



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN EVANSTON

Christmas Eve

10 p.m. Candlelight Service

December 24, 2022

FOCUS

Prelude

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

(Music: arr. Marshall McDonald and Steven Sharp Nelson, 2013)

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel

That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel...

Still, Still, Still

(Music: arr. Marshall McDonald and Steven Sharp Nelson, 2013)

Still, still, still, He sleeps this night so chill!

The virgin's tender arms enfolding, Warm and safe the Child are holding.

Still, still, still, He sleeps this night so chill...

EXALT

Welcome

Lighting of the Advent Candles

In our most desperate times, by day or by night, the hope of Christ may be found. We watch and we wait to witness the hope of heaven making a place here on earth.

We light the candle of hope, because hope has come to us.

(Light the first candle.)

When we are overwhelmed with conflict without or within, the peace of Christ may be found. We welcome the peace of Christ, present among us and available to all.

We light the candle of peace because peace has come to us.

(Light the second candle.)

Whether we find ourselves in the dark, cozy realm of nighttime or the blazing brightness of day, God's good message of joy has come to us to cheer our hearts.

We light the candle of joy, celebrating the good news of a baby to be born in Bethlehem.

(Light the third candle.)

Love, the mightiest force in all the world, was also gentle enough to inhabit a tiny baby. And this mighty force compelled Jesus to demonstrate his love in his transformative message and sacrificial life.

Today we light the candle of love, which reminds us that when all else fails, when hope seems lost, when the night seems eternal, love remains. And love wins.

(Light the fourth candle.)

All: Now watch and wait, for soon the Christ Child will be born, bringing joy and deliverance to us all. Amen.

Call to Worship

People of First Pres, come and see what is happening as the stars are shining over Bethlehem.

To you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

How shall we know him? What will be the sign?

You will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.

How shall we find him? Where shall we go?

Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.

Let us praise and worship with the angels saying,

“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom God favors!”

God-with-us on this long, dark night, we approach the starry scene with trembling and awe. You are born to a fierce young woman and a desperate world. We join with Mary, with the heavenly host, and with millennia of worshipers, proclaiming the wondrous miracle of this moment. As we remember, sing, and cherish the story, reveal your glory once again among us. Amen.

Opening Hymn

O Holy Night

*(Words: Placide Cappeau, trans. John Sullivan Dwight;
Music: Adolphe Adam, arr. John Rutter; 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! O hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born.
O night, O holy 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 power and glory Evermore proclaim!
His power and glory Evermore proclaim!

Christ is the Lord! O praise His name forever!
His power and glory Evermore proclaim!
His power and glory Evermore proclaim!

Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Pardon

All: God-with-us on this long, dark night, today as we approach the holy child, wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger, we are aware of our own frailty. We have been insecure about your plans like Joseph, greedy and demanding like Caesar, afraid of your presence like the shepherds, envious of power like Herod, and unprepared for our neighbors like Bethlehem. But in your abundant grace and love for us all, you sent Jesus to calm our anxious hearts, call us to your perfect way of love and justice, and to redeem our broken world. Through Jesus, you made your dwelling among us. As we look to your Son on this long, dark night, call us to a deeper understanding of what it means to love one another. Amen.

(People offer their own silent prayers to the Lord.)

Leader: Jesus came not to condemn the world, but to love the world. In whatever state we find ourselves, at the feet of Jesus there is life renewed and hope eternal. Be assured that when you bear your frailty before God, God is faithful to receive you with grace.

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

Passing the Peace of Christ

ENCOUNTER

Scripture

Isaiah 9:2-7

² 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.

³ You have multiplied exultation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴ For the yoke of their burden
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶ 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.

⁷ Great will be his authority,
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.

Ecce, quod natura Mutat sua iura!

Behold, how nature Changes her laws!

Virgo parit pura Dei filium.

A pure virgin bears God's Son.

Scripture

Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ 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. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ 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 in the guest room.

Carol

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly (*Blue Hymnal #37*)

(Words: Polish carol, attr. Pietrowi Skardze, trans. and para. Edith M.G. Reed, 1925;

Music: tune "W Zlobie Lezy," Polish carol, harm. A.E. Rusbridge, 1917-1969;

CCLI Song #162538)

Infant holy, infant lowly, For his bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging Angels singing, Noels ringing, Tidings bringing:
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.

Anthem

What Sweeter Music

(Words: Robert Herrick, 1591-1674; Music: John Rutter, 1988)

*What sweeter music can we bring
Than a carol, for to sing
The birth of this our heavenly King?
Awake the voice! Awake the string!*

*Dark and dull night, fly hence away,
And give the honor to this day,
That sees December turned to May.*

*Why does the chilling winter's morn
Smile, like a field beset with corn?
Or smell like a meadow newly-shorn,
Thus, on the sudden? Come and see
The cause, why things thus fragrant be:
'Tis He is born, whose quickening birth
Gives life and luster, public mirth,
To heaven, and the under-earth.*

*We see him come, and know him ours,
Who, with his sunshine and his showers,
Turns all the patient ground to flowers.
The darling of the world is come,
And fit it is, we find a room
To welcome him. The nobler part
Of all the house here, is the heart.*

*Which we will give him; and bequeath
This holly, and this ivy wreath,
To do him honour, who's our King,
And Lord of all this revelling.*

*What sweeter music can we bring,
Than a carol for to sing
The birth of this our heavenly King?*

Scripture

Luke 2:8-20

Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ 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: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

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

¹⁵ 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.” ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, ¹⁹ and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

Carol

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear, v. 1, 3, 4 (*Blue Hymnal #38*)

(Words: Edmund Hamilton Sears, 1849; Music: Richard Storrs Willis, 1850;
CCLI Song #31078)

It came upon the midnight clear, That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth, To touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, good will to all,
From heav’n’s all-gracious King”:
The world in solemn stillness lay, To hear the angels sing.

And ye, beneath life’s crushing load, Whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way With painful steps and slow,
Look now! for glad and golden hours Come swiftly on the wing:
O rest beside the weary road, And hear the angels sing.

For lo, the days are hastening on, By prophet bards foretold,
When with the ever-circling years Comes round the age of gold;
When peace shall over all the earth Its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world give back the song Which now the angels sing.

Anthem

Sussex Carol

(Words: attrib. Luke Waddinge, Bishop of Ferns, Ireland, published 1684 in “A Smale Garland of Pious and Godly Songs”; Music: tune collected by Cecil Sharp & Ralph Vaughan Williams from Harriet Verall in Monk’s Gate, Sussex, 1919, arr. David Willcocks, 1961)

*On Christmas night, all Christians sing
To hear the news the angels bring:
News of great joy, news of great mirth,
News of our merciful King's birth.*

*Then why should men on earth be so sad,
Since our Redeemer made us glad?*

*When from our sin he set us free,
All for to gain our liberty?*

*When sin departs before his grace,
Then life and health come in its place.
Angels and men with joy may sing,
All for to see the new-born King.*

*All out of darkness we have light
Which made the angels sing this night:
“Glory to God and peace to men.”
Now and forever more, Amen.*

Sermon Light Shining into the Darkness
Rev. Dr. Raymond Hylton, *Senior Pastor*

RESPOND

Offering Invitation

Service of Lights 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.

Lighting of the Christ Candle

On this long, dark night of the birth of Jesus, we have watched and waited for a sign of the joy to come. We have lit the candles of hope, peace, joy, and love in anticipation of the One who will vanquish hate. The good news is here. The child has come. 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. We light the final candle because the light of the world has come to dwell among us, to share in our humanity, and to redeem us from the corrupting powers that would try to swallow us up. Behold, Christ is born.

Passing the Light of Christ & Candlelight Carol

Silent Night, Holy Night (*Blue Hymnal* #60)

(Words: Joseph Mohr, 1818, trans. John Freeman Young, 1863; Music: Franz Xaver Gruber)

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)

(Words: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt; Music: attr. George Frederick Handel, 1742,
arr. Lowell Mason, 1836; 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.

Sending & Benediction

Postlude

Joy to the World

(arr. Joel Raney, b. 1956)

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come; Let earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare Him room, and heav'n and nature sing.*

Today's Worship Service Leaders

Hillary Bayley, Maya Chin, Sara Morrow, Brian Hoffman, String Quartet
Dr. Rebecca Chu, Organist & Pianist
Tina Laughlin, Percussion
Hannah Dixon McConnell, Dir. of Worship, Choir Director
First Presbyterian Chancel Choir

Caryl Weinberg, Confession
Rev. Dr. Raymond Hylton, Senior Pastor, Sermon, Service of Lights
Yemi Ajisebutu, Advent Candle, Scripture Reader
Verna Todd, John Powell, Scripture Reading

Evan Peters, A/V Coordinator, Live Audio
Jim Teague, Director of Communications, Projection
Jacob Collins, A/V Volunteer, Video Switcher
John Carlson & Qin Zhou, A/V Volunteer, Online Chat
Joe Sickles, Building Team

Stephanie Keene, Ushers
Jixun Hu, Greeter

First Pres Announcements

Tonight's Offering - The Christmas Eve Offering will go to our First Friends ministry supporting local refugees. The ministry not only supports them when they first arrive, but also for urgent needs such as help for rent, car repairs, medical needs, and even critical supplies for school and college. As we pray for these friends to know the love and light of Christ, we use these gifts of love to shine the light on God, the giver of all good gifts, who loves them as his children. Please give through the envelope provided in the bulletin or online through the drop-down menu selecting "Christmas Eve Offering – First Friends."

Join us tomorrow morning, Christmas Day, for our 9:30 a.m. celebration worship service in the First Pres Sanctuary!

The church office will be close Monday, December 26, and Tuesday, December 27, in recognition of the Christmas holiday and to allow for vital improvements to the First Pres data network.

Congratulations – We celebrate the birth of Kaia Deborah Klamm, on December 13, 2022. She is the daughter of Scott and Thomani Klamm, sister to Everett, and granddaughter to Kim and Tom Klamm, longtime church members. Scott serves as senior accountant at First Pres.

Year-End Giving - If you choose to make a year-end donation, please prepare your check and mail it so that your envelope is postmarked or received online or in person by the Church Office by December 31 to qualify as a gift in the year 2022. The office is closed on December 26 and December 27. Contributions received in the offertory plate at First Pres on January 1 will be treated as 2023 gifts. Thank you! Your generosity has been a blessing to First Pres throughout this past year. Your continued support allows us to help our church family and spread God's word throughout the world.

2023 Stewardship Campaign – As of last week, the 2023 Stewardship Campaign has received \$792,930 in pledges. This is approximately \$96,000 less than last year's totals pledges. It's never too late to make a pledge! Visit <https://firstpresevanston.org/pledge/> to enter your pledge online. Need help? Contact the church office during office hours at 847-864-1472.

Thank you! - The Board of Deacons gratefully thanks all who supported Prison Fellowship's Angel Tree this Christmas season. We were able to exceed our goal and sponsor 126 children and their families. Merry Christmas and thank you for your generosity!

New Year's Day Worship & Communion Service – Ring in 2023 with worship and communion at our 9:30 a.m. service on January 1!

First Presbyterian Church

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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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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 24, 2022 – 10 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)