



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN EVANSTON

Christmas Eve Family Worship Service

December 24, 2021 – 4 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.*

FOCUS

Prelude

Musical offerings by First Pres Children

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship

Leader: Come, let us worship the King, born to us this night!

All: We have come to hear the Christmas story anew!

Come. Let the story fall fresh upon your ears and your heart this night.

Lord, open our ears and our hearts for a word from you.

EXALT

Opening Hymn

O Come, All Ye Faithful (*Blue Hymnal #41*)

(Words: John Francis Wade, c. 1740-43, transl. Frederick Oakeley, 1841; Music: John Francis Wade, c. 1740-43, harm. "The English Hymnal," CCLI Song #31054)

O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,

O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold Him,
Born the King of angels!
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ, the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
Born this happy morning,
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n;
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing!
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ, the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation!
Sing all ye citizens
Of heav'n above!
Glory to God, all
Glory in the highest!
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ, the Lord!

Confession of Sins & Assurance of Pardon

All: Merciful God, we confess that often we find darkness more comfortable than light.

We confess that we find your good news frightening and unsettling, especially when we consider its demands as well as its promises.

We confess that Christmas has become more about us than about you, partly because we do not want a Christ-Child in our lives or in our world.

Forgive us, break us, bend us, remake us.

Give us the courage to lay ourselves open to the wonder and healing of your coming.

Be born again into our world, be born again into our hearts and lives.

Hear now our silent and personal confessions as we prepare ourselves for your nativity.

(Time of Silent Confession)

All: The true light that enlightens all has come into the world. That light shines on in the darkness, and the darkness has never been able to put it out.

This is the good news: God has heard our confession. God has forgiven our sin.

Thanks be to God!

Lighting the Advent Candles

All: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,

His mercies never come to an end,

They are new every morning,

Great is your faithfulness, O Lord.

Alphabet Christmas Story - Introduction & A through E

Congregational Hymn

O Little Town of Bethlehem (*Blue Hymnal #44*)

(Words: Phillips Brooks, 1868; Music: Lewis Henry Redner, 1868; CCLI Song #27879)

O little town of Bethlehem,

how still we see thee lie!

Above thy deep and dreamless sleep

the silent stars go by;

yet in thy dark streets shineth

the everlasting light.

The hopes and fears of all the years

are met in thee tonight.

How silently, how silently,

the wondrous gift is giv'n!

So God imparts to human hearts

the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming,
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray,
cast out our sin and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Immanuel!

Alphabet Christmas Story - F through G

Congregational Hymn

Hark, the Herald Angels Sing (*Blue Hymnal #31*)
(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.”

Alphabet Christmas Story - H through J

Congregational 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)

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.
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.

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!

Alphabet Christmas Story - K through M

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.

Alphabet Christmas Story - N through O

Congregational Hymn

The First Nowell (*Blue Hymnal #56*)

(Words: English carol, 17th century; Music: English carol, Sandys' Christmas Carols, 1833; CCLI Song #2804206)

The first Nowell the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,

Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord
That hath made heaven and earth of naught,
And with His blood mankind hath brought.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.

Offering

Offering Response

We Three Kings of Orient Are (*Blue Hymnal #66*)

(Words: John Henry Hopkins, Jr., 1857, alt.; Music: John Henry Hopkins, Jr., 1857, alt.; CCLI Song #38002)

We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.

O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.
Glorious now behold him arise;
King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia,
sounds through the earth and skies.

O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,

westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.

Prayer of Dedication

All: God of Grace and God of Glory, we thank you for sending your Son to love us. We offer these gifts and our lives to you. We thank you for the greatest gift of all – the gift of your son Jesus Christ, who came to earth as a sign of your love for us. Amen.

Alphabet Christmas Story - P through Q

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.

Alphabet Christmas Story - R through Z

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Leader: We respond together:

**All: 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.**

God of promise, God of hope,
into our darkness, you have come with your light.

Glory to God in the highest! Alleluia! Amen!

Sharing the Light of Christ

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!

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."

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

Musical offerings by First Pres Children

Today's Worship Service Leaders

Special Musical Guests, Prelude & Postlude

Christie Miller, Clarinet

Dr. Rebecca Chu, Organist, Pianist, Hymns, Anthem, Postlude

Hannah Dixon McConnell, Director of Worship & Music, Reader, Handbells

Rev. Amanda Golbek, Minister of Children & Youth, Welcome, Worship Leader

The Alphabet Christmas Story is adapted by Rev. Lorrin Radzik from Rev. Erin Klaussen's liturgy available at:

<http://youngclergywomen.org/the-abcs-of-christmas-a-worship-service/>

Jim Teague, Communications Director

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

Joe Sickles, Building Team

Davi Hunt, Front Desk

Dr. Raymond Hylton, Senior Pastor, Greeter

Amanda, Oliver, & Tuah Jenta, Advent Candle Lighting

**Join us for Sunday Morning Worship
each week at 9:30 a.m.
in person & online!**

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

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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 - 4 p.m.**

Your Name

Family members' names/ages

Street Address, City, State, Zip

Phone: Cell Home

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)