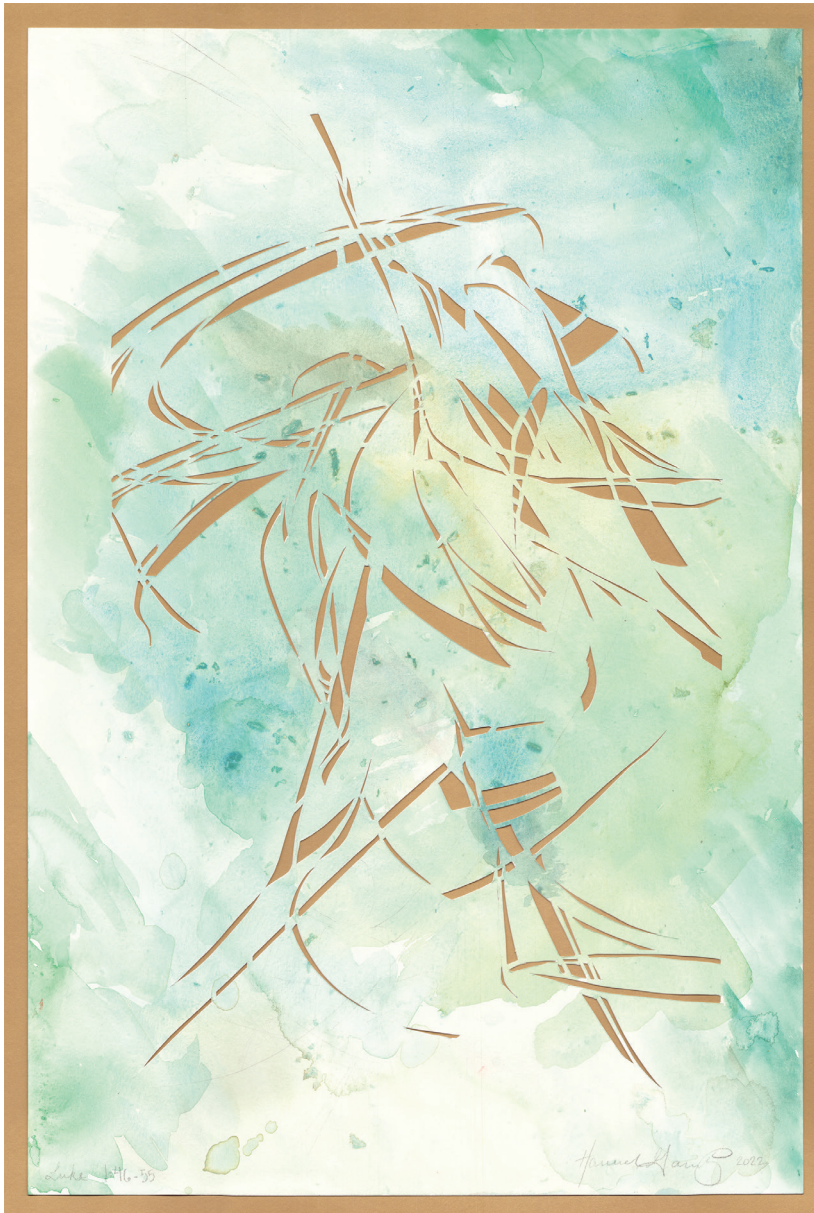




First Presbyterian Church
OF LAKE FOREST

December 24, 2022
9:00 PM
Christmas Eve

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



Cover by Sanctified Art: "Dance of the Soul" by Hannah Garrity, inspired by Luke 1:46-55



FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION...

Who could imagine that all the armaments of darkness would yield to a Light and a life as tiny and vulnerable as this? Christ's humble birth changes the grim trajectory of history, leading us into truth, and grace—and joy!

And so we greet you this Christmas with a prayer that the tender mercy of God will dawn upon you; that hope from on high will beam brightly before you; and that the Christ-Child will guide our feet into the way of peace.

Merry Christmas!

Pastors Clint, Kristie, Jim and the Staff at First Pres



Prelude

Christmas Concerto
Joy to the World Overture

Arcangelo Corelli, c. 1690
Martin Davids, 2019

Invitation to Worship

"Every Year"

Rev. Jim Cochrane
Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed

*My heart and I have an agreement.
Every year we show up here—
here in the sanctuary,
here with the candles and the tall ceilings,
here with the creaky church pews
and the songs of silent nights.*

*My heart and I have an agreement.
Every year we show up here—
at the end of the year,
after another 12 months
of humanity, of me
trying to
keep it all together,
trying to
keep my head above water,
trying to
keep up appearances.*

*Every year we show up here.
We drop it all.
We leave it at the door.
We come into this space
and I could swear it feels different.*

*Maybe it's God.
Maybe it's hope.
Maybe it's love.
But whatever it is,
I need it
every year,
so we show up here.
Tell us again the story of tonight.
My heart needs it.*

Introit

Once, As I Remember

Italian carol, arr. Charles Wood, 1920
G. R. Woodward (1848-1934)

*Once, as I remember, at the time of Yule,
after mid-December, when it bloweth cool,
I o'erheard a Mother was a-singing "Sweet Jesu,
Lalullaylu, Lalullaylu, Lalullaylu, Lullay lalü."*

*Near as man was able, on my knee fell I,
in the Bethl'em stable where the babe did lie,
and the virgin mother was a-singing "Sweet Jesu,
Lalullaylu, Lalullaylu, Lalullaylu, Lullay lalü."*

*Ev'r among and o'er us angel-quire 'gan sing
antiphons in chorus to the newborn King.
Then the virgin mother fell a-singing "Sweet Jesu,
Lalullaylu, Lalullaylu, Lalullaylu, Lullay lalü."*

Words of Welcome

Rev. Clinton G. Roberts

God welcomes all as we come to worship! We invite you to participate wholeheartedly in worship today:

- asterisk (*) indicate when you may stand;
- bolded portions indicate when to read or sing aloud.

Lighting the Christ Candle

The Hinch Family

Leader: As we light the Advent Wreath, we were asked to answer this question:
"My story is..."

Leader: Tonight we tell the story that we tell every year—the story of Christ's birth, the story of love made flesh. It's a story that weaves through every generation. It's a story that picks up the bits and pieces of our narrative and braids us together.

People: So tonight we light the Christ Candle, because from generation to generation, our story belongs to God. Thanks be to God for a love like that. Amen.

***Carol NO. 133** (stanzas 1, 3, and 4)

O Come, All Ye Faithful

TUNE: ADESTE FIDELES

*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!*

Refrain: *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 heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest! Refrain*

*Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning.
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing. Refrain*

Call to Confession

Rev. Kristie W. Finley

Prayer of Confession

Leader: Holy God,
We admit—we don't fully understand the Christmas story.

People: We are not familiar with angel choruses.

Leader: We have not walked many miles to be counted in a census,

People: and we don't always hear your voice in our dreams.

Leader: We don't fully understand this story, so we admit, sometimes we hesitate to tell it. Instead of running out into the streets to shout that there is a love bigger than we could imagine,

People: we whisper this good news.

Leader: Instead of throwing open the doors and inviting people in,

People: we simply leave them unlocked, hoping folks will figure it out.

Leader: Instead of telling the next generation why this night matters so much,

People: we stay quiet, afraid of creating pressure.

Leader: Forgive us for our silence.

People: Forgive us for our hesitation.

Leader: Forgive us for the moments when we fail to share your good news.

People: Plant this story of love so deep in our bones that we cannot help but share it from generation to generation. Amen.

Carol NO. 121 (stanzas 1 and 4)

○ Little Town of Bethlehem

TUNE: ST. LOUIS

*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.*

*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!*

Words of Forgiveness

Leader: Friends, repeat after me:

No matter where we go,

People: No matter where we go,

Leader: No matter what we say,

People: No matter what we say,

Leader: No matter what we do,

People: No matter what we do,

Leader: We belong to God.

People: We belong to God.

Leader: We are held.

People: We are held.

Leader: We are loved.

People: We are loved.

Leader: We are forgiven.

People: We are forgiven.

Amen.

***Carol NO. 110** (stanzas 1 and 3)

Love Has Come

TUNE: BRING A TORCH

***Love has come: a light in the darkness!
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.***

***Love has come and never will leave us!
Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us.
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!***

***Passing the Peace of Christ**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you

People: And also with you.

Poetic Reading of John 1: 1–5

Rev. Kristie W. Finley

Rev. Jim Cochrane

Anthem

In the Bleak Mid-Winter

Harold Darke, 1911

Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

*In the bleak mid-winter 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 mid-winter 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 mid-winter a stable-place sufficed
the Lord God Almighty Jesus Christ.*

*Enough for him, whom cherubim worship night and day,
a breastful of milk and a mangerful of hay;
enough for him, whom angels fall down before,
the ox and ass and camel which adore.*

* PLEASE RISE IN BODY OR IN SPIRIT.

*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 I can I give him: give my heart.*

The Christmas Story *(From Luke, Matthew, and Isaiah)*

Rev. Deborah C. Roberts

Reflection

Rev. Clinton G. Roberts

"The Holy Family"

A Christmas Offering

Lake County PADS
Save the Children: Ukraine Relief



Christmas offering envelopes are available in your pew - or you may scan the QR code to the left to give online. You have the option to give to the Christmas Offering, as well as fulfill your 2022 pledge or make a 2023 pledge. Thank you for your generosity!

Offertory

Cantique de Noël

Adolphe Adam, 1847

— The Lord's Supper —

***Gathering Song NO. 114** *(stanzas 1 and 3)*

Away in a Manger

TUNE: CRADLE SONG

***Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the day.***

***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.***

*Invitation to the Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

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.

Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and Cup

So that all feel welcome at the table, the bread is gluten-free, and the cups contain grape juice. Partake of the bread upon receiving it, and hold the cup to drink together.

Still, Still, Still

Austrian carol, arr. Norman Luboff, 1958

*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 Savior's birth.
The night is peaceful all around you,
close your eyes, let sleep surround you.
Sleep, sleep, sleep, 'tis the eve of our Savior's birth.*

*Dream, dream, dream of the joyous day to come.
While guardian angels without number
watch you as you sweetly slumber.
Dream, dream, dream of the joyous day to come.*

*Affirmation of Faith

Leader: We believe
that for generations
people have gathered together
on this holy night,
because there is something about this story
that speaks to the deepest parts of us.

**People: We believe in bundling up this hope,
this good news, and passing it on—
to our children, to our neighbors, to the world around us.**

Leader: We believe our voices can make a difference,
just like we believe this story can make a difference,
so we will not stay quiet.

**People: We will tell this story—of a love that makes room for all.
We will sing this story—of a love that knows our name.
We will live this story—because love has come again.**

Leader: We believe that words have power

**People: And we will not stay quiet!
Amen.**

*A Medley of Carols

Hark, the Herald Angels Sing *NO. 119 (stanzas 1 and 3)*

TUNE: MENDELSSOHN

*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 the angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"*

*Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"*

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly NO. 128

TUNE: W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY

*Infant holy, infant lowly,
for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing,
noels ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the babe is Lord of all!
Christ the babe is Lord of all!*

*Flocks were sleeping; shepherds keeping
vigil till the morning new
saw the glory, heard the story,
tidings of the gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
praises voicing greet the morrow:
Christ the babe was born for you!
Christ the babe was born for you!*

The First Nowell NO. 147 (stanzas 1 and 2)

TUNE: THE FIRST NOWELL

*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.*

***Closing Prayer** *(unison)*

Give us, O God, such love and wonder
that with shepherds and magi, and pilgrims unknown,
we may come to adore the holy child, the promised king;
and with our gifts worship him,
our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.

***Sharing the Light of Christ**

Worship leaders will light the first candle in each pew.

Please share the light by tipping your unlit candle into the flame of your neighbor's candle.

***Carol NO. 122**

Silent Night, Holy Night!

TUNE: STILLE NACHT

*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, heavenly 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.*

***A Christmas Benediction**

Rev. Clinton G. Roberts

***Carol NO. 134**

Joy to the World

TUNE: ANTIOCH

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing.*

*Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
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.*

*He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love.*

***Postlude**

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

John Rutter

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



*The Christmas flowers throughout
the church have been given...*

To the Glory of God by:

Megan and John Anderson
Lynne Beyer and Ryc Loope
The Chantler, Uihlein, Drowne and Crouch Family
DR Dempsey
Bob and Judy Fuller
Jill and Mike Havey
Diane Quinn
Mary Beth Sommer
Laurel Taylor

Given in Thanksgiving of:

Ambler, Finnian and Larkin
The baptism of Jay Richard Seidel and
Isabelle C. Standiford
Randall Kantor

Given by:

Dianne FitzSimons
Carla and Rich Seidel

In Memory of:

Our daughter Laura Beth and
husband & father Lawrence Anderson
Michelle Bagan Morgan
Eleanor Chapman Beidler

Given by:

Frances Anderson
Carol Bagan
Prue and Frank Beidler

Molly Bennett

Mom and Dad, Elliot, Amanda, Dustin,
Annie, Pat and Molly

Herb and Marianne Faulks
Libby Faulks
Billy and Phyllis Faulks
Eric Hoogcarspel
The Reverend Kent Kinney

Molly Quinn

James Donaldson

Raymond Duyckinck
Christina Stanton

Gladys Leib

Dr. Richard and Gladys Leib,
Michael and Cindee Peak

Mindy Bourne

Ed Hamming

Norma Thorup Garrett

Louise Sprong Ribe
Margaret Eileen Johnson

Christopher Martinat
Will and Beulah Porter
Walter and Wanda Martinat

Dan Milanak
Jack and Corrine Reichert

Robert H. and Janet L. Minor

Our parents, Jim and Audrey Webster and
Gustavo Munoz,
and our brother Scott Webster

Mr. and Mrs. Chester A. Petersen

Laura L. Sibley

Don and Mona Strenger
Henry and Frances Strenger

Joann Tolmie

Rev. Kent Kinney

Bruce and Patty Faulks Bennett

The Brandsted family

Jody Donaldson

The Duyckinck Bennett Family

Shannon and Justin Engelland

James and Lynn Engelland

Kathy Fluri

Nancy Hamming

Tricia Heinzmann

Nancy and John Johnson

Brian and Linda Martinat

Susan Milanak

Robert Minor

The Munoz Family

Mr. and Mrs. Roger A. Petersen

Frank Sibley

Don Jr., Jan, Gale and Rob

The Tolmie Family

Doug and Laurie Valassis

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

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