



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN EVANSTON

Christmas Day

December 25, 2022 – 9:30 a.m.

The Nativity of Jesus Christ

FOCUS

Prelude

Away in a Manger/He is Born

*(Music: James R. Murray/French Carol;
arr. Patricia Sanders Cota, 1994, 2000)*

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus lay down his sweet head. The stars in the sky looked down where He lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay./He is born, the Heav'nly Child, Oboes play; set bagpipes sounding. He is born, the Heav'nly Child, Let all sing His nativity.

In Dulci Jubilo, BuxWV 197

(Dietrich Buxtehude, 1637-1707)

In dulci jubilo [In sweet joy] Let us our homage show. Our heart's joy reclineth In praesepio [in a manger], And like a bright star shineth Matris in gremio [in his mother's lap].

Alpha es et O [He is Alpha and Omega].

EXALT

Welcome

Opening Hymn

O Come, All Ye Faithful

*(Words: John Francis Wade, c. 1740, transl. Frederick Oakeley, 1841; Music: J.F.W, harm.
"The English Hymnal," 1906, arr. David Willcocks, 1961; CCLI Song #31054)*

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!

God of God, light of light,
Lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God, begotten, not created:
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!
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God 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 all 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!

Prayer of Confession

All: God, who has chosen us before we ever were, we confess how we have heard your Word, but we struggle to see you and to allow you to transform us by your grace and truth of your Son. Help us to accept the life your Son freely offers us, To release our despair and grasp your hope, To leave our loneliness and enter your fellowship, To run away from power and might and to pursue your peace, To know that we cannot save ourselves, and to live into your forgiveness. Forgive us, God of promises. As we celebrate the birth of your Son this morning, coming to dwell with us as a completely dependent baby, we acknowledge how utterly dependent we are on you: for life, for hope, for love. All these, and more, you give to us in your Word of Truth and your Child of Grace, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Help us to see him anew and aright this Christmas morning.

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

Anthem of Confession

Sweet Little Jesus Boy

(Words & Music: Robert MacGimsey, 1934, arr. Dr. Robert A. Harris, 1993)

*Sweet little Jesus boy, they made you be born in a manger,
Sweet little holy child, didn't know who you was.
Didn't know you'd come to save us, Lord, to take our sins away;
Our eyes was blind, we couldn't see, we didn't know who you was.
Long time ago, you was born in a manger low, sweet little Jesus boy.
Just seem like we can't do right. Just look how we treated you,
But please, Sir, forgive us Lord, we didn't know it was you.
Sweet little Jesus boy, born long time ago,
Sweet little holy child, and we didn't know who you was.*

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: This is God's good news: wherever we have wandered, God gathers us up and brings us home; whatever we have done, God forgives us; whoever we are, we are God's child, enveloped in God's love.

All: Blessed be our God, who gives us voices to sing our joy and who sets our feet dancing in praise. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.

ENCOUNTER

Children's Moment

Passing the Peace of Christ

Scripture

John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of

God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Sermon

In Praise of a Materialistic Christmas
Rev. Dr. Raymond Hylton, Senior Pastor

RESPOND

Sharing of Tithes and Offerings

Congregational Anthem

The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy

(Words & Music: West Indian Traditional, collected from James Bryce, 1942, adapt. Oswald Dunbar, c. 1950, recorded by Harry Belafonte, 1958; CCLI Song #4756091)

*The virgin Mary had a baby boy,
the virgin Mary had a baby boy,
the virgin Mary had a baby boy,
and they gave him the name of Jesus.*

He come from the glory, he come from the glorious kingdom.
He come from the glory, he come from the glorious kingdom.
Oh, yes! believer! Oh, yes! believer!
He come from the glory, he come from the glorious kingdom.

*The angels sang when the baby born,
the angels sang when the baby born,
the angels sang when the baby born,
and proclaimed Him the Savior Jesus.*

He come from the glory, he come from the glorious kingdom.
He come from the glory, he come from the glorious kingdom.
Oh, yes! believer! Oh, yes! believer!
He come from the glory, he come from the glorious kingdom.

*The wise men saw where the baby born,
the wise men saw where the baby born,
the wise men went where the baby born,
and they said that his name was Jesus.*

He come from the glory, he come from the glorious kingdom.
He come from the glory, he come from the glorious kingdom.
Oh, yes! believer! Oh, yes! believer!
He come from the glory, he come from the glorious kingdom.

*They saw the star over Bethlehem,
That glorious star over Bethlehem,
They trailed that star over Bethlehem
To the crib of the child named Jesus.*

He come from the glory, he come from the glorious kingdom.
He come from the glory, he come from the glorious kingdom.
Oh, yes! believer! Oh, yes! believer!
He come from the glory, he come from the glorious kingdom.

*They found a manger in Bethlehem,
A lowly manger in Bethlehem,
And in that manger in Bethlehem,
They worshipped the child named Jesus.*

He come from the glory, he come from the glorious kingdom.
He come from the glory, he come from the glorious kingdom.

Oh, yes! believer! Oh, yes! believer!

He come from the glory, he come from the glorious kingdom.

Offering Prayer & 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.

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

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice (*Blue Hymnal #28*)

(*Words: Medieval Latin, trans. & para. John Mason Neale, 1853, alt;*

Music: tune "In Dulci Jubilo," German folk tune, 14th century, harm. David Hugh Jones, 1953; CCLI Song #85158)

Good Christian friends, rejoice With heart, and soul, and voice;

Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;

Ox and ass before Him bow, And He is in the manger now.

Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice With heart, and soul, and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven's door, And we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice With heart, and soul, and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all To gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Sending & Benediction

Postlude

In Dulci Jubilo, BWV 729
(J.S. Bach, 1685-1750)

Today's Worship Service Leaders

Members of the First Pres Chancel Bells & Chancel Choir

Dr. Robert McConnell, Organ

Crofton Coleman, Worship Band Director, Piano

Hannah Dixon McConnell, Dir. of Worship, Chancel Choir & Chancel Bells Director, Piano

Rev. Dr. Raymond Hylton, Senior Pastor, Welcome, Sermon, Offering Invitation, Sending & Benediction

Caryl Weinberg, Confession & Prayers of the People

Confession adapted from lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com

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

Nelda Hobbs, Scripture Reading

Evan Peters, A/V Coordinator, Live Audio

Jim Teague, Director of Communications, Projection

Jacob Collins, A/V Volunteer, Video Switcher

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

Joe Sickles, Building Team

Stephanie Keene, Marcia Smith, Ushers

Jixun Hu, Greeter

Yemi Ajisebutu & Marilyn Haase, Prayer Companion

First Pres Announcements

Our Christmas special offering is being taken to support the First Friends refugee ministry. Please use the special envelopes included in your bulletin or available from an usher, or designate your online gift for this important outreach to Syrian refugees now living in Chicagoland.

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

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

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

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

2023 Stewardship Campaign – As of last week, the 2023 Stewardship Campaign has received \$792,930 in pledges. This is approximately \$96,000 less than last 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.

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!

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Mission Statement:
***First Presbyterian Church of Evanston
exists to know Christ and to grow in him
as we serve and make disciples in Evanston, the Chicago area,
and the world.***



This QR code will take you to a web page with links for giving and recording your attendance at today's service via the Connect Card.

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Welcome! We're glad you are here. We ask everyone to complete and return this page. Please tear it off from the stapled bulletin, to slip to the offering basket every week.

December 25, 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)