

First Presbyterian Evanston

December 5, 2021 – 9:30 a.m.

Second Sunday of Advent

FOCUS

Prelude

Suite No. 1 in G Major, *Prelude*

(Music: J.S. Bach, 1685-1750)

Welcome & Announcements

EXALT

Opening Song

Prepare the Way

*(from Blue Hymnal #13; Words: Frans Mikael Franzen, 1771-1847,
adapt. Charles P. Price, 1980, alt. 1989; Music: Then Svenska Psalmboken, 1697;
arr. Elda McGinty Peralta, 2015, CCLI Song #1210135)*

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.

Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Pardon

All: Loving God, You created us to be Your people, made in Your image, and set apart for Your glory. But we have chosen to disobey You and have determined that our way is better than Your way. As a result, we have become slaves to sin; our souls have been corrupted, and we have broken Your covenant. So we repent and turn back toward You. Forgive us and set us free from our corruption and darkness. Thank You for Jesus Christ, Who reconciles, restores, redeems, and transforms every crooked place and the rough places of our lives. Now in our silent prayers, we honor Him with our whole lives. Amen.

(Time of silent confession.)

Leader: The good news in Christ is that when we face ourselves and God with the awareness of our need, we are given grace to grow and courage to continue the journey.

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

Lighting the Second Candle of Advent – Peace

**All: 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.**

Song of Response

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

(from Blue Hymnal #9; Words: Latin, c. 12th century, stanzas 1-2 transl. John Mason Neale, 1851, alt, 1854, Stanza 3 transl. Henry Sloane Coffin, 1916; Music: Latin, 12th century, arr. Jeremy Redmon & Michael Weaver, arr. Dan Galbraith & Lee Marcum, 2009; CCLI Song #31982)

O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Desire of nations, bind
All peoples in one heart and mind.

Bid envy, strife, and quarrels cease;
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

ENCOUNTER

Children's Moment & Passing the Peace of Christ

Scripture

Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, 2 during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. 3 He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, 4 as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. 5 Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; 6 and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

Sermon

Now is the Time

Rev. Dr. Raymond Hylton, Senior Pastor

RESPOND

Sharing of Tithes and Offerings

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

All who are truly sorry for their sins, who sincerely believe in the Lord Jesus as their Savior, and who desire to live in obedience to Him, are invited to take communion.

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God our thanks and praise.

Blessed be your name...

(Prayer)...And so with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, we join the unending hymn.

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

God of the future and the past...

(Prayer)...Great is the mystery of faith.

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Refining Spirit...one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Communion Music

Bereite Dich, Zion (Prepare Thyself, Zion)
from *Weinachts-Oratorium* (Christmas Oratorio)
(Words: & Music: J.S. Bach, 1685-1750)

*Bereite dich, Zion, mit zärtlichen Trieben,
Den Schönsten, den Liebsten bald bei dir zu sehn!
Deine Wangen*

*Müssen heut viel schöner prangen,
Eile, den Bräutigam sehnlichst zu lieben!*

Prepare yourself, Zion, with tender efforts,
to behold your lovely one, your beloved, near you soon!
Your cheeks
must now glow much more radiantly,
hurry to love the Bridegroom with passion!

Prayer after Communion

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

Goodness of God

(Words & Music: Jenn Johnson, Jason Ingram, Ben Fielding, Ed Cash, & Brian Johnson, 2018; CCLI Song #7117726)

I love You, Lord.
Oh, Your mercy never fails me.
All my days
I've been held in Your hands.
From the moment that I wake up
Until I lay my head
I will sing of the goodness of God,

All my life You have been faithful.
All my life You have been so, so good.
With every breath that I am able,
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God.

I love Your voice.
You have led me through the fire
In darkest night.
You are close like no other.
I've known You as a father.
I've known You as a friend.
And I have lived in the goodness of God.

All my life You have been faithful.
All my life You have been so, so good.
With every breath that I am able,
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God.

Your goodness is running after,
It's running after me.
Your goodness is running after,
It's running after me.
With my life laid down,
I'm surrendered now.
I give You everything.
Your goodness is running after,
It's running after me.

Your goodness is running after,
It's running after me.
Your goodness is running after,
It's running after me.
With my life laid down,

I'm surrendered now.
I give You everything.
Your goodness is running after,
It's running after me.

All my life You have been faithful.
All my life You have been so, so good.
With every breath that I am able,
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God.

Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God.

Benediction

Postlude

Suite No. 1 in G Major, *Gigue*
(Music: J.S. Bach, 1685-1750)

Today's Worship Service Leaders

Melissa Bach, Cello, Prelude, Postlude, Songs

Crofton Coleman, Worship Band Dir., Vocals, Piano; **Daniel Allen**, Guitar; **Erwin Yasukawa**, Bass; **Kon Savoy**, Drums; **Tina Laughlin**, Percussion; Worship Band

Darshaya Oden, **Michelle Mariposa**, **Maximiliano Illanes**, **Paul Koch**, Choir Section Leaders & Worship Leaders

Hannah Dixon McConnell, Dir. of Worship & Music, Children's Message & Peace, Choir Director

Caryl Weinberg, Director of Missions, Welcome

Rev. Dr. Raymond Hylton, Senior Pastor, Confession & Assurance, Sermon, Sharing of Tithes, Communion

Valrie Barrett & Marilyn Upchurch, Advent Candle Lighting

Rev. Amanda Golbek, Minister of Children and Youth, Children's Message

Suzanne Sawada, Scripture Reading

Daniel Allen, **Bob Bastian**, **Kon Savoy**, Elders, Communion Servers

Noah McLeod, Interim A/V Coordinator

Jim Teague, Communications Director

Qin Zhou, Projection

Jake Collins, A/V Volunteer, Live Stream

John Carlson, A/V Volunteer, Online Chat

Joe Sickles, Building Team

Kris Economos and Team, Agape Meal Preparation

TBD, Prayer Companions

First Pres Announcements

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 continues TODAY - Taught by FPCE member David Ivaska, our class entitled "Tough Questions at Christmas – Surprised by Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace," meets in the Sanctuary and online via Zoom.

Agape Meal will take place today at Noon in Dining Room - All are invited to our monthly Agape meal at Noon in the Dining Room. We will enjoy a time of fellowship with each other, and a simple meal prepared by Kris Economos and her super Souper Saturday team. This is our way of continuing the feast we celebrate at the communion table during that morning's service.

Gingerbread House decorating event TODAY!!! - Our annual Gingerbread house decorating event takes place next today from 3-5 p.m. in Roy Hall. Houses cost \$10 each and we still have a few left.

Prayer Gathering online, Wednesday at 7 p.m. – Join us online on Zoom this coming Wednesday as we bring our prayers and concerns before God, listening for his response, and seeking his guidance. All are welcome. See the event listing on our home page for the registration link.

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

All children are asked to meet on the 3rd Floor for Christmas Pageant rehearsal (*Except for Confirmation Class*)

Confirmation Class: 8th and 9th grade – Meet in room 206.

Angel Tree virtual tags going fast - 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 from around the country. 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!

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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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