



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 3, 2023

Welcome!

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

Today's Service

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

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.

Worship Participants

Rev. Jon Wasson	Magnusson/Shaw Families
Rev. Kristie W. Finley	Thomas Hubel, trumpet
Dr. Robert McConnell	Fiona Shonik, trumpet
Jack Reeder	Cole Davis, trombone
Sanctuary Choir	Alex Ertl, trombone
Rick Day	
Ryder Gamrath	
Georgia Sottosanto-Sorenson	

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

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.

Prayer for Worship

O that God would tear open the heavens
and come down!
Of that day or hour, no one knows, only God.
Be alert! Keep awake!
The time is drawing near:
The beginning of the good news
of Jesus Christ,
the Son of God.

Prelude

Ballet de la Comedie from Terpsichore
Michael Praetorius



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

In the Bleak Midwinter

Harold Darke

*Lighting of the Advent Wreath & Call to Worship

Leader: We light the first candle of Advent in the circle of God's eternity, a circle green as the earth where Jesus came to live with us.

People: We light the first candle of Advent to celebrate the prophets, who waited long and looked with expectancy for the coming of the Messiah.

All: We light the first candle of Advent for ourselves, for we, too, wait with expectancy for the coming of God's Kingdom and the reign of Christ the King.

*Hymn of Praise

O Come, O Come Emmanuel (verses 1, 6, 7)

Hymn 88, Tune: Veni Emmanuel

Call to Confession

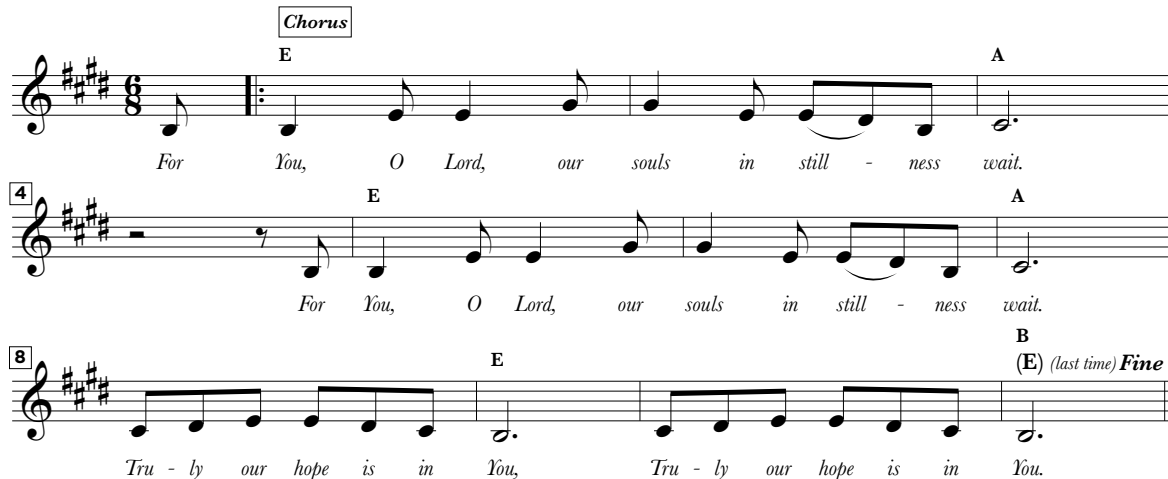
Prayer of Confession

(silent confession...) Merciful God, we confess that we become distracted, even weary, in our displeasure. Awaken us to your surprising power and glory and peace, so we do not miss how near you are to our very own gates. Be gracious toward us, we pray, until we are gathered, from the ends of earth to the ends of heaven, into your embrace. We pray in the name of Christ, who was, and is, and is to come. Amen.

Kyrie

Sandra McCracken

Chorus



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

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

Tru - ly our hope is in You, Truly our hope is in You.

(continued on next page)

* PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE.

Verse

O Lord of life, our on - ly hope, Your ra - diance
 shines on all who look to You in the dark. E - mman - u - el come, come light our
 hearts.

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Assurance of Forgiveness

*Gloria Patri

Prepare the Way, O Zion

Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sav - ior's rule em - brace, and
 ti - dings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place. All
 lands will bow re - joic - ing, their ad - o - ra - tion voic - ing. O
 blest is Christ who came in God's most ho - ly name.

*Passing the Peace of Christ

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Blessing of the Children

Following the Blessing of the Children, children in preschool through 4th grade may leave for a group lesson in the Chapel. Middle Schoolers are encouraged to stay in worship. Children will return to the sanctuary during the Hymn of Response and join their families for Communion.

Invitation to the Offering



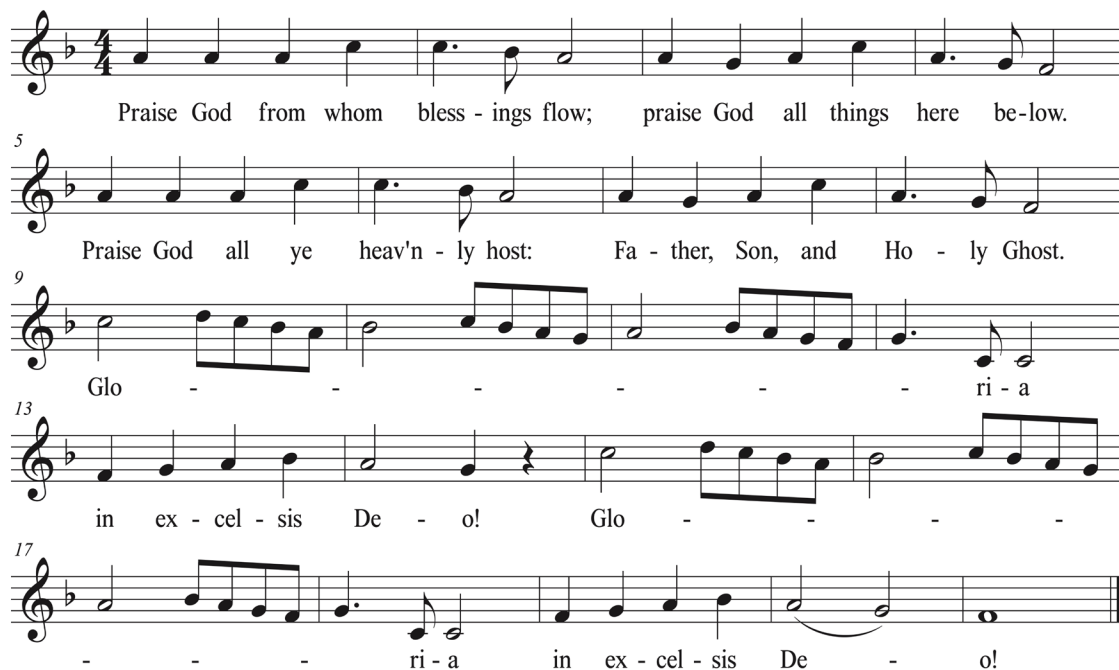
You may give online or fulfill your pledge by scanning the QR code with your mobile phone, or go to firstchurchlf.org/give. Thank you for your generosity!

Offertory

Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending

David H. Williams

*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!

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 64: 1-9

Old Testament, page 694 in pew Bible

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

* PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE.

Sermon

Jon Wasson

“The Light Has Come”

*Hymn of Response

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus
Hymn 82, Tune: Hyfrydol

The Lord’s Supper

The Invitation to the Table

Prayers of the People

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. Communion is served intinction style. Ushers will direct your row when it is time to come forward.

Communion Hymn

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence
Hymn 347, Tune: Picardy

The Prayer of Thanksgiving 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.

*Hymn of Sending

Lift Up Your Hearts, Ye Mighty Gates
Hymn 93, Tune: Truro

*Charge and Benediction

*Choral Response

Choral Amen

*Postlude

Toccata on *Veni Emmanuel*
Adolphus Hailstork

Joys & Concerns

Joys

The beginning of the season of Advent!

Concerns

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.

Mitch Engel recovering from foot surgery.

For pastoral care: pastoralcare@firstchurchlf.org

Serve, Learn, & Connect

Joys & Concerns

Kristie Finley
pastoralcare@firstchurchlf.org

Arrange a Wedding or Baptism

Sarah Seccombe
sseccombe@firstchurchlf.org

Engagement & Membership

Diane Quinn
engagement@firstchurchlf.org

Music Ministry

Robert McConnell
rmcconnell@firstchurchlf.org

Mission

Stewart Kerr
skerr@firstchurchlf.org

Weekly Ministries

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

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

firstchurchlf.org/ministries

Announcements

Advent 2023: The Light Has Come

Advent begins today!
See our schedule of events and services at firstchurchlf.org/advent.

Giving Tree

In this season of giving, we encourage you to participate in the Giving Tree ministry! The Giving Tree holds names and wishes from those in the Casa Central Chicago InTact program. Select a paper ornament, and return wrapped gifts with their tag by Tuesday, December 5.

Women's Christmas Tea Monday, December 4, 5:45 PM

Join us for tea and a Christmas program to support our mission partner, Mothers Trust Foundation. Details and sign-up on the church website!

Pledge your support to the 2024 Stewardship Campaign!

Thank you for pledging to this year's Stewardship campaign! If you would like to make a gift to the church, we are still receiving pledges. Every gift you make supports our church's life: faith formation, mission, care for each other, and tending our historic campus. You can pledge online, by submitting a pledge card, or by calling the church office. Your generosity makes our mission of sending well-equipped disciples of Jesus into the world possible! We hope that you will prayerfully consider your financial commitment for 2024.

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 church office.

Carol Sing

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-ups are helpful, but not required.

Serve the congregation as a church leader!

The All Church Nominating Committee is assembling a slate for congregational election in February 2024. We ask that you prayerfully consider yourself or nominate others you believe are ready to lead and serve our church. For details and to complete a nomination form, go to firstchurchlf.org/acnc.
New deadline for nominations: Sunday, December 17

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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