



**First Presbyterian Church**  
OF LAKE FOREST

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

ADVENT  
— 2024 —

**Welcome!**

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

December 22, 2024

# Today's Service

## Season of Advent

The premise of a Lessons & Carols service is very simple: a series of Bible readings alternating with sung carols from the congregation or anthems from the choir. The Bible readings guide us on a journey through the whole salvation history: the Fall of Humanity, God's covenant with Abraham, God's promise to send a Messiah to the people of Israel, the angel Gabriel's announcement that the Virgin Mary would have a child, and the birth of Jesus in the manger. Pairing the Bible readings with just the right piece of music is one of the creative highlights of my year, and it is my hope this service will be a blessing and a joy to you this season.

— Dr. Robert McConnell

The Revised Common Lectionary scriptures assigned for today are Micah 5:2-5a and Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm 80:1-7; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45 (46-55).

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## Worship Participants

Rev. Jon Wasson	Nancy Drowne
Rev. Kristie Finley	Julie Crouch
Thomas Wasson	Dr. Robert McConnell
Paul Darling	Dr. Jack Reeder
Shannon Engelland	Sanctuary Choir
Art Chantler	Rick Day
Dorothy Chantler	Gonzalo Zarazaga

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

**Sunday School** will not meet this week. All children ages 3 and up are encouraged to stay in worship. Coloring pages are available.

**Fellowship**  
10:30 AM, Great Room

## 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.

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 in celebration of two Melindas and their December birthdays: Melinda Louise Small who turned 2 and Mindy Bourne in her heavenly birthday.

## Prelude

### Benedictus

Alec Rowley



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).

# The Welcome

## Introit

O Radiant Dawn

James MacMillan

O Radiant Dawn, Splendour of eternal Light, Sun of Justice:  
come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.  
Isaiah had prophesied, 'The people who walked in darkness have seen the great light;  
upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone.' Amen.  
— Antiphon for December 21

## \*Lighting of the Advent Wreath and Call to Worship

Leader: God loves us with an everlasting love;

**People: and his faithfulness is to every generation.**

Leader: In this, the love of God was made manifest among us,

**People: that God sent his only Son into the world,  
so that we might live through him.**

**All: Come, Lord Jesus, Come!**

## \*Gathering Hymn No. 140

Once in Royal David's City

## The First Lesson

*God tells Adam and Eve that they have lost the life of paradise.*

Genesis 3:8-19

Typically read by a child

## \*Carol No. 144 verses 1, 2, and 4

In the Bleak Midwinter

## The Second Lesson

*The prophet prays that God would open the heavens and save his people.*

Isaiah 64

## Carol

Sanctuary Choir

Drop Down, Ye Heavens, From Above

Judith Weir

Drop down ye heavens from above,  
And let the skies pour down righteousness.

Comfort ye, comfort ye, my people;  
My salvation shall not tarry.  
I have blotted out as a thick cloud thy transgressions.  
Fear not, for I will save thee;  
For I am the Lord thy God,  
The holy one of Israel, thy redeemer.

Drop down ye heavens from above,  
And let the skies pour down righteousness.

— Isaiah 45:8, 40:1, 46:13; 44:22; 41:41

## The Third Lesson

*God comforts a people in exile.*

Isaiah 40:1-11

### \*Carol No. 82

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

## The Fourth Lesson

*The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.*

Isaiah 11:1-3a; 4a; 6-9

## Carol

Sanctuary Choir

A Spotless Rose

Herbert Howells

A spotless Rose is blowing  
Sprung from a tender root,  
Of ancient seers' foreshowing,  
Of Jesse promised fruit;  
Its fairest bud unfolds to light  
Amid the cold, cold winter  
And in the dark midnight.

The Rose which I am singing,  
Whereof Isaiah said,  
Is from its sweet root springing  
In Mary, purest Maid;  
For through our God's great love and might  
The blessed babe she bare us  
In a cold, cold winter's night.  
— *Es ist ein Ros entsprungen*, tr. Catherine Winkworth

## The Fifth Lesson

*Israel's Joy and Restoration*

Zephaniah 3:14-18

### \*Carol No. 105

People Look East

## The Sixth Lesson

*The birth of Jesus is foretold to the virgin Mary.*

Luke 1:26-35, 38

## Carol

Sanctuary Choir

Jesus Christ the Apple Tree

Elizabeth Poston

The tree of life my soul hath seen  
Laden with fruit and always green  
The tree of life my soul hath seen

Laden with fruit and always green  
The trees of nature fruitless be  
Compared with Christ the apple tree.

His beauty doth all things excel  
By faith I know but ne'er can tell  
His beauty doth all things excel  
By faith I know but ne'er can tell  
The glory which I now can see  
In Jesus Christ the apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought  
And pleasure dearly I have bought  
For happiness I long have sought  
And pleasure dearly I have bought  
I missed of all but now I see  
'Tis found in Christ the apple tree.

I'm weary with my former toil  
Here I will sit and rest a while  
I'm weary with my former toil  
Here I will sit and rest a while  
Under the shadow I will be  
Of Jesus Christ the apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive,  
It keeps my dying faith alive;  
Which makes my soul in haste to be  
With Jesus Christ the apple tree.

— Richard Hutchins

## The Seventh Lesson

John 1:1-14

*St. John unfolds the mystery of the incarnation.*

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** verses 1, 2, 3, and 6

Of the Father's Love Begotten

## 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](http://firstchurchlf.org/give). Thank you for your generosity!

## Offertory

In the Stillness

Sally Beamish

In the stillness of a church  
Where candles glow,  
In the softness of a fall  
Of fresh white snow,  
In the brightness of the stars  
That shine this night,  
In the calmness of a pool  
Of healing light,  
In the clearness of a choir  
That softly sings,

In the oneness of a hush  
Of angels' wings,  
In the mildness of a night  
By stable bare,  
In the quietness of a lull  
Near cradle fair,  
There's a patience as we wait  
For a new morn,  
And the presence of a child  
Soon to be born.

— Katrina Shepard

## \*Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise God all creatures here below.  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

## 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.**

## \*Hymn of Sending No. 147 verses 1, 2, and 6

The First Nowell

## \*Charge and Benediction

## \*Postlude

Sonata in E-flat major BWV 525

III: Allegro

Johann Sebastian Bach

\* PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE.

# Joys & Concerns

## Joys

Rita Fossell has shared some of her personal collection of crèches (nativity scenes) from around the world for display in the history and archives case in the South Parlor.

## Concerns

For Susan Boyden and her family on the death of her husband, Thomas Boyden on December 7.

For the family of Helen "Jean" Buckowich who died on December 4 in Florida.

For Nancy Klein who was recently diagnosed with vision loss in her right eye.

For Diane Fondriest recovering from hand surgery following a dog leash incident.

## Prayers for the Country and the World

Gracious God, during this Advent season, we pray for peace, justice, and compassion in our country and around the world. Fill our hearts with the love of Christ, guiding our actions to bring healing, unity, and hope. May your light shine brightly in all places, renewing our spirits and drawing us closer to one another. Amen.

We are a church that prays for each other, celebrating life's joys and supporting each other in time of need. You may email your prayer requests to [pastoralcare@firstchurchlf.org](mailto:pastoralcare@firstchurchlf.org) or call 224.544.1967.

Prayer requests will be removed from this listing after two weeks. Please let us know if prayer continues to be requested.

**Prayer Chain** For confidential prayers, you may email [prayerchain@firstchurchlf.org](mailto:prayerchain@firstchurchlf.org). Please know that your prayers will be held in strict confidence.

## 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

Sally McDonald and Laura Johnson  
[missionoutreach@firstchurchlf.org](mailto:missionoutreach@firstchurchlf.org)

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## Weekly Ministries

For details and schedule visit our website at [firstchurchlf.org/ministries](http://firstchurchlf.org/ministries)

### SUNDAYS

#### Early Word Bible Study

8:30 AM, South Parlor

#### Middle School Youth Group

Most Sundays, 5:00 PM, Youth Lounge

#### Senior High Youth Group

Most Sundays, 7:00 PM, Youth Lounge

### TUESDAYS

#### 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

### THURSDAYS

#### Daybreakers Men's Bible Study

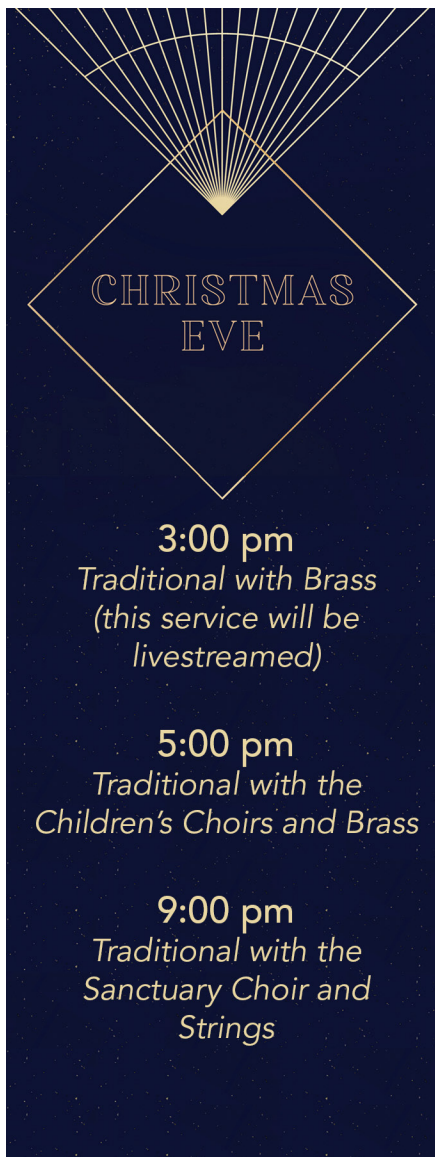
6:30 AM, South Parlor/Zoom

### FRIDAYS

#### Men of Corinth Bible Study

7:00 AM, South Parlor/Zoom

## Announcements



**CHRISTMAS  
EVE**

**3:00 pm**  
*Traditional with Brass  
(this service will be  
livestreamed)*

**5:00 pm**  
*Traditional with the  
Children's Choirs and Brass*

**9:00 pm**  
*Traditional with the  
Sanctuary Choir and  
Strings*

### Christmas Eve Ushers

Ushers are needed for our Christmas Eve services on December 24 at 3pm, 5pm and 9pm. This is a great opportunity for groups of friends and family to usher together! To sign up or for questions, contact Sarah Seccombe at [sseccombe@firstchurchlf.org](mailto:sseccombe@firstchurchlf.org)

### Church Office Holiday Hours

The church offices will be closed December 25 through January 1. If you need pastoral care or to get in touch with the business office, you can call the church's main number (847-234-6250) to leave a voicemail or send an email to [pastoralcare@firstchurchlf.org](mailto:pastoralcare@firstchurchlf.org).

### Youth Group

Middle School and Senior High Youth Groups will not meet during the holiday break. Youth Groups will resume on Sunday, January 12.

### New Member Classes

If you are interested in learning more about our church and membership, we will be having new member gatherings on February 9 and 23 following worship. For more information, contact Diane Quinn at [engagement@firstchurchlf.org](mailto:engagement@firstchurchlf.org)

### Sign up for our newsletter!

Scan the QR code or go to [firstchurchlf.org](http://firstchurchlf.org) to receive news and updates.



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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