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 18, 2022 – 9:30 a.m.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

FOCUS

Prelude

O Magnum Mysterium
(Music: Tomás Luis De Victoria, d. 1611)

O great mystery, and wonderful sacrament, that beasts should see the newborn Lord, lying in a manger. O blessed virgin, in whose womb was carried the Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia!

Ave Maria
(Music: Franz Biebl, 1959)

The Angel of the Lord announced to Mary, and she conceived by the Holy Spirit. “Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus Christ.” Mary said: “Behold, the handmaiden of the Lord. May it be unto me according to thy word.” And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us. “Hail, Mary...”
Welcome

Lighting the Fourth Candle of Advent - Love
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.
Reader: We light the candle of hope, because hope has come to us. *(Light the first candle.)*
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 all.
Reader: 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.
Reader: We light the candle of joy, celebrating the good news of a baby to be born in Bethlehem. *(Light the third candle.)*
Reader: 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.
Reader: 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: Welcome, love of Christ, which shows us how to care for each other, sacrifice for one another, and fully embrace
ourselves. Expand our capacity to love more like Jesus loved.  
Amen.

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.

Call to Worship  
Leader: Greetings, and welcome to all who watch and wait for the love of Christ to find us here and now.  
All: Christ's love dwells among us, between us, around us, and through us.  
Leader: Come and find love in the light of salvation and darkness of rest!  
All: God made both light and darkness because God loves us.  
Leader: Come and find love in the light of salvation! Ready your soul to be filled with good things as we gather to worship the living God.  
All: We are ready. Let us worship in spirit, in word, and in song.

Opening Carol  
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel  

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!
O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer  
Our spirits by Thine advent here;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death’s dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Desire of nations, bind All people in one heart and mind.  
Bid envy, strife, and quarrels cease;  
Fill the whole world with heaven’s peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

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

Prayer of Confession & 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.  
(People offer their own silent prayers to the Lord.)
Assurance of Pardon
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. Alleluia! Amen.

Passing the Peace of Christ

ENCOUNTER

Carol

Once in Royal David’s City

(Words: Cecil Francis 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, the mean, 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 heaven above.
And He leads His children on To the place where He is gone.

Scripture

Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what
sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. 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. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” 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. 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. For nothing will be impossible with God.” 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.

Carol
Canticle of the Turning

(Words: Rory Cooney, based on the Magnificat, Luke 1:46-55; Music: Irish Traditional: One License Song #762)

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**  
Matthew 1:18-24

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”). When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary as his wife.
What Child is this, who, laid to rest On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?

This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing.
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The Babe, the Son of Mary.

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh,
Come peasant, king, to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings, Let loving hearts enthrone Him.

Raise, raise a song on high, The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The Babe, the Son of Mary.

This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing.
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The Babe, the Son of Mary.

Nails, spears shall pierce Him through,
The cross He bore for me, for you.
Hail, hail, the Word made flesh, The Babe, the Son of Mary.
In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. 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. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 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 for them in the inn.

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.
In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 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: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” 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.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

**Carol**

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

*(Words: Charles Wesley, T. Whitefield, M. Madan ; Music: Felix Mendelssohn, descant by David Willcocks, 1961; CCLI Song #27738)*

Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King.
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies,
With th'angelic hosts proclaim,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.
Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King.
Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold Him come
Offspring of the Virgin's womb:
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail th'incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with men to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King.

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Ris'n with healing in His wings;
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King.

**Scripture**

Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea.” Then Herod secretly called for the wise
men… and sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.”

When [the wise men] had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

**Carol**

*The First Nowell*

*Words & Music: English Traditional Carol, arr. David Willcocks, 1961; CCLI Song #7123432*

The first Nowell the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep:
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Born is the King of Israel!

They looked up and saw a star,
Shining in the east beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night:
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Born is the King of Israel!

And by the light of that same star,
Three wise men came from country far;
To seek for a king was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went:
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Born is the King of Israel!

Then enter’d in those wise men three,
Full rev’rently upon their knee,
And offer’d there in his presence
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense:
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Born is the King of Israel!

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heav’nly Lord,
That hath made heav’n and earth of naught,
And with his blood mankind hath bought:
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Born is the King of Israel!

**Meditation**    Rev. Dr. Raymond Hylton, *Senior Pastor*

**RESPOND**

**Offering Invitation**

**Anthem**    Winter Snow

*(Words & Music: Audrey Assad, 2009; CCLI Song #5592031)*

*You could've come like a mighty storm,*
*With all the strength of a hurricane.*
*You could've come like a forest fire,*
*With the power of heaven in Your flame.*
But You came like a winter snow,
Quiet, and soft, and slow,
Falling from the sky in the night To the earth below.

You could've swept in like a tidal wave,
Or in an ocean to ravish our hearts.
You could've come through like a roaring flood
To wipe away the things we've scarred.

But You came like a winter snow,
You were quiet, You were soft and slow,
Falling from the sky in the night To the earth below.

No, Your voice wasn't in a bush burning.
No, Your voice wasn't in a rushing wind.
It was still, it was small, it was hidden.

Oh, You came like a winter snow,
Quiet, and soft, and slow,
Falling from the sky in the night
To the earth below.

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
Carol of Response

In the Bleak Midwinter (Blue Hymnal #36, v. 1, 2, 4)
(Words: Christina Rossetti, c. 1872, alt.; Music: Gustav Theodore Holst, 1906; CCLI Song #294736)

In the bleak midwinter, Frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, Snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, Long ago.

Our God, heav'n cannot hold Him, Nor earth sustain;
Heav'n and earth shall flee away When He comes to reign:
In the bleak midwinter A stable-place sufficed
The Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ.

What can I give Him, Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
Yet what can I give Him: Give my heart.

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 Carol  
O Come, All Ye Faithful  
(Words: John Francis Wade, c. 1740-1743, transl. Frederick Oakley, 1841;  
Music: JFW, 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!  

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
O 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!

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to Thee be glory given.  
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!

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

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

Sending & Benediction
Postlude

What Child is This

(Words: William Chatterton Dix, c. 1871; Music: English Ballad, 16th century, arr. Chris Tomlin, Dan Galbraith, Jared Haschek, 2015. CCLI Song #7050422)
Today's Worship Service Leaders
Bethany Vaughan, Romel Sims, Emma Shaw, Sean Keenan, Kevin van Harrison, Brass Quintet; Morgan Crocker, Clarinet
Carol Smith, Pianist
Crofton Coleman, Worship Band Director, Piano, Vocals; Bryan Carmody, Vocals; Erwin Yasukawa, Bass; Waldo Ocana, Drums; Tina Laughlin, Percussion
First Presbyterian Chancel Choir & Friends

Rev. Amanda Golbek, Welcome, Sending & Benediction, Children’s Pageant Director
Rev. Dr. Raymond Hylton, Senior Pastor, Meditation
Tuah, Amanda, & Oliver Jenta, Advent Candle

Jim Teague, Director of Communications, Video Switcher
Noah McLeod, A/V Volunteer, Live Audio
Mike Campbell, Projection
John Carlson & Qin Zhou, A/V Volunteer, Online Chat
Joe Sickles, Building Team

Tony Brown, Carol Clanton, Marcia Smith, Ushers
Kaci Smith, Greeter
Yemi Ajisebutu & Bob Bastian, Prayer Companion

Christian Education & Childcare
The Nursery will be open from 9 a.m. to noon.
Youth/Children’s classes meet from 11 a.m.-noon.
  Preschool–7th grade meets in the Choir room for a birthday party for Jesus! We will enjoy a special treat, play games, and celebrate the gift of Jesus’ coming into the world.
  8th–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 for the final time in the series.

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.

Angel Tree sponsorship commitments needed ASAP– Angel Tree’s goal is to connect parents in prison with their child, and in that connection to show and share the love of God. Your contribution will provide a gift package that includes a prepaid gift card, a personal message from the 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. As of now, 55 children have been generously sponsored, but 30 children remain! We ask that commitments be made ASAP so gifts can be delivered in time for Christmas. For details, visit http://firstpresevanston.org/angel-tree-2022.
First Pres Christmas Pageant
& Carol Sing
December 18, 2022

Oliver Jenta and family
Advent Candle Lighting

CAST
(In alphabetical order by last name)

Nathaniel Allen  Kendall Crocker  Gracie Hu
Audrey Baxa    Zoey Donovan    Sarah Hu
Colton Baxa    Isla Fergus    Abigail Jackson
Matthew Bodan  Caden Furlow    Hannah McLeod
Collin Bodan   Carinna Furlow   Abby Stevenson
Claire Carmody Poppy Haase    Thomas Stevenson
Abby Collins  Harper Haase    Lana Swan
Maddie Collins Ash Hardin
Morgan Crocker Scarlett Hardin

Audio-Visual Volunteers
Max Hardin
Spencer Jacobson
Peter McLeod
Matthew Shiau
Nathan Shiau
Join us for our Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Services, all in-person & online!

Christmas Eve Family Service – Saturday, 4 p.m.
Child-focused and interactive!

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – Saturday, 10 p.m.

Christmas Day Worship Service – Sunday, 9:30 a.m.

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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.

_____________________ ____________________
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)