



First Presbyterian Church
OF LAKE FOREST

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



The
Light
Has Come

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2023
3:00 & 5:00 PM

Welcome!

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

Today's Service

Christmas Eve

At Christmas, we remember and celebrate the mystery of the incarnation. Whereas during Advent we anticipate the fulfillment of the prophecies, at Christmas we celebrate the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Cover art: original watercolor illustration by Phaedra Taylor

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.

The flowers in the niches are given today to celebrate the blessings of this joyous season and to remember those dear to our hearts no longer with us, by Dawn Skoien and her family, Lindsay & Rob Peeler, Kristi & Matthew Bernardi and Bethany & Tyrone Stephens.

Worship Participants

Rev. Jon Wasson
Rev. Kristie W. Finley
Dr. Robert McConnell
Jack Reeder
Rick Day
Ryder Gamrath
Georgia Sottosanto-Sorenson

3:00 PM

Mynhier Families
Hannah Dixon McConnell, soprano
David Bilger, trumpet
Quincy Erickson, trumpet
Angela Bilger, horn
Stephanie Lebens, trombone
Andreas Bilger, violin

5:00 PM

Gantz and Ciarrocchi Families
Susan Noble
Carol and Cherub Choir
Katelyn Engelland, soloist
Hannah Dixon McConnell, soprano
David Bilger, trumpet
Quincy Erickson, trumpet
Angela Bilger, horn
Stephanie Lebens, trombone
Andreas Bilger, violin

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 and place them in the offering plate.



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.

Prelude

Canzona per Sonare No. 4 Giovanni Gabrieli

O Little Town of Bethlehem L. H. Redner, arr. Holmes

March of the 3 Kings French Provincial, 13th Century, arr. Holmes

Gavotte from Cello Suite #6 Johann Sebastian Bach

Canzona per Sonare No. 2 Giovanni Gabrieli

Introit

O Holy Night
Adolphe Adam

The Welcome

*Lighting of the Advent Wreath & Call to Worship

Leader: In the holy darkness of this night,

People: amid labor pains and newborn cries,

Leader: angel songs and tremors of fear,

People: tears of relief and looks of amazement,

Leader: our Savior takes his first breath.

All: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel has come to us!

*Carol No. 133 V. 1, 3, 4

O Come, All Ye Faithful

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**

*Prayer of Adoration

*Carol No. 119

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

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!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
off-spring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the God-head see;
hail the incarnate deity,
pleased in flesh with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

(silent confession...) **Emmanuel, you have given us a gift that we can never deserve. You do not ask us to be worthy. You do not ask us to earn your love. Yet the ways we have fallen short threaten to overtake us. But we know we can come to you, even on this holiest of nights, to seek the forgiveness you offer so freely, grateful for your mercy. Amen.**

Response No. 121 v. 4

O Little Town of Bethlehem

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!

Assurance of Pardon

***Response No. 132** v. 3

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

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!

Offering of our Lives and Gifts



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

3:00 PM Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring/The First Noel
Johann Sebastian Bach, arr. Christina Harmon

5:00 PM Go, Tell It On the Mountain
African American Spiritual, arr. Mark Patterson

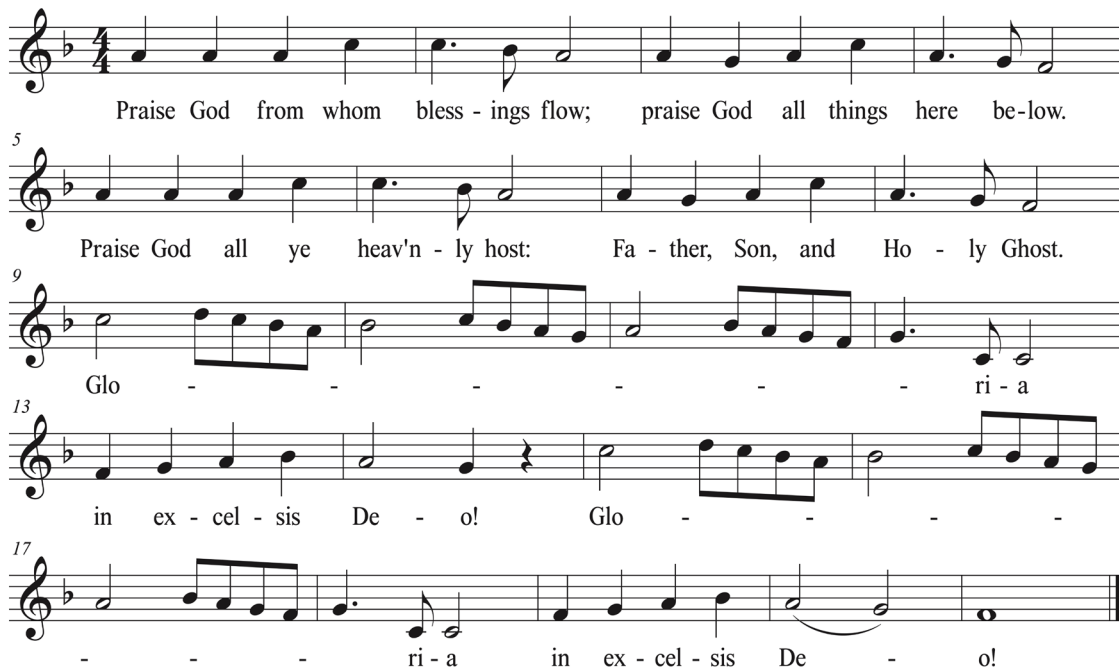
Down in a lowly manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn.

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

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

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

*Christmas Doxology



Musical score for Christmas Doxology, 4/4 time, B-flat major. The score consists of five staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "Praise God from whom bless - ings flow; praise God all things here be-low. Praise God all ye heav'n - ly host: Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Glo - - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo - - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!"

*Prayer of Dedication

Anthem

3:00 PM Rejoice Greatly from *Messiah*

George Frideric Handel

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion;
Shout, o daughter of Jerusalem.
Behold, thy King cometh unto thee.

He is the righteous Savior
And He shall speak peace unto the heathen.

5:00 PM Hurry to the Stable

Hurry to the stable in Bethlehem, see the baby Jesus.
Run and tell the story in everyland, rejoice and spread the news.
This baby is your brother, your Savior, and your king.
He too will be a shepherd, salvation he will bring. Alleluias ring!
Hurry to the stable, see the baby Jesus, tell the world about it.
Good news!

New Testament Lesson

Luke 2:1-20

New Testament, page 58 in pew Bible

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Meditation

Jon Wasson

“God With Us”

*Carol No. 140 v. 1, 2, 4

Once in Royal David’s City

Once in royal David’s city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby in
a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild;
Jesus Christ, her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor and meek and lowly,
lived on earth our Savior holy.

And our eyes at last shall see him,
through this own redeeming love;
for that child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.

*Lighting of Candles

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. We will sing the last two carols in candlelight.

*Carol No. 122

Silent Night, Holy Night!

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!
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!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing "Alleluia:
Christ the Savior is born;
Christ the Savior is born!"

*Blessing

*Carol No. 134

Joy to the World

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

In Dulci Jubilo
Johann Sebastian Bach

Christmas Poinsettias

Given in Memory of

Arnold & Lois Anne Galbratith
Harry & Adele Short

Mary & Marv Farwell

Dan Milanak
Jack & Corrine Reichert
Tara Milanak

Ed Hamming

Don & Mona Strenger
Henry T. & Frances Pratt Strenger

Carolyn Kinney

Margaret & Gus Hart
Harriet and Douglas Stuart

Raymond Duyckinck
Christina Stanton

Hildo and Erich Hoogcarspel

Molly Quinn

Lawrence and Laura Beth Anderson

Jerry W. Ligon

Our mother and grandmother, Audrey Webster,
our father and grandfather, Jim Webster,
our brother and uncle, Scott Webster
and our father and abuelo, Gustavo Munoz

John Remington

Gary, Millicent and Robert Kreischer

M. David Cain, Sr.

Bob & Jody Bailey

Dr. Paul Bubala

Given By

The Short Family

Liz Farwell & Mike Reyes

Susan Milanak

The Hamming Family

Don Jr., Jan, Gale and Rob

Laurie & Doug Valassis

Kitty & Rob Lansing

The Duyckinck Bennet Family

Trixie and Dora Hoogcarspel

The Brandsted Family

Frances Anderson

Fay Ligon

The Munoz Family

His loving family

Kreischer & MacKendrick families

Ethelwyn Cain

Sandra Bailey George and Family

Carol Bubala

Joe Mischel
Jen Mischel
Richard Nagy

Lynn Jensen

Edward & Marjorie Showers
Virginia Varga Mulligan Silverthorne
John Mulligan
Jack Showers

Terry and Susan Mulligan

Linda Seymour

The Seymour Family

Patricia & Dick Davis
Katherine and Stewart Kerr

Marcy Kerr

Laura L. Sibley

Frank Sibley

Patricia Schmidt & Ricardo Pedemonte

Laurel Taylor

Kimberly Barclay Combs

Caryl Barclay

The parents, grandparents, and dearly loved friends
who are now in the loving arms of God

Lynn & Jim Engelland

Herb & Marianne Faulks
Libby Faulks
Erick Hoogcarspel
Hildo Hoogcarspel

Bruce & Patty Bennett & Family

Stan, Ruth & Tom Hess
Frank, Lucy & Uncle Carl Klein

Tom, Nancy Hess & Carl Klein

Given in Honor of

Our grandsons, Nicholas and Evan Hobart and Owen Ponce

Given By

Tom & Anne Hampson

Given to the Glory of God by:

Diane Quinn

Jill Havey

FitzSimons & Harrison families

Ambler, Finnian and Larkin Harrison

Joys & Concerns

Joys

Gathering together for Christmas!

Concerns

Jim Richter for continued healing.

Don Dempsey is recovering from a broken shoulder.

The family of Mia Spooner who passed away on December 14. Her memorial service will be on Thursday, January 4 at 4:00 PM.

Gretchen Seymour recovering from shoulder surgery.

Allison Martinat recovering from 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, South Parlor/Zoom

Mom's Small Group

7:00 PM, Youth Lounge

FRIDAYS

Men of Corinth Bible Study

7:00 AM, South Parlor/Zoom

Announcements

Membership Classes

Interested in learning more about our church and becoming members at First Pres? Upcoming classes are on Sundays, January 14 and 21. Contact Diane Quinn for more info at engagement@firstchurchlf.org.

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.

The Installation of Rev. Jon Wasson

Sunday, January 28

You are invited to the installation of Rev. Jon Wasson as Senior Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest at our 9:30 AM worship service. Reception to follow in the Great Room.

All Church Dinner & Trivia

Sunday, February 4

Join us for a fun night of friendly competition and fundraising for our Senior High Work Trip. All ages are welcome! 5:30 - 7:30 PM in Fellowship Hall. Serving Paul Roeck's award-winning chili, Heather Strong's almost famous Corn Bread, salad, and dessert! firstchurchlf.org/trivia

Women's Retreat

Friday - Saturday, February 23 - 24

Save the date for the Women's Retreat! We will gather for dinner and fellowship on Friday evening, and come together on Saturday morning for art and contemplation followed by a lunch. Registration coming soon!



Sign up for our newsletter!

Scan the QR code or go to firstchurchlf.org to receive news and updates from First Pres.

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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