)*

Fall on your knees! Oh, hear the angel voices!  
O night divine! O night when Christ was born,  
O night divine,  
O night, O night divine.

*(Soloist sings second verse)*

*Led by the light of faith serenely beaming,  
With glowing hearts by his cradle we stand;  
So, led by light of a star sweetly beaming,  
Here came the wise men from the Eastern land.  
The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger,  
In all our trials born to be our friend;*

*(Choir & congregation join on the chorus)*

He knows our need, to our weakness no stranger;  
Behold your King! Before him lowly bend!  
Behold your King! Your King! Before him bend.

*(Choir & congregation join on the third verse & chorus)*

Truly he taught us to love one another;  
His law is love and his gospel is peace.  
Chains shall he break, for the slave is our brother,

And in his name all oppression shall cease.  
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we;  
Let all within us praise his holy name.  
Christ is the Lord! O praise his name forever!  
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!  
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!

### **Confession of Sins & Assurance of Pardon**

**All: O eternal and gracious God, all year long we pursue power, money, and influence. Yet you come to us in the weakness of the manger. All season long we covet material gifts. Yet you alone offer us the only everlasting gift: Your Son, Jesus Christ, God with us. We confess to you our pride, our faithlessness, and our reluctance to accept your grace. Through the work of the Lord Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit, forgive us, heal us, correct us, and transform us. Then enable us to be still, to know your presence, and to praise you. We pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*(Time of silent confession.)*

Leader: Isaiah 9:2 says: "The people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned." We no longer belong to the darkness. For God, who made the light shine out of darkness, made his light shine in our hearts, that we might be forgiven and loved by God.

Brothers and Sisters, believe the good news of the Gospel.

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

### **Lighting the Christ Candle & Call to Worship**

Readers conclude: Let every heart prepare Him room,  
room for the Christ child and his Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.  
Please join us in singing our response together.

### **Hymn of Response**

O Little Town of Bethlehem, v. 4 (*Blue Hymnal #44*)  
*(Words: Phillips Brooks, 1868; Music: Lewis Henry Redner, 1868; CCLI Song #27879)*

O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin and enter in,

Be born to us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Emmanuel.

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## EXALT

### Scripture

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

*The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior.*

<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.

<sup>6</sup> For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup> His authority shall grow continually,  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onward and forevermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

### Anthem of Response

Canon on *Es ist ein Ros entsprungen*

*(Music: Melchior Vulpius, Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng, Köln, Germany, 1599)*

*Es ist ein Ros entsprungen,  
Lo, how a rose e'er blooming  
aus einer Wurzel zart,  
From tender stem hath sprung,*

*wie uns die Alten sungen,*  
By faithful prophets sung,  
*von Jesse kam die Art*  
Of Jesse's lineage coming.

## Congregational Hymn

### Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming (*Blue Hymnal #48*)

*(Words: German Carol, 15th c., trans. Theodore Baker (1851-1934), alt. "Rejoice in the Lord," 1985;  
Music: Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesang, Cologne, 1599, arr. Michael Praetorius, 1609,  
CCLI Song #3860933)*

#### *(Verse 1)*

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming  
From tender stem hath sprung,  
Of Jesse's lineage coming,  
By faithful prophets sung.  
It came a floweret bright,  
Amid the cold of winter,  
When half spent was the night.

#### *(Verse 2)*

Isaiah 'twas foretold it,  
The rose I have in mind.  
With Mary we behold it,  
The virgin mother kind.  
To show God's love aright  
She bore for us a Savior  
When half spent was the night.

#### *(This verse is not in the hymnal)*

This flow'r, whose fragrance tender  
With sweetness fills the air,  
Dispels with glorious splendor  
The darkness ev'rywhere.  
True man, yet very God,  
From sin and death he saves us  
And lightens ev'ry load.

## Scripture

Luke 2:1–7

*St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.*

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup> This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup> All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup> Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup> He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup> And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

## Anthem of Response

### Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

*(Words: attr. Pietrowi Skardze, paraph. Edith M.G. Reed, 1921; Music: tune "W Zlobie Lezy," arr. Julie Knowles)*

*Infant holy, infant lowly,  
For his bed a cattle stall;  
Oxen lowing, little knowing  
Christ the babe is Lord of all.  
Swiftly winging angels singing,  
Bells are ringing, tidings bringing:  
Christ the babe is Lord of all!  
Christ the babe is Lord of all!*

*Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping  
Vigil till the morning new  
Saw the glory, heard the story,  
Tidings of a gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,  
Praises voicing, greet the morrow:  
Christ the babe was born for you!  
Christ the babe was born for you!*

## Congregational Hymn

### Away in a Manger (*Blue Hymnal #25*)

(Words: Stanzas 1-2, 'Little Children's Book for Schools and Families,' c. 1885, Stanza 3, Gabriel's 'Vineyard Songs,' 1892; Music: attr. James R. Murray, 1887, harm. John Weaver, 1986; CCLI Song #38583)

Away in a manger, no crib for His bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,  
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the poor Baby wakes,  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.  
I love Thee Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,  
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay  
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,  
And fit us for heaven to live with Thee there.

## Scripture

Luke 2:8–20

*The angelic announcement to the shepherds.*

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

<sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

<sup>17</sup> When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

## **Anthem of Response**

### **Wexford Carol**

*(Words: Irish Traditional; Music: Irish Traditional, arr. Dale Warland, b. 1932)*

*Good people all, this Christmas time,  
Consider well and bear in mind  
What our good God for us has done,  
In sending His beloved Son.  
With Mary holy we should pray  
To God with love this Christmas Day;  
In Bethlehem upon that morn  
There was a blessed Messiah born.'*

*The night before that happy tide,  
The noble Virgin and her guide  
Were long time seeking up and down  
To find a lodging in the town.  
But mark how all things came to pass:  
From ev'ry door repell'd, alas!  
As long foretold, their refuge all  
Was but an humble ox's stall.*

*Near Bethlehem did shepherds keep  
Their flocks of lambs and feeding sheep;  
To whom God's angels did appear,  
Which put the shepherds in great fear.  
"Prepare and go," the angels said,  
"To Bethlehem, be not afraid;  
For there you'll find, this happy morn,  
A princely babe, sweet Jesus born."*

*With thankful heart and joyful mind,  
The shepherds went the babe to find,  
And as God's angel had foretold,  
They did our Savior Christ behold.  
Within a manger he was laid,  
And by his side the Virgin maid,  
Attending on the Lord of Life,  
Who came on earth to end all strife.*

## **Congregational Hymn**

Hark, the Herald Angels Sing (*Blue Hymnal #31 & 32*)  
(*Words: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt.; Music: Felix Mendelssohn, 1840, arr. William Hayman  
Cummings, 1855; CCLI Song #27738*)

Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King.  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
With th'angelic hosts proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King."

Christ, by highest heav'n adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord!  
Late in time behold Him come,  
Offspring of the Virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
Hail th'incarnate Deity,  
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King."

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings,

Ris'n with healing in His wings.  
Mild He lays His glory by,  
Born that we no more may die,  
Born to raise us from the earth,  
Born to give us second birth.  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King."

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## ENCOUNTER

### Passing the Peace of Christ

#### Sermon

God in Unexpected Places  
*Rev. Dr. Raymond Hylton, Senior Pastor*

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## RESPOND

### Service of Lights & Passing the Light of Christ

Isaiah 60:1-3

Leader: Arise! Shine! For the light has come.

**All: And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.**

For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,

**And thick darkness the peoples;**

But the Lord will arise upon you,

**And His glory will be seen upon you.**

And nations shall come to your light,

**And kings to the brightness of your rising.**

### Candlelight Carol

Silent Night (*Blue Hymnal #60*)

(Text: Joseph Mohr, 1818; Music: Franz Gruber, 1818; CCLI Song #27862)

Silent night! Holy night!

All is calm, all is bright

'Round yon virgin mother and child!

Holy infant, so tender and mild,

Sleep in heavenly peace,

Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight.  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heav'nly hosts sing: "Alleluia!  
Christ the Savior is born!  
Christ the Savior is born!"

Silent night! Holy night!  
Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth!  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth!

*(Congregation raises their candles)*

Silent night! Holy night!  
Wondrous star, lend thy light;  
With the angels let us sing  
"Alleluia" to our King:  
"Christ the Savior is born!  
Christ the Savior is born."

## Evening Prayer

John 1:1-5, 9, 14

Leader: In the beginning was the Word,

**All: and the Word was with God,**

and the Word was God.

**He was in the beginning with God.**

All things came into being through him,

**and without him not one thing came into being.**

What has come into being in him was life,

**and the life was the light of all people.**

The light shines in the darkness,

**and the darkness did not overcome it.**

The true light, which enlightens everyone,

**was coming into the world.**

And the Word became flesh and lived among us,

**and we have seen his glory,**  
the glory as of a father's only son,  
**full of grace and truth.**

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

**Jesus, the light of the world,**

was born on this day, and he brightens all things.

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!**

## Closing Hymn

### Joy to the World (*Blue Hymnal #40*)

(Text: Isaac Watts, 1719; Music: G. F. Handel, 1742; CCLI Song #24016)

Joy to the world! the Lord is come:

Let earth receive her King;

Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room,

And heav'n and nature sing,

And heav'n and nature sing,

And heav'n and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the world! the Savior reigns:

Let us our songs employ;

While fields and floods,

Rocks, hills, and plains

Repeat the sounding joy,

Repeat the sounding joy,

Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,

Nor thorns infest the ground;

He comes to make His blessings flow

Far as the curse is found,

Far as the curse is found,

Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,

And makes the nations prove

The glories of His righteousness,

And wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders, wonders of His love.

## **Benediction**

## **Postlude**

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring  
*(Music: J.S. Bach, 1685-1750)*

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## **Tonight's Worship Service Leaders**

**Hillary Bayley, Maya Chin, Sara Linne Morrow, Tobin Schindler**, String Quartet, Prelude & Postlude, Hymns & Anthems

**Hannah Dixon McConnell**, Director of Worship & Music, Piano, Chancel Choir Director

**Members of the Chancel Choir**, Anthems

**Dr. Rebecca Chu**, Organ

**Tina Laughlin**, Percussion

**Tongyu Zhang**, Advent Candle Lighting

**Laurie & Tom Kaeser, Pam Pettibone**, Scripture Readings

**Rev. Dr. Raymond Hylton**, Senior Pastor, Welcome, Sermon, Prayers of the People, Service of Lights, Evening Prayer, Benediction

**Caryl Weinberg**, Confession & Assurance, Service of Lights

**Jim Teague**, Communications Director, Tech Director

**John Carlson, Jake Collins & Alexis Langlois**, A/V Volunteers

**Joe Sickles**, Building Team

**David Carling**, Front Desk

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## **First Presbyterian Church**

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9:30 a.m. each week,  
in person & online!**

Learn all about us at  
<https://firstpresevanston.org!>



**Welcome!** We're glad you are here. We ask everyone to complete and return this page. Please tear it off from the stapled bulletin, to slip to the offering basket every service you attend. **December 24, 2021 - 11 p.m.**

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Your Name

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Family members' names/ages

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Street Address, City, State, Zip

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Phone:     Cell         Home

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Email address

- Send me the weekly E-newsletter
- First time visitor
- Occasional attendee
- Regular attendee/member

- Single
- Married
- Have children at home
- Junior/High School student
- College student/Graduate student

I'm interested in:

- Knowing Jesus better
- I need prayer or support
- I would like to speak with a pastor
- Joining a Small Group
- Joining the Welcome Team
- Worship Music Team
- Sound/AV/Video Team
- Prayer Team
- Becoming a Member
- I need a Stephen Minister
- Communion at home suggested for

\_\_\_\_\_ (name)

Please pray for:

*(This is shared with pastors & confidential prayer team)*