



First Presbyterian Church
OF LAKE FOREST

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



The
Light
Has Come

 ADVENT 2023

December 10, 2023

Welcome!

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

Today's Service

The Season of Advent

The great proclamation from John's gospel "The Word became flesh and dwelled among us" assures us that God has entered into human history through the incarnation of the Son. The season of Advent is a season of waiting and preparation designed to cultivate our awareness of God's action in the past, present, and future. In Advent we heighten our anticipation for the ultimate fulfillment of the prophetic promises, when the wolf will lie down with the lamb, death will be swallowed up, and every tear will be wiped away. In this way, Advent highlights for us the larger story of God's redemptive plan.

The service of Lessons and Carols originated in the 19th century in England and has found popularity in many churches around the globe. With its numerous scripture readings and musical meditations, the service differs from our weekly pattern but provides a time for worshipful expression, reflection, and participation by all to glorify God.

Cover art: original watercolor illustration by Phaedra Taylor

Worship Participants

Rev. Jon Wasson	Katelyn Engelland, soloist
Rev. Kristie W. Finley	Catherine Noble, soloist
Dr. Robert McConnell	Hannah Christiansen, violin
Jack Reeder	Mariah Schultz, violin
Sanctuary Choir	Susan Rozendaal, viola
Carol & Cherub Choirs	Brian Hoffman, cello
Lakeminster Ringers	Rick Day
Kingsley Family	Ryder Gamrath
Owen Scheuer	Georgia Sottosanto-Sorenson
Peter Vander Velde	
Anne Winebrenner	

Nursery children up to 3 years
Opens at 9:00 AM, Room 212

Sunday School ages 3 and up
During worship, Rooms 213, 214, 215, 219

Fellowship
10:30 AM, Great Room

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.

Visting First Pres?

If you would like us to get in touch with you, please provide your information on the visitors card in your pews. An usher will collect them later in the service.

Joys & Concerns

We are a community that prays for and with one another. We invite you to fill out a Joys & Concerns card to share your prayer request.

Prelude

Sinfonia to Cantata 169

Johann Sebastian Bach



Our Sanctuary sound system is equipped to broadcast directly to T-Coil-equipped hearing aids. If your hearing aid is so equipped, switch it into this mode. If you do not have this type of hearing aid, assistive listening devices are available from the ushers.



Give

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

The Welcome

Introit

I Wonder as I Wander
Appalachian Folk Tune, arr. Cathy Moglebust

*Lighting of the Advent Wreath & Call to Worship

Leader: Today is the second Sunday of Advent, the Sunday of Peace.

People: **Our peace is found in God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit,
and we are reminded that, to receive peace, we must prepare.**

All: **We light this candle to remind us that Christ is the Prince of Peace.**

*Hymn of Praise No. 140 V. 1 sung by soloist

Once in Royal David's City

Anthem

Carol & Cherub Choirs

Prepare A Way for the Lord

Michael Bedford

Prepare a way for the Lord! Get ready, he's coming soon!

We light the Advent candles, we light them one by one.

We light the Advent candles for God's own Son.

We light the Advent candles and then we join to say:

"Make room in your hearts for Jesus who comes on Christmas Day!"

The First Lesson

Genesis 3: 8-19

Carol

Sanctuary Choir

E'en So Lord Jesus Quickly Come

Paul Manz

Peace be to you and grace from him

Who freed us from our sins,

Who loved us all and shed his blood

That we might saved be.

Sing holy, holy to our Lord,

The Lord, Almighty God,

Who was and is and is to come;

Sing holy, holy, Lord!

Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein,

Rejoice on earth, ye saints below,

For Christ is coming, is coming soon,

For Christ is coming soon!

E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come,

And night shall be no more;

They need no light nor lamp nor sun,

For Christ will be their All!

- Revelation 22, adapted by Ruth Manz

The Second Lesson

Isaiah 9: 2; 6-7

Carol

Sanctuary Choir

And the Glory of the Lord *Messiah*

George Frideric Handel

And the Glory of the Lord shall be revealed. And all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

- Isaiah 40:5

* PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE.

The Third Lesson

Isaiah 11:1-4a; 5-9

*Carol No. 373

O Day of Peace

The Fourth Lesson

Luke 1:26-35, 38

*Carol No. 119

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

The Fifth Lesson

Luke 2: 1-7

Carol

Go, Tell It On the Mountain

Carol & Cherub Choirs

Down in a lowly manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn.

While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light.

Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills, and ev'rywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born.

Now the shepherds trembled when above
the earth
the angels sang about the Savior's birth.

Carol

Glory to God *Messiah*

Sanctuary Choir

George Frideric Handel

There were shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night. And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them, and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them: "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." And suddenly there was with the angel, a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God, and saying: "Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth, good will towards men."

- Luke 2:8-14

The Sixth Lesson

Luke 2: 15-20

*Carol No. 143

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

The Seventh Lesson

John 1: 1-14

Leader: In the beginning was the Word,

People: and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Leader: He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness,

People: and the darkness did not overcome it.

Leader: There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light,

People: so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

Leader: The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

People: He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him.

Leader: He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

All: 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.

*Carol No. 108 v. 1-3, 6

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Prayers of the People and 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.

Invitation to the Offering



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!

Offertory

Andante from *Organ Concerto No. 4 in F major*

George Frideric Handel

*Advent Doxology

Praise God from whom bless - ings flow; praise God all things here be-low.

5
Praise God all ye heav'n - ly host: Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

9
Glo - - - - - ri - a

13
in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo - - - - -

17
- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

*Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

*Hymn of Sending No. 147 V. 1, 2, 6

The First Nowell

*Charge and Benediction

*Postlude

Lo, He Comes With Clouds Descending

John Marsh

Joys & Concerns

Joys

The birth of Dodge Porter Stimmel to Allison Martinat and Jake Stimmel on November 30. Proud grandparents Linda and Brian Martinat.

Roy Webb Finley born to Colin and Mary Finley, proud sister Norah and grandparents Kristie and Paul Finley.

Concerns

Martha Richter recovering at home from shoulder replacement surgery.

Nancy Johnson recovering from surgery for a dislocated knee and a broken knee cap.

Diana Melichar's father Paul died on Saturday, November 25, surrounded by his family.

Nancy Anderson, Patrick Anderson's mother passed away on November 27.

Lindsay Reed Peeler recovering from brain surgery.

Prayer Chain We are a church that prays for each other, celebrating life's joys and supporting each other in time of need. You may submit your prayers to prayerchain@firstchurchlf.org. Please know that your prayers will be held in strict confidence.

Pastoral care

224.544.1967 or pastoralcare@firstchurchlf.org

Serve, Learn, & Connect

Engagement & Membership

Diane Quinn

engagement@firstchurchlf.org

Arrange a Wedding or Baptism

Sarah Seccombe

sseccombe@firstchurchlf.org

Join our Music Ministry

Robert McConnell

rmcconnell@firstchurchlf.org

Mission & Outreach

Stewart Kerr

skerr@firstchurchlf.org

Weekly Ministries

For details or to join our small groups, contact Sarah Seccombe at sseccombe@firstchurchlf.org.

SUNDAYS

Middle School Youth Group

5:00 PM, Youth Lounge

Senior High Youth Group

7:00 PM, Youth Lounge

TUESDAYS

Tuesday Morning Bible Study

9:30 AM, Parish House

Prayer Shawl Ministry

1:00 PM, South Parlor

Adult Bible Study

1:00 PM, Zoom

WEDNESDAYS

Wednesday Women's Bible Study

10:00 AM, South Parlor/Zoom

Wednesday Night Supper

5:30 PM, Great Room

THURSDAYS

Daybreakers Men's Bible Study

6:30 AM, Great Room/Zoom

Mom's Small Group

7:00 PM, Youth Lounge

FRIDAYS

Men of Corinth Bible Study

7:00 AM, South Parlor/Zoom

Announcements



The Light Has Come

Wednesday, December 13
Carol Sing
5:00 PM Supper, 6:00 PM Carols,
6:30 PM Dessert

Sunday, December 17
Christmas Pageant
9:30 AM

Wednesday, December 20
Longest Night Service
7:00 PM

Christmas Eve

3:00 PM
Traditional Service
livestreamed

5:00 PM
Traditional Service

9:00 PM
Traditional Candlelight Service



Scan the QR code for the Advent schedule of events and services, and for sign-ups!



ADVENT 2023

Carol Sing

Wednesday, December 13

Join us for a churchwide Carol Sing, an evening of supper and Christmas carols. Supper will begin at 5:00 PM in the Great Room, and we will move to the Sanctuary at 6:00 PM and sit around the piano for a carol sing. Fellowship and festive treats will follow. Sign-up on the church website!

Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 20

First Pres children & youth will be leading the congregation in telling the Christmas story!

Rehearsal: Saturday, December 16, 9:00 - 10:00 AM.

Advent Devotional Cards

Pick up your "The Light Has Come" devotional cards for illustrated prayers and activities for the seasons of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany! Use these prayer cards as daily prayers, conversation starters, or with your small groups. The cards are available in the Great Room.

Christmas Poinsettias

In preparation for Jesus' birth, we remember and honor a loved one through the Christmas Poinsettias ministry. Make a donation online or in person by Tuesday, December 19, and we will print your dedication in the Christmas Eve bulletins.

Advent Bible Study

The "Learn it! Live it!" Bible study has begun an Advent study, meeting on Tuesdays from 9:30 - 10:30 AM in the Parish House Library. All are welcome! Please reach out to Anne Hampson achtrail@gmail.com or Gretchen Seymour gretchenseymour@me.com for more information.

For the full church calendar, schedule of ministries, and more: www.firstchurchlf.org
Find us on Facebook and Instagram: [@firstchurchlf](https://www.facebook.com/firstchurchlf)



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