



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN EVANSTON

# Christmas Eve

December 24, 2022 – 4 p.m.

*The Christmas Alphabet*

## FOCUS

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**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

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### 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**

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### **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!

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## **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!

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### **First Presbyterian Church**

**1427 Chicago Avenue, Evanston, IL 60201**

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

**E-mail address: [info@firstpresevanston.org](mailto:info@firstpresevanston.org)**

**[www.firstpresevanston.org](http://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.*

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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 – 4 p.m.

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Your Name

---

Family members' names/ages

---

Street Address, City, State, Zip

---

Phone:     Cell         Home

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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)*