



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 17, 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.

Cover art: original watercolor illustration by Phaedra Taylor

Worship Participants

Rev. Jon Wasson	Ryder Gamrath
Rev. Kristie W. Finley	Georgia Sottosanto-Sorenson
Dr. Robert McConnell	The Skoien, Bernardi,
Jack Reeder	Peeler & Stephens Families
Rick Day	

Pageant Participants

Elisa Bagan	Owen Scheuer
Nate Borland	Gavin Sharp
Grace Donovan	Elizabeth Specketer
Kittery Engelland	Nick Standiford
Rowdy Greenlees	Belle Stephens
Brooks Jackson	Bethany Stephens
Sofi Knapp	Owen Taubensee
Henry Mulliken	Grace Vander Velde
Grace Payne	Abby Wells
Will Redding	Carly Weston
Will Roeck	Scott Weston
Ryan Severson	

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 flowers in the niches are given in loving memory of our parents, Shirley and Tom Taubensee, from the Havey and Taubensee families.

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.

Visiting 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

Noel X
Louis-Claude Daquin



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

*Lighting of the Advent Wreath & Call to Worship

Leader: Today is the third Sunday of Advent.

People: **We light this candle to remember that joy is a gift from God.**

All: **We are thankful for the hope given, the peace offered,
and the joy promised by God. Amen.**

*Hymn of Praise No. 106 v. 1-2

Prepare the Way, O Zion

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

(silent confession...) **Holy God, we confess that we need repentance. We have broken your commands. We do not live in peace with your creation or your people. We have not trusted your word, and we are afraid. Forgive us, restore us, and turn our shame into praise, for the sake of the One who proclaims the good news and for the sake of the world. Amen.**

Kyrie

Sandra McCracken

For You, O Lord, our souls in still-ness wait. For You, O Lord, our

6
souls in still-ness wait. Tru-ly our hope is in You, Tru-ly our hope is in You.

12
O Lord of life, our on - ly hope, Your ra - diance shines on all who

16
look to You in the dark. E-mman-u-el come, come light our hearts. For

Assurance of Forgiveness

*Gloria Patri

Prepare the Way, O Zion

Fling wide your gates, O Zion; your Savior's rule embrace,
and tidings of salvation proclaim in every place.
All lands will bow rejoicing, their adoration voicing.
O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.

*Passing the Peace of Christ

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

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

O Joyful Children

Lee Holdridge

*Advent Doxology

Praise God from whom blessings flow; praise God all things here below.
Praise God all ye heav'nly host: Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

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.

The Pageant

Invitation to the Manger

John 1:14

Christ's Birth is Foretold by the Prophet Isaiah

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Carol No. 88 V. 1

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Words from the Scribe

The Journey to Bethlehem

Luke 2:1-5

Carol No. 121 V. 1, 3, 4

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Words from the Curly Horn Sheep

The Birth of Jesus

Luke 2:6-7

Carol No. 115

Away in a Manger

Words from the Angel

The Angel's Good News

Luke 2:8-14

Carol No. 119 V. 1, 3

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Words from the Shepherd

The Glad Tidings of the Shepherd

Luke 2:15-20

Carol

Carol of the Friendly Beasts

Jesus, our brother, strong and good,
was humbly born in a stable rude,
and the friendly beasts around him stood,
Jesus our brother, strong and good.

I, said the donkey, shaggy and brown,
I carried his mother uphill and down,
I carried his mother to Bethlehem town;
I, said the donkey, shaggy and brown.

I, said the sheep with the curly horn,
I gave him my wool for his blanket warm,
he wore my coat on Christmas morn;
I, said the sheep with the curly horn.

Thus all the beasts, by some good spell,
in the stable dark were glad to tell
of the gifts they gave Emmanuel,
the gifts they gave Emmanuel.

Words from the Desert Nomad

Wise Men Seek the Christ Child

Matthew 2:1-4, 7-11

Carol No. 151

We Three Kings of Orient Are

(The Kings shall sing verses; congregation joins on the refrain.)

**O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!**

The Song of Mary

Luke 1:46-55

Carol No. 134 V. 1-3

Joy to the World

Prayer of Christmas

Leader: Emmanuel: God, you are with us.

People: We have heard the promise of the prophets;

Leader: We have caught the notes of an angel's song;

People: We have seen a star in the heavens, and we have believed.

Leader: Today we have come to be with you because you have come to be with us.

People: We seek an innocent, helpless baby in a crude manger;

Leader: We seek a Messiah who will reign with justice;

**People: And you, who are the weakest and the strongest,
the most humble and the most mighty, have found us.**

Leader: Now we may find ourselves. Now we may love each other;
now we may truly worship you,

**All: Crying aloud with the heavenly host: "Glory to God in the highest!
Peace on earth and goodwill among all people." Amen.**

Carol No. 122 V. 1, 3

Silent Night, Holy Night!

Benediction

Congregational Response No. 134 V. 4

Joy to the World

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

*Postlude

Prepare the Royal Highway

Paul Manz

Joys & Concerns

Joys

The children leading worship in the Christmas Pageant!

Concerns

Prayers for the family of Mia Spooner who passed away December 14.

Gretchen Seymour recovering from shoulder surgery.

Allison Martinat recovering from surgery.

Martha Richter recovering at home from shoulder replacement 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

Christmas Eve Services

3:00 PM

Traditional Service

Service will also be livestreamed

5:00 PM

Traditional Service

9:00 PM

Traditional Candlelight
Service

Childcare will be available at the
3:00 and 5:00 PM services.



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



ADVENT 2023

Volunteers for Christmas Eve Needed!

Ushers and greeters are needed at the Christmas Eve services. Sign up with a friend or your family! Contact Sarah Seccombe at sseccombe@firstchurchlf.org.

Membership Classes

Interested in membership at First Pres? The Engagement Committee will be in the Great Room during Fellowship Hour if you would like to learn more. Upcoming classes are on Sundays, January 14 and 21. Contact Diane Quinn for more info at engagement@firstchurchlf.org.

Longest Night

Wednesday, December 20, 7:00 PM

We gather 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.

Advent Devotional Cards

Pick up your "The Light Has Come" devotional cards for illustrated prayers and activities! 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.

Holiday Hours

The Business Office will be open Wednesday, December 27 (9:00 AM - 5:00 PM), and Thursday, December 28 (9:00 AM - 12:00 PM). The church will be closed December 25 - January 1, and will reopen on Tuesday, January 2.

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)



First Presbyterian Church
OF LAKE FOREST

700 North Sheridan Road, Lake Forest, IL 60045
847.234.6250 | firstchurchlf.org