



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN EVANSTON

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.*

December 11, 2022 – 9:30 a.m.

Third Sunday of Advent

Lessons and Carols

FOCUS

Prelude

Still, Still, Still

(Music: arr. Mark Hayes)

*Still, still, still, One can hear the falling snow, For all is hushed,
The world is sleeping, Holy star, its vigil keeping. Still, still, still,
One can hear the falling snow.*

Sleep, sleep, sleep, 'Tis the eve of our Saviour's birth.

The night is peaceful all around You; Close Your eyes, Let sleep surround You.

Sleep, sleep, sleep, 'Tis the eve of our Saviour's birth.

EXALT

Welcome

Lighting the Third Candle of Advent - Joy

First Reader: 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.

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

(The first Advent candle is lit.)

First Reader: 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 us all.

Second Reader: We light the candle of peace, because peace has come to us.

(The second Advent candle is lit.)

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

Second Reader: Today we light the candle of joy, celebrating the good news of a baby to be born in Bethlehem.

(The third Advent candle is lit.)

All: Welcome, joy of Christ! Even in times of grief and sorrow, you never forsake us or leave us alone. Fill our hearts with joy today.

Come Light our Hearts

(Words & Music: Sandra McCracken, 2015; CCLI Song #7054135)

For You O Lord our souls in stillness wait

For You O Lord our souls in stillness wait

Truly our hope is in You

Truly our hope is in You

O Lord of life, our only hope,

Your radiance shines

On all who look to You in the dark,

Emmanuel, come, come light our hearts.

Reader: Keep watch! Look up! For soon the heavenly host will appear and proclaim the good news of Jesus' birth!

All: We watch for the light and listen for the voice of God's messengers today, and every day.

Do not be afraid! God's messengers proclaim good news of great joy for all people.

We gather like shepherds and sheep in a field, waiting for the good news of great joy.

In the darkest of nights and brightest of days we watch and we wait.
Good news is on the way.

Come, let us worship!

Opening Hymn

Watchman, Tell Us of the Night (*Blue #20*)

(Words: John Bowring, 1825, alt. 1972; Music: Joseph Parry; CCLI Song #528787)

Watchman, tell us of the night,
What its signs of promise are.

***Traveler, o'er yon mountain's height,
See that glory-beaming star.***

Watchman, does its beauteous ray
Aught of joy or hope foretell?

***Traveler, yes, it brings the day,
Promised day of Israel.***

Watchman, tell us of the night,
Higher yet that star ascends.

***Traveler, blessedness and light,
Peace and truth its course portends.***

Watchman, will its beams alone
Gild the spot that gave them birth?

***Traveler, ages are its own;
See, it bursts o'er all the earth.***

Watchman, tell us of the night,
For the morning seems to dawn.

***Traveler, darkness takes its flight,
Doubt and terror are withdrawn.***

Watchman, let your wand'rings cease;
Hasten to your quiet home.

***Traveler, lo, the Prince of Peace,
Lo, the Son of God is come!***

Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Pardon

All: Light of the World, you are holy.

Shadow of Safety, you are powerful and mighty.

**Just as you guided Israel as a pillar of fire at day
and a pillar of cloud at night, you guide us through darkness
and light.**

**And you guided Jesus, from his incarnation in Bethlehem,
through his baptism, temptation, and ministry,
even as he prepared for pain and loss.**

**We confess once again we are humans,
imperfect in our love for one another, and unjust with the
power you grant us.**

As we approach you today, set us right again.

Orient us to walk towards you, in the love and justice of heaven.

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

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: In remembrance of the Light of the World, Jesus Christ,
we gather to worship today with hope and expectation,
confident that through the incarnation of Jesus, his birth, life,
death, and resurrection, we are made whole in You.

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

Hymn of Response

While We Are Waiting, Come

*(The Celebration Hymnal # 760; Words: Claire Cloninger, 1986; Music: Don Cason, 1986;
CCLI Song #27525)*

While we are waiting, come;
While we are waiting, come;
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel,
While we are waiting, come.

With pow'r and glory come;
With pow'r and glory come;
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel,
While we are waiting, come.

Come, Savior, quickly come;
Come, Savior, quickly come;
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel,
While we are waiting, come.

ENCOUNTER

Children's Moment

Passing the Peace of Christ

Scripture

Exodus 12:40-41; 13:21-22; 14:5-14, 19-31; 15:1-18, 21

⁴⁰ The time that the Israelites had lived in Egypt was four hundred thirty years. ⁴¹ At the end of four hundred thirty years, on that very day, all the companies of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt.

²¹ The LORD went in front of them in a pillar of cloud by day, to lead them along the way, and in a pillar of fire by night, to give them light, so that they might travel by day and by night. ²² Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people.

⁵ When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled, the minds of Pharaoh and his officials were changed toward the people, and they said, “What have we done, letting Israel leave our service?”

⁶ So he had his chariot made ready and took his army with him; ⁷ he took six hundred elite chariots and all the other chariots of Egypt with officers over all of them. ⁸ The LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he pursued the Israelites, who were going out boldly. ⁹ The Egyptians pursued them, all Pharaoh’s horses and chariots, his chariot drivers and his army; they overtook them camped by the sea, by Pi-hahiroth, in front of Baal-zephon.

¹⁰ As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the LORD. ¹¹ They said to Moses, “Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? ¹² Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, ‘Let us alone so that we can serve the Egyptians’? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.” ¹³ But Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the LORD will accomplish for you today, for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. ¹⁴ The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to keep still.”

¹⁹ The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them, and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. ²⁰ It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

²¹ Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and turned the sea into dry land, and the waters were divided. ²² The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. ²³ The Egyptians pursued and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. ²⁴ At the morning watch the LORD, in the pillar of fire and cloud, looked down on the Egyptian army and threw the Egyptian army into a panic. ²⁵ He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

²⁶ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." ²⁷ So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. ²⁸ The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. ²⁹ But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

³⁰ Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. ³¹ Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD:

**“I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously;
horse and rider he has thrown into the sea.**

**²The LORD is my strength and my might,
and he has become my salvation;
this is my God, and I will praise him;
my father’s God, and I will exalt him.**

**³The LORD is a warrior;
the LORD is his name.**

**⁴Pharaoh’s chariots and his army he cast into the sea;
his elite officers were sunk in the Red Sea.**

**⁵The floods covered them;
they went down into the depths like a stone.**

**⁶Your right hand, O LORD, glorious in power—
your right hand, O LORD, shattered the enemy.**

**⁷In the greatness of your majesty you overthrew your adversaries;
you sent out your fury; it consumed them like stubble.**

**⁸At the blast of your nostrils the waters piled up;
the floods stood up in a heap;
the deeps congealed in the heart of the sea.**

**⁹The enemy said, ‘I will pursue; I will overtake;
I will divide the spoil; my desire shall have its fill of them.
I will draw my sword; my hand shall destroy them.’**

**¹⁰You blew with your wind; the sea covered them;
they sank like lead in the mighty waters.**

**¹¹Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods?
Who is like you, majestic in holiness,
awesome in splendor, doing wonders?**

**¹²You stretched out your right hand;
the earth swallowed them.**

¹³ In your steadfast love you led the people whom you redeemed;
you guided them by your strength to your holy abode.

¹⁴ **The peoples heard; they trembled;
pangs seized the inhabitants of Philistia.**

¹⁵ Then the chiefs of Edom were dismayed;
trembling seized the leaders of Moab;
all the inhabitants of Canaan melted away.

¹⁶ **Terror and dread fell upon them;
by the might of your arm, they became still as a stone
until your people, O LORD, passed by,
until the people whom you acquired passed by.**

¹⁷ You brought them in and planted them on the mountain of your
own possession,
the place, O LORD, that you made your abode,
the sanctuary, O LORD, that your hands have established.

¹⁸ **The LORD will reign forever and ever.”**

**“Sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously;
horse and rider he has thrown into the sea.”**

Hymn of Response

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah, v. 1-2 (*Blue #281*)

*(Celebration Hymnal #682; Words: William Williams, 1745, tr. Peter Williams, 1771, and
W.W., 1772; Music: John Hughes, 1907; CCLI Song #1448)*

Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah,
Pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but Thou art mighty;
Hold me with Thy pow'rful hand;
Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven,
Feed me till I want no more,
Feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain,
Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through;
Strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer,
Be Thou still my strength and shield,
Be Thou still my strength and shield.

Scripture

1 Samuel 1:1a, 2-3a, 4-20, 24-28, 2:1-10

There was a certain man of Ramathaim, a Zuphite from the hill country of Ephraim, whose name was Elkanah. ² He had two wives; the name of one was Hannah, and the name of the other Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children.

³ Now this man used to go up year by year from his town to worship and to sacrifice to the LORD of hosts at Shiloh. ⁴ On the day when Elkanah sacrificed, he would give portions to his wife Peninnah and to all her sons and daughters, ⁵ but to Hannah he gave a double portion because he loved her, though the LORD had closed her womb. ⁶ Her rival used to provoke her severely, to irritate her, because the LORD had closed her womb. ⁷ So it went on year by year; as often as she went up to the house of the LORD, she used to provoke her. Therefore Hannah wept and would not eat. ⁸ Her husband Elkanah said to her, “Hannah, why do you weep? Why do you not eat? Why is your heart sad? Am I not more to you than ten sons?”

⁹ After they had eaten and drunk at Shiloh, Hannah rose and presented herself before the LORD. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat beside the doorpost of the temple of the LORD. ¹⁰ She was deeply distressed and prayed to the LORD and wept bitterly. ¹¹ She made this vow: “O LORD of hosts, if only you will look on the misery

of your servant and remember me and not forget your servant but will give to your servant a male child, then I will set him before you as a nazirite until the day of his death. He shall drink neither wine nor intoxicants, and no razor shall touch his head.”

¹² As she continued praying before the LORD, Eli observed her mouth. ¹³ Hannah was praying silently; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard; therefore Eli thought she was drunk. ¹⁴ So Eli said to her, “How long will you make a drunken spectacle of yourself? Put away your wine.” ¹⁵ But Hannah answered, “No, my lord, I am a woman deeply troubled; I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have been pouring out my soul before the LORD. ¹⁶ Do not regard your servant as a worthless woman, for I have been speaking out of my great anxiety and vexation all this time.” ¹⁷ Then Eli answered, “Go in peace; the God of Israel grant the petition you have made to him.” ¹⁸ And she said, “Let your servant find favor in your sight.” Then the woman went her way and ate and drank with her husband, and her countenance was sad no longer.

¹⁹ They rose early in the morning and worshiped before the LORD; then they went back to their house at Ramah. Elkanah knew his wife Hannah, and the LORD remembered her. ²⁰ In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, “I have asked him of the LORD.”

²⁴ When she had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine. She brought him to the house of the LORD at Shiloh, and the child was young. ²⁵ Then they slaughtered the bull and brought the child to Eli. ²⁶ And she said, “Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence praying to the LORD. ²⁷ For this child I prayed, and the LORD has granted me the petition that I made to him. ²⁸ Therefore I have lent him to the LORD; as long as he lives, he is given to the LORD.” And they worshiped the LORD there.

Hannah prayed and said,
“My heart exults in the LORD;
my strength is exalted in my God.

**My mouth derides my enemies
because I rejoice in your victory.**

² There is no Holy One like the LORD,
no one besides you;
there is no Rock like our God.

³ **Talk no more so very proudly;
let not arrogance come from your mouth,**

for the LORD is a God of knowledge,
and by him actions are weighed.

⁴ **The bows of the mighty are broken,
but the feeble gird on strength.**

⁵ Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread,
but those who were hungry are fat with spoil.

**The barren has borne seven,
but she who has many children is forlorn.**

⁶ The LORD kills and brings to life;
he brings down to Sheol and raises up.

⁷ **The LORD makes poor and makes rich;
he brings low; he also exalts.**

⁸ He raises up the poor from the dust;
he lifts the needy from the ash heap

**to make them sit with princes
and inherit a seat of honor.**

For the pillars of the earth are the LORD's,
and on them he has set the world.

⁹ **He will guard the feet of his faithful ones,
but the wicked will perish in darkness,
for not by might does one prevail.**

¹⁰ The LORD! His adversaries will be shattered;
the Most High will thunder in heaven.

**The LORD will judge the ends of the earth;
he will give strength to his king
and exalt the power of his anointed.”**

Hymn of Response

When the Lord Redeems the Very Least, v. 1-3

(Glory to God #852; Words: Sylvia G. Dunstan, c. 1991; Music: tune “I’ll Fly Away,” Albert E. Brumley, 1932, arr. Evelyn Simpson-Curenton, c. 2001; One License Song #29001

When the Lord redeems the very least, we will rejoice.
When the hungry gather for the feast, we will rejoice.

We will rejoice with gladness. We will rejoice.
All our days we’ll sing to God in praise. We will rejoice!

When the Lord restores the sick and weak, we will rejoice.
When the earth is given to the meek, we will rejoice.

We will rejoice with gladness. We will rejoice.
All our days we’ll sing to God in praise. We will rejoice!

When the Lord revives the world from death, we will rejoice.
When the word of God fills every breath, we will rejoice.

We will rejoice with gladness. We will rejoice.
All our days we’ll sing to God in praise. We will rejoice!

Scripture

Luke 1:26-48

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name

was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶ And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her. ³⁹ In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰ where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴² and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³ And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴ For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

⁴⁶ And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ **for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.**

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed.

Magnificat, I. *Magnificat anima mea Dominum*

(Music: John Rutter, 1991)

Magnificat anima mea Dominum:

[My soul magnifies the Lord,]

Et exsultavit spiritus meus in Deo salutari meo.

[and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,]

Quia respexit humilitatem ancillae suae:

[for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.]

Ecce enim ex hoc beatam me dicent omnes generationes.

[Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed.]

Scripture

Luke 1:48-50

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me,

and holy is his name.

50 His mercy is for those who fear him

from generation to generation.

Magnificat, IV. *Et misericordia*

(Music: John Rutter, 1991)

Et misericordia eius a progenie in progenies

[His mercy, from generation to generation,]

timentibus eum.

[is for those who fear him.]

Scripture

Luke 1:51-55

51 He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

**52 He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;**

53 he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.

**54 He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,**

**55 according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”**

Magnificat, VI. *Esurientes*

(Music: John Rutter, 1991)

Esurientes implevit bonis: et divites inanes.

[He has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.]

Suscepit Israel puerum suum, recordatus misericordiae suae.

[He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,]

Sicut locutus est ad patres nostros, Abraham et semini eius in saecula.

[according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.]

Magnificat, VII. *Gloria Patri*

(Music: John Rutter, 1991)

Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto.

[Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.]

Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, et in saecula saeculorum.

[As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.] *Amen.*

RESPOND

Sharing of Tithes and Offerings

Offering Prayer & Doxology

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow (*Blue Hymnal* #592)
(*The Celebration Hymnal* #815; 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.

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

Of the Father's Love Begotten

(*Glory to God Hymnal* #108; *Celebration Hymnal* #240; tune "Divinum Mysterium" in *Blue Hymnal* #309; Words: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 5th c., transl. John Mason Neale, 1854, alt, and Henry Williams Baker, 1859, alt.; Music: Plainsong, Mode V; harm. C. Winfred Douglas, 1940; CCLI Song #4780029)

Of the Father's love begotten, Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega; He the source, the ending He,
Of the things that are, that have been,
And that future years shall see, Evermore and evermore!

O that birth forever blessed When the Virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving, Bare the Saviour of our race,
And the babe, the world's Redeemer,
First revealed His sacred face, Evermore and evermore!

This is He whom seers in old time Chanted of with one accord,
Whom the voices of the prophets Promised in their faithful word.
Now He shines, the long-expected.
Let creation praise its Lord, Evermore and evermore!

Christ, to Thee with God the Father, And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee,
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving And unwearied praises be.
Honor, glory, and dominion,
And eternal victory, Evermore and evermore! Amen.

Sending & Benediction

Postlude

Fum, Fum, Fum

(Traditional Catalan Christmas Carol, arr. Mark Hayes)

*On December five and twenty, Fum, fum, fum... For a Blessed Babe was born
Upon this day at break of morn. In a manger poor and lowly Lay the Son of God
most holy, Fum, fum, fum...*

Today's Worship Service Leaders

Dr. Rebecca Chu, Organist & Pianist

Carol Smith, Piano, Prelude & Postlude

Hannah McLeod, Flute; **Steve Mason**, Oboe; **Christie Miller**, Clarinet; **Matt Baker**, Trumpet; **Emma Shaw**, Horn

Pascal Innocenti, Hillary Bailey, Sara Morrow, Brian Hoffman, String Quartet

Tina Laughlin & Paul Ross, Percussion

Chancel Choir: Alyce Claerbaut, Julia Coll, Darshaya Oden°, Beth Rice, Annette Stover, Kay Sugaira, Sopranos; **Pam Pettibone, Leila Raab, Madison Rice°, Carol Smith, Julianna Smith°, Carol Surma, Judy Taylor, Anne Van Heukelem**, Altos; **Maximiliano Illanes°, Jiheun Kang, Clark Robinson, Dave Taylor**, Tenors; **Tom Alrich, Paul Koch°, John MacDonald**, Basses
Hannah Dixon McConnell, Dir. of Worship, Choir Director

Rev. Dr. Raymond Hylton, Senior Pastor, Welcome, Scripture Reading, Prayers of the People, Sending & Benediction

Steve & Janice Fuller, Lighting the Advent Candle

Caryl Weinberg, Dir. Of Mission, Confession

Rev. Amanda Golbek, Minister of Children & Youth, Children's Moment & Peace

RuthAnn Ostrowski, Mike Denesha, Olga Ricketts-Peart, Sonia Bodi, Judith Hylton, Richard Bell, Jerry Gabrielse, Hannah McLeod, Alyce Claerbaut, Carol Smith, Scripture Readings

Evan Peters, A/V Coordinator, Live Audio

Kristen Collins, A/V Volunteer, Projection

Jacob Collins, A/V Volunteer, Video Switcher

John Carlson, A/V Volunteer, Online Chat

Qin Zhou, A/V Volunteer, Online Chat

Joe Sickles, Building Team

Bob Hecker & Sharon Smith, Ushers

Sonia Bodi, Greeter

Bob Bastian & Marilyn Haase, Prayer Companion

Christian Education & Childcare

The Nursery will be open from 9:30 a.m. to noon.

Youth/Children's classes meet from 11 a.m.-noon.

Kindergarten thru 4th grade meets in the 3rd Floor East Room.

5th thru 7th grade meets in the 3rd Floor Center Room.

8th thru 12th grade meets in Room 206.

Adult Education – Today at 11:15 a.m.

“The Church's Song” All-Church Adult Ed meets in the Sanctuary.

First Pres Announcements

Fellowship time TODAY in Roy Hall – Join us today after the service in our 2nd Floor gym for fellowship time hosted by the Deacons.

TODAY is the final day to register for the Christmas Pageant – All youth and children aged 3 years and older are invited to join in a wonderful retelling of the nativity scripture. The Pageant will take place Sunday, December 18 during the worship service with reading parts, acting parts, and video/slide opportunities. *A mandatory rehearsal will take place December 17 from 9 a.m.-noon.* Visit <http://firstpresevanston.org/pageant-2022> to register!

Angel Tree sponsorship commitments needed TODAY – Sponsor an Angel in Prison Fellowship's 'Virtual' Angel Tree. Angel Tree connects parents in prison with their child and shares the love of God. Sponsorships provide a gift package with a prepaid gift card, a personal message from the incarcerated parent, an age appropriate Gospel message, and an opportunity to request a Bible. The Deacons have created sponsorship opportunities for 85 Angels and their families this year. Please make your commitment ASAP and help every child experience the love and hope of Christ this Christmas. For details, visit <http://firstpresevanston.org/angel-tree-2022>.

Gingerbread House Decorating today – A reminder to those who have registered that our annual Gingerbread house decorating extravaganza will take place today from 3-5 p.m. in Roy Hall!

Blue Christmas Service Wednesday, 7 p.m. in the Parlor – For many, Christmas is not a time of joy and celebration, but rather a time of grieving. The loss and isolation of the pandemic have intensified many of these feelings. Join us as we gather in a guided time of lifting these struggles and concerns to God, who delights in drawing near and giving us comfort. A web link for those who wish to attend remotely will be provided the week of the event.

Family-friendly child-focused Christmas Eve service! – All families are invited to join us for an interactive service at 4 p.m. on Christmas Eve! We will channel all the childhood excitement into retelling the story of Christ's birth with parts of the service designed for kids to actively participate in sharing the story. This is a great service for parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, and children of all ages to attend to celebrate the coming of Christmas!

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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 11, 2022

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)