



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  
9:00 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*

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## Worship Participants

Rev. Jon Wasson  
Rev. Kristie W. Finley  
Dr. Robert McConnell  
Jack Reeder  
Sanctuary Choir  
Erin Henke, soloist  
Martin Davids, violin  
Ann Duggan, violin  
Kiyoe Matsuura, viola  
Cora Swenson, cello  
Sanctuary Choir  
Rick Day

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.

## 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](https://FirstChurchLF.org/give).

## Prelude

Christmas Concerto

Arcangelo Corelli

## Introit

O Holy Night

Adolphe Adam, arr. Jack Reeder

## 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



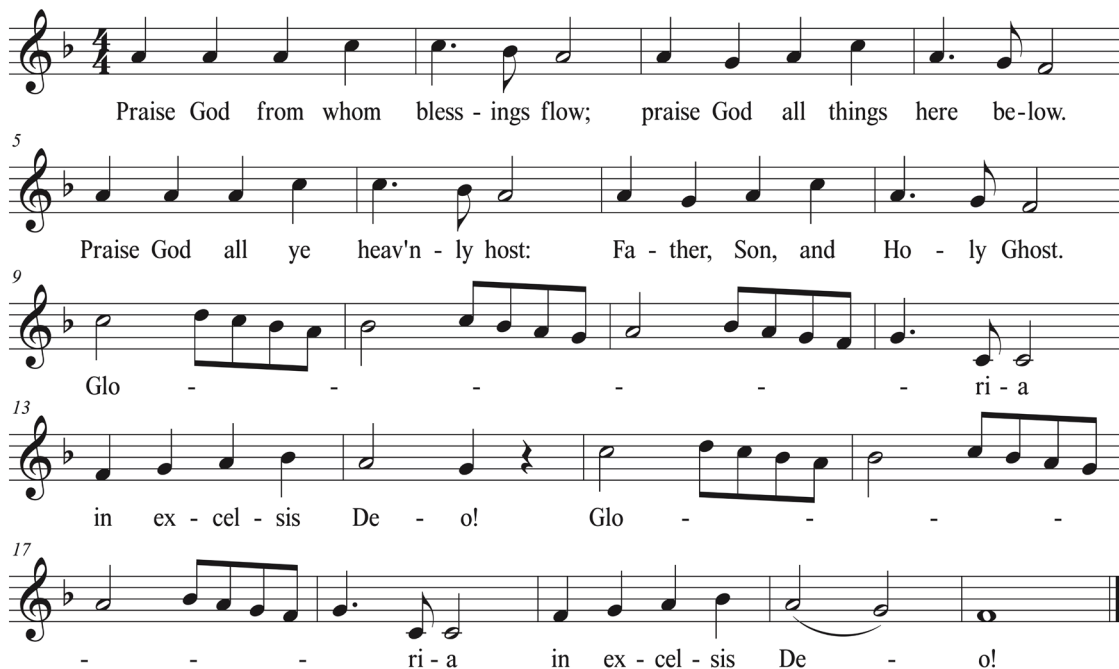
You may give online or fulfill your pledge by scanning the QR code with your mobile phone, or go to [firstchurchlf.org/give](http://firstchurchlf.org/give). Thank you for your generosity!

## Offertory

The Sussex Carol  
arr. David Wilcox

On Christmas night all Christians sing  
To hear the news the angels bring.  
News of great joy, news of great mirth,  
News of our merciful King's birth.  
Then why should men on earth be so sad,  
Since our redeemer made us glad,  
When from our sin he set us free  
All for to gain our liberty?  
When sin departs before his grace,  
Then life and health come in its place;  
Angels and men with joy may sing,  
All for to see the new-born King.  
All out of darkness we have light,  
Which made the angels sing this night:  
'Glory to God and peace to men,  
Now and for evermore. Amen.'

## \*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 blessings flow; praise God all things here below. Praise God all ye heav'nly host: Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!"

## \*Prayer of Dedication

### Anthem

My Lord Has Come

Will Todd

Shepherds, called by angels, called by love and angels:  
No place for them but a stable.  
My Lord has come.  
Sages, searching for stars, searching for love in heaven;  
No place for them but a stable.  
My Lord has come.  
His love will hold me, his love will cherish me, love will cradle me.  
Lead me, lead me to see him, sages and shepherds and angels;  
No place for me but a stable.  
My Lord has come.

## 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**

## **Given By**

Our grandsons, Nicholas and Evan Hobart and Owen Ponce

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](mailto:prayerchain@firstchurchlf.org). Please know that your prayers will be held in strict confidence.

### Pastoral care

224.544.1967 or [pastoralcare@firstchurchlf.org](mailto:pastoralcare@firstchurchlf.org)

## Serve, Learn, & Connect

### Engagement & Membership

Diane Quinn

[engagement@firstchurchlf.org](mailto:engagement@firstchurchlf.org)

### Arrange a Wedding or Baptism

Sarah Seccombe

[sseccombe@firstchurchlf.org](mailto:sseccombe@firstchurchlf.org)

### Join our Music Ministry

Robert McConnell

[rmcconnell@firstchurchlf.org](mailto:rmcconnell@firstchurchlf.org)

### Mission & Outreach

Stewart Kerr

[skerr@firstchurchlf.org](mailto:skerr@firstchurchlf.org)

## Weekly Ministries

For details or to join our small groups, contact Sarah Seccombe at [sseccombe@firstchurchlf.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](http://firstchurchlf.org) to receive news and updates from First Pres.

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



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