



**First Presbyterian Church**  
OF LAKE FOREST

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



CHRISTMAS  
EVE

**Welcome!**

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

**December 24, 2024  
3:00 & 5:00 PM**

# 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.

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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  
Rev. Kristie W. Finley  
Dr. Robert McConnell  
Dr. Jack Reeder  
Rick Day  
Gonzalo Zarazaga

### 3:00 PM

The Vander Velde Family  
Susan Noble, soprano  
David Bilger, trumpet  
Quincy Erickson, trumpet  
Angela Bilger, horn  
Stephanie Lebens, trombone  
Andreas Bilger, violin

### 5:00 PM

Will & Peter Elliott  
Susan Noble, soprano  
Eloise Mulliken, soprano  
Carol and Cherub Choirs  
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](https://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, 13<sup>th</sup> Century, arr. Holmes

Allegro from Sonata #3 in F Major, HWV 370 George Frideric Handel

Canzona per Sonare No. 2 Giovanni Gabrieli

## Introit

O Holy Night  
Adolphe Adam

## The Welcome

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

Leader: We light the Christ candle to symbolize God's promise fulfilled.

**People: For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders.**

Leader: He is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

**People: Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and peace to all on whom his favor rests.**

**All: Blessed be the name of the Lord!**

### \*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!"

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!"

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!"

## Call to Confession

### Prayer of Confession

(silent confession...) **Great and glorious God, through Jesus Christ our Savior you have shown us that the blessed age of grace has appeared and the hoped-for time of salvation has come. Yet we cling to the glories of the present age—worldly passions and impious pursuits, self-indulgent, crooked, and ungodly ways. We choose to walk in darkness, unwilling to see the evil your light exposes. Cleanse us and free us; break the yoke we choose to carry through Christ, who gave himself for us, so that we might be your people, holy and whole. 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

3:00 PM Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring/The First Noel

Johann Sebastian Bach, arr. Christina Harmon

5:00 PM Jesus Child

John Rutter

Have you heard the story that they're telling about Bethlehem,  
Have you heard the story of the Jesus child?  
How he came from heaven and was born in a manger bed?  
Mary was his virgin mother pure and mild.

Sing alleluia, brothers, sing alleluia, sisters,  
Worship the Jesus child and praise his mother mild.  
"Glory to God on high" the angel hosts above are singing:  
Listen to the story of the Jesus child.

Jesus child, lying at Bethlehem,  
Sleeping safe at Mary's knee,  
Save my soul and bring me to paradise,  
Let me join the angels singing glory to thee.

Have you heard the story of the kings from the orient,  
Following the star that's shining over his head?  
Offering their precious gifts of gold, myrrh and frankincense,  
Kneeling with the ox and ass before his bed?

## \*Christmas Doxology No. 113 v. 1

Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high,  
sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply  
echoing their joyous strains.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

## \*Prayer of Dedication

### Anthem

3:00 PM The Snow Lay on the Ground

Traditional English Carol arr. Vicki Hancock Wright

The snow lay on the ground, the stars shone bright,  
When Christ the Lord was born on Christmas night.

Venite, adoremus Dominum,  
Venite, adoremus Dominum.  
(O come, let us adore him.)

'Twas gentle Mary maid, so young and strong,  
Who welcomed here the Christ child with a song.  
She laid him in a stall at Bethlehem;  
The cow and oxen shared the roof with them.

Saint Joseph, too was near to tend the child,  
To guard him, and protect his mother mild:  
The angels hover'd round, and sang this song:  
Venite, adoremus Dominum.

When blossoms flowered 'mid the snows  
Upon a winter night,  
Was born the Child, the Christmas Rose,  
The King of Love and Light.

The angels sang, the shepherds sang,  
The grateful earth rejoiced;  
And at His blessed birth the stars  
Their exultation voiced.

O come let us adore Him,  
O come let us adore Him,

O come let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord.

Again the heart with rapture glows  
To greet the holy night,  
That gave the world its Christmas Rose,  
Its King of Love and Light.

Let every voice acclaim His name,  
The grateful chorus swell.  
From paradise to earth He came  
That we with Him might dwell.

## 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

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.

Jesus is our childhood's pattern;  
day by day like us he grew;  
he was little, weak and helpless;  
tears and smiles like us he knew;  
and he feels for all our sadness,  
and he shares in all our gladness.

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

Katie Shimp Rasmussen  
Bruce & Virginia Ross  
Mary & Marv Farwell  
Frank, Lucy & Uncle Carl Klein  
Stan, Ruth & Tom Hess  
Jack & Corrine Reichert and Dan Milanak  
Dr. Ed Hamming  
Thomas & Rachel Jester  
Clayton & Florence Burrows  
Ronald & Barry Burrows  
Donna Crouse  
Becky Chestnut  
Don & Mona Strenger and Henry & Frances Pratt Strenger  
Frank, Sr. & Tessie Sibley and Matt & Lissie Cawkar  
Molly Quinn  
John & Gail Devlin and Harold & Georgia Juedes  
Our dad, Don Murphy  
My husband and daughter, Lawrence & Laura Beth  
John Remington  
Edward FitzSimons  
Cathy & Mike Suthard  
My brother, Larry Crone  
Christine L. Shaw  
Ben and Barbara Stephens  
Our mother and Nana, Audrey Webster  
Our father and Papa, Jim Webster  
Our brother and uncle, Scott Webster  
Our Abuelo Gustavo Munoz  
Marjorie & Edward Showers  
Virginia Mulligan Silverthorne  
John (Jack) Edward Showers  
John David Mulligan  
Jerry W. Ligon

## Given By

Dave and Kris Shimp  
Anonymous  
Liz Farwell & Mike Reyes  
Tom, Nancy & Carl Klein  
The Milanak Family  
The Hamming Family  
Tom & Pat Jester  
Don Jr., Jan, Gale & Rob  
Frank & Terri Sibley  
Pam & Mark Brandsted  
Tom & Margie Juedes  
The Starkey & Severson Families  
Frances Anderson  
His loving family  
His family  
The Nero Family  
Mary Onorato  
The Magnusson Family  
Christine Puch  
The Munoz Family  
Susan & Terry Mulligan  
Fay Ligon

Ann & Carl Schultz  
Leslie's mother, Beverly Geissler Weber  
Michelle A. Bagan  
Norma Hoaglund  
Karol Karlblom  
Kimberly Barclay Combs  
Our son, Christopher  
Linda A. Seymour  
Raymond Duyckinck & Christina Stanton  
Maggie Bennett  
Hildo & Erick Hoogcarspel  
Herb & Marianne Faulks  
Libby Faulks  
Karen Hoagland  
Pauline & Neil Raudabaugh  
Rebecca & Bill Peebles  
Jan & Mack Reynolds  
Craig Strom  
Our grandparents, Harriet & Douglas Stuart  
and my parents, Margaret & Gus Hart

### **Given in Honor of**

Art & Dorothy Chantler

Julia Simon  
Leslie & John Munger  
Carol Bagan  
Robert Hoaglund  
Robert Karlblom  
Caryl Barclay  
Brian & Linda Martinat  
Gretchen Seymour  
Tim, Carolyn & Tia Bennett  
Mom, Dad, Elliot, Dustin, Annie & Molly  
The Bennett Family  
Bruce & Patty Bennett and Family  
Bruce, Patty, Elliot, Dustin, Annie & Molly Bennett  
Bruce, Patty, Elliot, Dustin, Annie & Molly Bennett  
Joseph & Beverly Raudabaugh

His Family  
The Lansing Family

### **Given By**

Karen, Nancy & Julie

### **Given to the Glory of God by:**

Laurel Taylor  
Diane Quinn  
Leslie & John Munger  
Jill & Mike Havey and Family

# Joys & Concerns

## Prayer for Christmas

God of fresh starts, past provision and timeless loving kindness, today brings the birth of our Savior and the fulfillment of ancient promises. No longer do we stumble through the dark valley of death. No longer do we fear evil. No longer do we languish in despair. The Incarnation of Emmanuel, God with us, illumines the remote corners of our souls and the deepest caves of the world's suffering. Sin crumbles in defeat with the coming of the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Today redemption reigns. Reconciliation refuses to relent. Good news reverberates throughout creation. In gratitude and awe we sing with joy that grace upon grace has bursts the bounds of heaven and come to earth, to us, for us, for all peoples, every nation, the entirety of God's beloved world. Amen.

— Jill Duffield

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  
[rmccConnell@firstchurchlf.org](mailto:rmccConnell@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

## Holiday Hours

The church office 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 main number (847-234-6250) to leave a voicemail or send an email to [pastoralcare@firstchurchlf.org](mailto:pastoralcare@firstchurchlf.org).

## 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)

## Ice Skating at West Park

### Sunday, January 19

Save the date to join us for some ice skating, fellowship, and hot cocoa! We will be at West Park at 1:00 PM. Bring your chair, blanket, and skates (but you don't have to be a skater to join!). We will bring the hot cocoa! Weather permitting.

## First Wednesday Lunch

### Wednesday, February 5, 11:30 AM

Join us on the first Wednesday of each month beginning in February for a lunch hosted by the Deacons. This special gathering for our older adults will feature great food, conversation, and community. Details and registration coming soon.

## Dinner & Trivia

### Sunday, February 23

Save the date for a fun night of friendly competition and fundraising for our Senior High Work Trip. All ages are welcome! Details and 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)  
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