



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN EVANSTON

Christmas Pageant

Sunday Worship Service

December 19, 2021 – 9:30 a.m.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

Hark, the Herald Angels Sing

(Music: Felix Mendelssohn, 1840; arr. Jack Gale, 1995)

The First Noel

(Music: English Carol, Sandys' Christmas Carols, arr. Jack Gale, 1995)

Carol Fantasy, from *Christmas Crackers*

(Music: arr. John Iveson, 1981)

Welcome & Announcements

EXALT

Opening 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.

Confession of Sins & Assurance of Pardon

All: Holy God, we might need to confess that we have forgotten what this story is about – the story of the birth of Jesus. We've been confused, so we wrap ourselves with so much planning, and shopping, and gift giving and sending, with so much decorating and card-writing and partying that we haven't left any time to sit in the dark, to sit in silence, to contemplate the Incarnation, to give thanks for this one life that changed the world. We have celebrated so many Christmases, and yet – Yet we still need You to remind us what this is all about, to turn us around and set us in the right direction. May the generosity that drives us this season be present all year. May the intentional reaching out to the far-flung and to the stranger continue past the holidays. May our hearts, so full of so much, be mostly full of love for You, for each other, and for ourselves.

Heal us, we pray. Amen.

(We offer our silent prayers of confession.)

Leader: Friends in Christ, hear this Good News! God could not love you any more than God loves you at this very moment. You are that beloved. So know that wrapped in that love is grace and forgiveness, and a call to go out into the world to love.

All: Alleluia! Amen.

Lighting the Fourth Candle of Advent – Love

**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.**

Passing the Peace of Christ

Congregational Carol

Once in Royal David's City (*Blue Hymnal #49*)

*(Words: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1848, alt. & Music: Henry John Gauntlett, 1849;
CCLI Song #2649014)*

Once in royal David's city
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby
In a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ, her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven
Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable,
And His cradle was a stall;
With the poor, oppressed, and lowly,
Lived on earth our Savior holy.

And our eyes at last shall see Him,
Through His own redeeming love,
For that Child, so dear and gentle,
Is our Lord in heav'n above;
And He leads his children on
To the place where He is gone.

Scripture Lesson

Luke 1:26-38

(New Testament pp. 53-54)

Congregational Song

Canticle of the Turning

(Words: Rory Cooney, 1990; Music: Irish Melody "Star of the County Down," arr. Rory Cooney, 1990; One License #95672)

My soul cries out with a joyful shout
That the God of my heart is great,
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things
That you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight
And my weakness you did not spurn.
So from east to west shall my name be blest:
Could the world be about to turn?

My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near
And the world is about to turn!

Though I am small, my God, my all,
You work great things in me,
And your mercy will last
From the Depths of the past
To the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame,
And to those who would for you yearn
You will show your might,
Put the strong to flight,
For the world is about to turn.

My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near
And the world is about to turn!

From the halls of power to the fortress tower
Not a stone will be left on stone;
Let the king beware, for your justice tears
Ev'ry tyrant from his throne.

The hungry poor shall weep no more
For the food they can never earn:
There are tables spread,
Ev'ry mouth be fed
For the world is about to turn.

My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near
And the world is about to turn!

Though the nations rage from age to age,
We remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us
From the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard
Is the promise which holds us bound
'Til the spear and rod
Can be crushed by God,
Who is turning the world around.

My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near
And the world is about to turn!

My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near
And the world is about to turn!

Scripture Lesson

Matthew 1:18-24
(New Testament p. 1)

Congregational Carol

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 Emmanuel.

Scripture Lesson

Luke 2:1-7

(New Testament pp. 54-55)

Congregational Carol

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 Lesson

Luke 2:8-16

(New Testament p. 55)

Congregational Carol

Angels We Have Heard on High (*Blue Hymnal #23*)

(Words: French carol, transl. James Chadwick, 1813-1882, alt.; Music: French carol, arr. Edward Shippen Barnes, 1937; CCLI Song #27721)

Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heav'nly song?

Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Scripture Lesson

Matthew 2:1-12
(New Testament pp. 1-2)

ENCOUNTER

Meditation

Prepare Him Room
Rev. Amanda Golbek, Minister of Children & Youth

RESPOND

Offering Invitation

Offering Hymn

We Three Kings of Orient Are (*Blue Hymnal #66*)
(Words & Music: John Henry Hopkins, Jr., 1857; 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

Doxology

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow (*Blue #592*)
(*Words: Thomas Ken, 1695; Music: Genevan Psalter, 1551; CCLI Song #56204*)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him, above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

Congregational Song

Noel

(*Words & Music: Matt Redman, Chris Tomlin, & Ed Cash; CCLI Song #7050419*)

Love incarnate love divine
Star and angels gave the sign
Bow to babe on bended knee
The Savior of humanity
Unto us a Child is born
He shall reign forevermore

Noel Noel
Come and see what God has done
Noel Noel
The story of amazing love
The light of the world given for us
Noel

Son of God and Son of man
There before the world began
Born to suffer born to save
Born to raise us from the grave
Christ the everlasting Lord
He shall reign forevermore

Noel Noel
Come and see what God has done
Noel Noel
The story of amazing love
The light of the world given for us
Noel

Noel Noel
Come and see what God has done
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Noel

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

O Come, All Ye Faithful

(Words: John Francis Wade, c. 1740-43, transl. Frederick Oakeley, 1841; Music: John Francis Wade, c. 1740-43, arr. Chris Tomlin, 2009; CCLI Song #5606944)

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!

We'll praise Your name forever,
We'll praise Your name forever,
We'll praise Your name forever,
Christ the Lord!

Glory in the highest!

Benediction

Postlude

We Wish You a Merry Christmas, from Christmas Crackers
(Music: arr. John Iveson, 1981)

Today's Worship Service Leaders

Gregory Strauss & Chuck Parrish, Trumpet; **Mary Jo Neher**, Horn; **Catie Hickey**, Trombone; **Hunter Farley**, Tuba

Dr. Rebecca Chu, Organist

Crofton Coleman, Worship Band Director, Vocals, Piano

Daniel Allen, Guitars; **Erwin Yasukawa**, Bass

Christie Miller, Clarinet; **Tina Laughlin**, Percussion

Hannah Dixon McConnell, Director of Worship & Music, Chancel Choir Director, Vocals

Chancel Choir & Friends, Carols

Rev. Amanda Golbek, Minister of Children & Youth, Welcome, Meditation, Benediction

Pageant Participants

Jennifer Brejcha
Kathryn Brejcha
Kendall Crocker
Morgan Crocker
Abby Collins
Maddie Collins
Kelsey Donovan
Zoey Donovan
Caden Furlow
Carinna Furlow

Gracie Hu
Sarah Hu
Mae Ivaska
Teo Ivaska
Zadie Ivaska
Hannah McLeod
Peter McLeod
Jayden Muganwa
Jordell Muganwa
Lotanna Nzelibe

Jenley Rah
Matthew Shiau
Nathan Shiau
Abby Stevenson
Thomas Stevenson
Lucy Vaaga
Arthur Witwer
William Witwer
Vivienne Witwer
Mia Wuellner

Noah McLeod, Interim A/V Coordinator

Jim Teague, Communications Director, Projection

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

Joe Sickles, Building Team

David Carling, Front Desk

Bob Hecker & Sharon Smith, Prayer Companions

Tony Brown, Carol Clanton, Stephanie Keene, John Powell, Marcia Smith, Ushers

Marilyn Haase, Greeter

Announcements

Final Advent Adult Education Class TODAY in the Sanctuary - 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.

'Blue Christmas' set for December 22 on Zoom - For many, Christmas is not a time of joy and celebration, but rather a time of grieving. The added pain and isolation of the current pandemic have intensified many of these feelings. Join us Wednesday, December 22, at 7 p.m. on Zoom as we gather in a guided time of lifting these struggles and concerns to God, who delights in drawing near and giving us comfort. This will be a time for expressing our thoughts and feelings to God and one another as we support one another through Scripture and prayer. The Zoom link can be found on the FPCE website home page under Events.

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

- All children and youth education classes are on break until January 9, 2022.

Note: The church office will be closed Saturday, December 25, and Monday, December 27, in observation of Christmas

First Presbyterian Church

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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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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 week.

December 19, 2021

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)