



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN EVANSTON

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2022 – 4 p.m.

The Christmas Alphabet

FOCUS

Prelude Away in a Manger/O Come, O Come, Emmanuel/
 We Three Kings
 Jingle Bells
 Bring a Torch, Jeannette Isabella
 Carol of the Bells/God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen

EXALT

Welcome

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Reader: When we are sad, by day or by night, the hope of Christ may be found. We watch and we wait to see 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.)

Reader: When we worry because people are fighting or groups cannot cooperate with each other, 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.)

Reader: 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, because joy has come to us.

(Light the third candle.)

Reader: Love, the mightiest force in all the world, was also gentle enough to inhabit a tiny baby. And Jesus shows us how to love each other. We light the candle of love, because love has come to us.

(Light the fourth candle.)

Reader: 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 birth of Jesus.

All: The good news is here. The child has come. A child has been born for us, a son given to us; he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Call to Worship

Friends, families, and neighbors, do you love the light of the bright sun on your face, source of energy and warmth for the world?

We love the light of the bright sun!

Do you love the coolness of the dark night, sparkling with stars and source of rest for the world?

We love the coolness of the dark night!

Come and worship God, who created the warmth of the day and the coolness of night.

God created the light and the darkness, and we need them both to survive!

Come and see the bright Light who has been born in the deepest darkness.

On the brightest day and darkest night, we are ready to worship!

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

All: Ever-loving God, on regular days we forget about the birth of Jesus. We forget to love you, to love our neighbors, and to love ourselves. We forget we have hope, peace, and joy in Jesus. We forget you are with us, as close as our very breath. Thank you for reminding us, thank you for calling us together to celebrate, and thank you for being with us yesterday, today, and forever. Amen.

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

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Friends, even when we forget, God remembers. Even when we get lost or wander off, Jesus calls us back to safety. Because of God's great love for us, there is always forgiveness and restoration to be found.

Passing the Peace of Christ

ENCOUNTER

Alphabet Christmas Story – Introduction and A through E

Carol

O Little Town of Bethlehem, v. 1, 2, 4 (*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.

For Christ is born of Mary; And gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep Their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together Proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King, And peace to all on earth.

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!

Alphabet Christmas Story – F through G

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

(Words & Music: French carol, trans. James Chadwick, 1813-1882, alt.,

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 heavenly 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.

Alphabet Christmas Story – H through J

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.

Alphabet Christmas Story – K through M

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

(Words: stanzas 1-2, "Little Children's Book for Schools & Families," c. 1885, stanza 3, John Thomas McFarland, 1892; Music: attr. James R. Murray, 1887; CCLI Song #38583)

Away in a manger, no crib for a 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**Carol***Go, Tell it on the Mountain (Blue Hymnal #29)*

*(Words & Music: African American Spiritual, arr. & stanzas by John W. Work III, 1940, harm.
& adapt. Melva Wilson Costen, 1987; CCLI Song #29080)*

Go tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and ev'rywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light.

Go tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and ev'rywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born!

The shepherds feared and trembled
When lo! above the earth,
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed the Savior's birth.

Go tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and ev'rywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born!

Down in a lowly manger
The humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn.

Go tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and ev'rywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born!

RESPOND

Sharing of Tithes and Offerings

Carol

We Three Kings, v. 1, 5 (*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 night, 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 night, Star with royal beauty bright;
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light!

Doxology

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow (*Blue Hymnal* #592)

(*Words: Thomas Ken, 1695, 1709; Music: Genevan Psalter, 1551; CCLI Song #56204*)

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

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

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; 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)

*(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

Mary, Did You Know

*(Words & Music: Buddy Greene & Mark Lowry, 1991,
arr. Crofton Coleman, handbell arr. ed. Pam Pettibone, 2022; CCLI Song #839225)*

*Mary did you know That your baby boy Would one day walk on
water? Mary did you know That your baby boy Would save our sons
and daughters? Did you know That your baby boy Has come to make
you new? This Child that you delivered Will soon deliver you.*

*Mary did you know That your baby boy Would give sight to the blind
man? Mary did you know That your baby boy Would calm a storm
with His hand? Did you know That your baby boy Has walked where
angels trod, And when you kiss your little baby You've kissed the face
of God? Oh, Mary did you know?*

*The blind will see, The deaf will hear, The dead will live again; The
lame will leap, The dumb will speak The praises of the Lamb.*

*Mary did you know That your baby boy Is Lord of all creation? Mary
did you know That your baby boy Will one day rule the nations? Did
you know That your baby boy Is heaven's perfect Lamb, And the
sleeping Child you're holding Is the great I Am.*

(Today's "The Christmas Alphabet" script was originally adapted by Rev. Lorrin Radzik from Rev. Erin Klaussen's liturgy. It is used here at First Pres by permission. More information is available at <http://youngclergywomen.org/the-abcs-of-christmas-a-worship-service/>)

Today's Worship Service Leaders

Gracie Hu, Sarah Hu, Matthew Shiau, Hannah McLeod, Oliver Jenta, Prelude

Hannah Dixon McConnell, Dir. of Worship, Organist & Pianist, Vocals

Carl Alexander, Vocals

Yuriy Geyer, Violin

Crofton Coleman, Worship Band Director, Piano, Vocals; **Tina Laughlin,** Percussion

Hannah Dixon McConnell, Dir. of Worship

Karen, Matt, and Peter McLeod, Chancel Bells

Rev. Amanda Golbek, Minister of Children & Youth, Welcome, Alphabet Christmas Story, Sending & Benediction

Evan Peters, A/V Coordinator, Live Audio

Jim Teague, Director of Communications, Video Switcher

Noah McLeod, Projection

John Carlson & Qin Zhou, A/V Volunteer, Online Chat

Joe Sickles, Building Team

Stephanie Keene, Ushers

Paul Haase, Greeter

First Pres Announcements

Our Christmas special offering is being taken to support the First Friends refugee

Today'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.

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!

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 years 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.

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

1427 Chicago Avenue, Evanston, IL 60201

(847) 864-1472 Fax:(847) 864-1494

E-mail address: info@firstpresevanston.org

www.firstpresevanston.org

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.

Texts in today's service are reproduced by permission from the following: Presbyterian Hymnal: Hymns, Psalms, and Spiritual Songs. Copyright 1990. Westminster/John Knox Press, CCLI License #253526. OneLicense #A-804550.

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 – 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)