



First Presbyterian Church
OF LAKE FOREST

December 11, 2022
10:30 AM
Third Sunday of Advent

Sending well-equipped disciples of Jesus into the world—compassionate, generous, resilient and wise



Cover by Sanctified Art: "The Courageous Choice" by Lisle Gwynn Garrity, inspired by Matthew 1:18–25

Prayer for Worship

God of joy, each week we come ever closer to you. We feel our hearts quickening with excitement at the approach of Jesus' birth. May our souls magnify you, as Mary's did. May our lives point to yours, as John's did. May we remain patient, listening for your Word and your Spirit, even as we prepare for the Christmas celebration. With hope, peace, joy, and love we pray. Amen.

Prelude

In the Bleak Midwinter
Love Has Come

Gustav Holst, arr. Barry J. Wenger, 2020
French Carol, arr. Barry J. Wenger, 2020

The Welcome

Jesus Christ and our faith community welcome you to worship today.

We are a community that prays for and with one another. If you wish, we invite you to fill out a Joys & Concerns card (in the pew rack) to share your prayer request. If you are a visitor and would like us to get in touch with you, please provide your information on the back of the Joys & Concerns card. An usher will collect them later in the service.

During the service, you are invited to stand as you are able where an asterisk () is printed, and speak or sing in unison all passages in bold.*

Let us take a few moments of silence as we prepare our hearts to worship God.

Introit

Beach Spring

The Sacred Harp, 1844

*Who would think that what was needed to transform and save the earth
might not be a plan or army, proud in purpose, proved in worth?
Who would think, despite derision, that a child should lead the way?
God surprises earth with heaven, coming here on Christmas Day.*

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Leader: As we light the Advent Wreath, we were asked what brings you joy?

Leader: Today we light the candle of joy. May its light remind us of all the good news this season brings. May its light remind us of the many sources of joy in our lives, and may that joy not only draw us closer to one another, but closer to God.

Leader: Family of faith, what brings you joy? Amen.

***Hymn of Praise** NO. 140

Once in Royal David's City

TUNE: IRBY

***The Lord's Prayer** (*unison*)

**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**

Word for Children

Following the Word for Children, preschool through 7th graders may leave for Children's Church. Middle Schoolers are invited to help lead Children's Church or remain in worship. Please pick up your children from room 213.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

**God of mercy,
a million times a day we have the opportunity to be gracious,
to assume the best in others,
to give the benefit of the doubt.
A million times a day we could choose the better way,
but so often we don't.
Fear and greed kick in.
Assumptions and insecurities take the wheel.
Comparison and critique lead the charge.
Forgive us for forgetting that we are descendants of Joseph.
Forgive us for forgetting that grace and mercy are in our blood.
Forgive us for forgetting that all belong to you.
Give us the courage to love even bigger than before,
and the wisdom to choose a better way.
Amen.**

Sung Invocation NO. 82 (stanza 1)

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

TUNE: HYFRYDOL

***Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.***

***Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.***

Assurance of Forgiveness

Leader: Family of faith, hear this good news:
We who have chosen wrong, are given a second chance.
We who have lost our way, are welcomed into community.
We who feel alone, are seen, held, and known.
This is the good news of the gospel.
No matter how many times we choose wrong or lose our way,
God continues to be a God of second chances, community, and love.

People: Thanks be to God! Amen.

*Sung Response NO. 82 (stanza 2)

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

TUNE: HYFRYDOL

***Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.***

***By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.***

*Passing the Peace

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 35:3-6, 8-10

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert.

A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

Lo, How a Rose

Piae cantiones, 1582, arr. Hugo Distler, 1933

*Lo! how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,
of Jesse's lineage coming, as men of old have sung.
It came a flow'ret bright amid the cold of winter,
when half-spent was the night.*

*Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind.
With Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright, she bore to men a Savior,
when half-spent was the night.*

*This flow'r whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air
dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere.
True man, yet very God! From sin and death he saves us
and lightens every load.*

New Testament Reading

Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do 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 as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"We Can Choose a Better Way"

Rev. Clinton G. Roberts

*Hymn of Response NO. 138

Who Would Think That Was What Was Needed

ALTERNATE TUNE: BEACH SPRING

Sharing of our Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayers

Moment for Stewardship

Offering

Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming

arr. Cynthia Dobrinski, 1993



You may give online or fulfill your pledge by scanning the QR code with your mobile phone, or go to firstchurchlf.org/give. Thank you for your generosity!

*Doxology *(unison)*

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

*Closing Prayer *(unison)*

**Mighty and merciful God,
We rejoice and give thanks
that you look upon us with favor
and bless us with grace.
Transform this weary world
according to your promise—
giving power to the weak,
justice to the oppressed,
and food to the hungry,
so that all may sing your praise;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Hymn of Sending *NO. 113*

Angels We Have Heard on High

TUNE: GLORIA

*Benediction

*Benediction Response

The Wilderness and the Solitary Place
Isaiah 35:10

Samuel Sebastian Wesley, 1832

And sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

*Postlude

Ding Dong! Merrily on High

Christopher Tambling

Parts of today's worship liturgy are created by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

WORSHIP NOTES



As you attend worship, use this sheet to help you pay attention and learn. We want you to worship with us by singing to God and listening to the message.

write or draw something you heard in the sermon

Favorite song today was:

What are we learning about God from this passage?

Words you heard but don't know...

Advent



FROM GENERATION
TO GENERATION...

Carols & Candlelight

Wednesday, December 14, 7:00 PM, Sanctuary

Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 18, 10:00 AM, Sanctuary

Longest Night

Wednesday, December 21, 7:00 PM, Sanctuary

Christmas Eve

Saturday, December 24

3:00 PM Family-friendly Candlelight Service

5:00 PM Family-friendly Candlelight Service with Children's Choirs

9:00 PM Traditional Candlelight Service
with Sanctuary Choir, String Quartet, and Communion

Christmas Day

Sunday, December 25

10:00 AM Join us for a Christmas Day celebration with carols!

New Year's Day

Sunday, January 1, Epiphany

10:00 AM Star Sunday Worship with Communion



HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

Friday, December 23: closing at 12:00 PM

Monday, December 26: closed

Friday, December 30: closing at 12:00 PM

Monday, January 2: closed

Coming up...



Caroling with Clint & Christmas Open House

Sunday, December 11

Caroling 3:00 - 5:00 PM, Open House 5:00 - 7:00 PM

Hop on the bus and spread Christmas cheer as we carol to some of our homebound friends. We will end the evening with fellowship and festive treats at the manse for a Christmas Open House!



Carols & Candlelight

Wednesday, December 14, 7:00 PM

Join us in the Sanctuary for an evening of Carols & Candlelight to remind us of the true meaning of the season. We will sing classic carols, hear the Christmas story, and listen to music featuring the musical ensembles of First Pres.



Longest Night

Wednesday, December 21, 7:00 PM

We hope you join us for the Longest Night service in the Sanctuary, a tradition of gathering on the longest night, when there are more hours of darkness than light. It's a time to come together for prayers and laments, to mourn the losses and griefs of the year, to let the tears flow for the hurting places in our lives, as well as for our country and our world.

View our Weekly Schedule of ministries, and find details and Zoom links on our church website: www.firstchurchlf.org/ministries

**Church Website: www.firstchurchlf.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/firstchurchlf
Instagram, Twitter, YouTube: [@firstchurchlf](https://www.instagram.com/firstchurchlf)**

This Week's Calendar

TODAY

- 8:45 AM Nursery Open until 11:45 AM, Room 212
9:00 Worship, Sanctuary
9:15 Children's Faith Building, Rooms 215, 219
10:00 Fellowship, Great Room
Holiday Pop-Up Rummage Sale, Great Room
10:30 Worship, Sanctuary
10:45 Children's Church, Tower Room 213
11:30 Fellowship, Great Room
3:00 PM Caroling with Clint, Away
5:00 Christmas Open House, Manse
Middle School Youth Group, Youth Lounge
6:00 Co-Pastor Nominating Committee, Deerpath Room
7:00 Senior High Youth Group, Youth Lounge

MON

- 9:30 AM Rummage Sorting, Rummage Sorting Room
10:00 Pause for Prayer, Chapel
2:00 PM Brownie Troop Meeting, Fellowship Hall
5:00 Finance Committee Meeting, South Parlor/Zoom

TUE

- 9:30 AM Women's Advent Bible Study, Parish House
1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry, South Parlor
Adult Bible Study, Zoom
3:00 Staff Support Team Meeting, Away
7:00 Women's Evening Bible Study, Zoom

WED

- 10:00 AM Wed. Women's Bible Study, South Parlor/Zoom
1:00 PM Adult Faith Formation Committee Meeting, Zoom
4:15 Children's Carol Choir, Music Room
5:00 Children's Cherub Choir, Music Room
Confirmation Class, Stuart Room
5:30 Wednesday Night Supper, Great Room
Chancel Bells, Sanctuary
6:00 Children's Faith Building, South Parlor
7:00 Carols and Candlelight, Sanctuary

THU

- 6:00 AM Daybreakers Men's Ministry, South Parlor/Zoom
9:30 Rummage Sorting, Rummage Sorting Room
6:00 PM Co-Pastor Nominating Committee, S. Parlor/Zoom
7:00 Sanctuary Choir, Music Room

FRI

- 7:00 AM Men of Corinth Bible Study, Great Room

Rummage Dropoff closed until January 4 for the holidays



Give

Give online or fulfill your pledge:
scan the QR code
or go to FirstChurchLF.org/give.

The Advent Wreath is given by the Grost and Barabas families to the glory of God and in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Ward McMasters and the Rev. Miss Lynn Holmes, a graduate of Lake Forest College and St. Andrews University, Edinburgh, who was the first American woman to be ordained in the Church of Scotland.

Pastor on call: Pastor Clint 630.220.7814
Pastor Clint's day off is on Friday.
Pastor Kristie's day off is on Friday.

Worship Participants

Rev. Clinton G. Roberts
Rev. Kristie Finley
Rev. Jim Cochrane
Susan Noble
Dr. Tom Tropp
Dr. Susan Klotzbach
Sanctuary Choir
Lakeminsters Ringers
Rick Day, AV Support Lead
Henry Thomas, AV Support
Georgia Sottosanto-Sorenson, AV Support
Ryder Gamrath, AV Support

Serve, Learn & Connect

For our weekly ministries and Zoom links
firstchurchlf.org/ministries

Share Joys & Concerns

Kristie Finley 224.544.1967

Home Communion

Kristie Finley 224.544.1967

Arrange a Wedding or Baptism

Sarah Seccombe 224.544.1958

Engagement & Membership

Diane Quinn dianequinn@mac.com

Mission

Stewart Kerr 224.544.1968

Elders

Paul Bergmann
Renee Borkowski
Donna Coffin
Scott Crawford
Paul Darling
John Gescheidle
Lynnette Hinch
John Johnson
Laura Johnson

Sally McDonald
Mary Gould Moorhead
Diane Quinn
Kendall Severson
Nina Strnad
David Strong
Sadie Strong
Mary Watanabe *Clerk*
Anne Winebrenner

Deacons

Bill Allen
Nancy Anderson
Carol Bagan
Dorothy Chantler
Mallory Ciarrocchi
Susan Daly
Wendy Darling
Peg Gronau
Nancy Hamming
Jeff Hinch
Cindy Johnson
Dick Johnson
Susan McDowell
John McNicholas

Susan Milanak
Lisa Murray
John Noble
Tiffany Notz
Tricia Sweet
Sherry Trenchard
Bert Tucker
Joan Vie
Gale Strenger Wayne
Moderator
Scott Weston



First Presbyterian Church
OF LAKE FOREST

700 North Sheridan Road, Lake Forest, IL 60045
847.234.6250 | FIRSTCHURCHLF.ORG

Staff

Rev. Clinton G. Roberts *croberts@firstchurchlf.org*
Senior Pastor, Head of Staff

Rev. Kristie W. Finley *kfinley@firstchurchlf.org*
Associate Pastor for Congregational Life + Engagement

Rev. Jim Cochrane *jcochrane@firstchurchlf.org*
Assoc. Pastor for Youth + Young Adult Faith Formation

Dr. Thomas J. Tropp *ttropp@firstchurchlf.org*
Director of Music + Arts Ministry

Susan Noble *snoble@firstchurchlf.org*
Director of Children's Faith Formation

Dr. Susan Klotzbach
Interim Organist

Sarah Seccombe *sseccombe@firstchurchlf.org*
Program Administrator

Kane Q. Kowalik *kkowalik@firstchurchlf.org*
Director of Communications

Jan McNicholas *jmcnicholas@firstchurchlf.org*
Director of Business Operations

Stewart Kerr *skerr@firstchurchlf.org*
Director of Mission

Suzie Brunner *sbrunner@firstchurchlf.org*
Director of Preschool

Dina Price *dprice@firstchurchlf.org*
Office Assistant

Lenka Vrazda *lvrazda@firstchurchlf.org*
Financial Associate

Patrick Goymerac *pgoymerac@firstchurchlf.org*
Financial Accounting Manager

Rick Day *rday@firstchurchlf.org*
AV Support + Production Leader

Christina Maldonado *cmaldonado@firstchurchlf.org*
Worship Team Leader

Nathan Fivecoate *nfivecoate@firstchurchlf.org*
Worship Team Associate

Cat Rodriguez *custodian@firstchurchlf.org*
Custodian

Guillermo Montufar *custodian@firstchurchlf.org*
Custodian