

THE *Wonder* OF CHRISTMAS
ADVENT 2021



First Presbyterian Church
OF LAKE FOREST

December 19, 2021
Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

The Christmas Pageant



Prelude

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice
Sussex Carol

arr. John Ferguson, 2002
English/arr. Kevin McChesney, 1992

The Welcome

Lighting of the Advent Candles The Gronau, Vie, and Specketer families

Leader: Joy to the world!

People: This, then, is the culmination of our waiting.

Leader: We have lit the candles of hope, of peace, of love. In the glow of their light we feel the warmth of deep and quiet joy. This glow of Your love allows us the courage to bring our sins to light, and ask your forgiveness.

People: Joy to the earth, the Savior forgives and reigns.

Leader: Let us our songs employ.

People: Let us sing to the glory of God;

Leader: Let us sing the name of Christ who offers us hope in the prison of despair.

People: Peace in the chaos of life.

Leader: God's love graciously, silently, vulnerably offered.

People: And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

God of love, help us to believe in and experience the extraordinary, never-ceasing love you have for us, and show us how we can share this wonderful love with others. Amen.

Lighting of the candles of Hope, Peace, Love, and Joy.

*Hymn of Praise NO. 93

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

TUNE: TRURO

*Opening Prayer & the Lord's Prayer (unison)

Give us O God, such love and wonder,
that with shepherds, and wise men, and pilgrims unknown,
we may come to adore the holy child, the promised king;
and with our gifts worship him, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,
who taught us to pray, saying,

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.

Offering

Dave Tolmie
Stewardship

Offertory

Away in a Manger

arr. Valerie W. Stephenson, 2011

— The Pageant —

Invitation to the Manger

John 1: 14

Jim Cochrane

Christ's Birth is Foretold by the Prophet Isaiah

Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7

J. R. Engelland

Carol NO. 88

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

TUNE: VENI EMMANUEL

***O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.***

Words from the Scribe

David Rattin

The Journey to Bethlehem

Luke 2: 1-5

Vail Bayly

Carol NO. 121

O Little Town of Bethlehem

TUNE: ST. LOUIS

*O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.
How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him still, the dear Christ enters in.
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!*

Words from the Curly Horn Sheep

Abby Wells and Maizy Nero

The Birth of Jesus

Vail Bayly

Luke 2: 6-7

Carol NO. 115

Away in a Manger

TUNE: MUELLER

*Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,
and stay by my side 'til morning is nigh.
Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.*

Words from the Angel

Elizabeth Specketer

The Angel's Good News

Kittery Engelland

Luke 2: 8-14

Carol NO. 119

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

TUNE: MENDELSSOHN

***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 th' angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born 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!"***

Words from the Shepherd

Owen Scheuer

The Glad Tidings of the Shepherd

Grace Vander Velde

Luke 2: 15-20

Carol

Carol of the Friendly Beasts

***Jesus, our brother, strong and good,
was humbly born in a stable rude,
and the friendly beasts around him stood,
Jesus our brother, strong and good.***

***I, said the donkey, shaggy and brown,
I carried his mother uphill and down,
I carried his mother to Bethlehem town;
I, said the donkey, shaggy and brown.***

*I, said the sheep with the curly horn,
I gave him my wool for his blanket warm,
he wore my coat on Christmas morn;
I, said the sheep with the curly horn.*

*Thus all the beasts, by some good spell,
in the stable dark were glad to tell
of the gifts they gave Emmanuel,
the gifts they gave Emmanuel.*

Words from Desert Nomad

Eliza Carrabine

Wise Men Seek the Christ Child

Matthew 2: 1-4, 7-11

Carol NO. 151

We Three Kings of Orient Are

TUNE: GREENSLEEVES

The Kings shall sing verses, congregation joins on the refrain.

***O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!***

The Song of Mary

Anna Jasper

Luke 1: 46-55

Carol NO. 134

Joy to the World

TUNE: ANTIOCH

***Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven 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, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, 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, far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.*

Prayer of Christmas (responsively)

Ben Rattin

Leader: Emmanuel: God, you are with us.

People: We have heard the promise of the prophets;

Leader: We have caught the notes of an angel's song;

People: We have seen a star in the heavens, and we have believed.

Leader: Today we have come to be with you because you have come to be with us.

People: We seek an innocent, helpless baby in a crude manger;

Leader: We seek a Messiah who will reign with justice;

**People: And you, who are the weakest and the strongest,
the most humble and the most mighty, have found us.**

Leader: Now we may find ourselves. Now we may love each other;
now we may truly worship you

**ALL: Crying aloud with the heavenly host: "Glory to God in the highest!
Peace on earth and goodwill among all people." Amen.**

Carol NO. 122

Silent Night, Holy Night!

TUNE: STILLE NACHT

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

*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! Wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing Alleluia to our King:
Christ the Savior is born. Christ the Savior is born.*

Closing Prayer and Benediction

Rev. Clinton G. Roberts

Response *NO. 134 (All)*

Joy to the World

TUNE: ANTIOCH

***He Rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.***

*Postlude

Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella

arr. Keith Chapman, 1976

A special thank you to all the participants, youth helpers, volunteers and staff who helped make this pageant possible:

Baby Jesus	Blair McNicholas
Mary	Anna Jasper
Joseph	Ben Rattin
Angel of the Lord	Angela McNicholas
Star	Emory Nero
Scribe	Daniel Rattin
Curly Horn Sheep	Abby Wells
	Maizy Nero
Angel	Elizabeth Specketer
Shepherd	Owen Scheuer
Desert Nomad	Eliza Carrabine
Three Kings	John Johnson
	Brian O'Keane
	John Noble
Camels	Will Redding
	Thomas Wells
Scripture Readers	J. R. Engelland
	Vail Bayly
	Kittery Engelland
	Grace Vander Velde

Coming up...



Longest Night Service

Wednesday, December 22, 7:00 PM, Sanctuary

We have a tradition of gathering on the longest night, when there are more hours of darkness than light. It's a time to come together for prayers and laments, to mourn the losses and griefs of the year, to let the tears flow for the hurting places in our lives, as well as for our country and our world.



Christmas Eve Worship Services

Friday, December 24, Sanctuary and livestream

3:00 PM Family-friendly Candlelight Service

5:00 PM Family-friendly Candlelight Service
with Children's Choirs

9:00 PM Traditional Candlelight Service
with Sanctuary Choir and String Quartet



Epiphany Star Sunday

Sunday, January 2

As we begin a new year, pick up your personal "Star Word" for 2022 at worship. During the months ahead, see how God uses your Star Word to speak into your life situation and share your Star Story next year!

View our Weekly Schedule of ministries, and find details and Zoom links on our church website: www.firstchurchlf.org/ministries

**Church Website: www.firstchurchlf.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/firstchurchlf
Instagram, Twitter, YouTube: [@firstchurchlf](https://www.instagram.com/firstchurchlf)**

This Week's Calendar

TODAY

- 8:30 AM FIDE "Hope" Bible Study, S. Parlor/Zoom
10:00 Worship, Sanctuary
2:00 PM Eagle Scout Ceremony, Sanctuary
4:00 Middle School Youth Group, Stuart Room
7:00 Senior High Youth Group, Youth Lounge

MON

- 7:00 PM Session Meeting, Great Room/Sanctuary

TUE

- 1:00 PM Adult Bible Study, Zoom
Prayer Shawl Ministry, South Parlor
7:00 Women's Evening Bible Study, Zoom

WED

- 10:00 AM Wed. Women's Bible Study, South Parlor/Zoom
4:15 PM Children's Choirs, Music Room/Sanctuary
7:00 Longest Night Service, Sanctuary

THURS

- 6:00 AM Daybreakers Men's Ministry, S. Parlor/Zoom
7:00 PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, Music Room

- FRI Church Office Closed at Noon

- 3:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, Sanctuary
5:00 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, Sanctuary
9:00 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, Sanctuary

The Church will be closed on Monday, December 27.



Give

Give online or fulfill your pledge:
scan the QR code
or go to FirstChurchLF.org/give.

Flowers in the niches are in loving memory of our parents, Shirley and Tom Taubensee, from the Havey and Taubensee families.

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.

Pastor on call Pastor Clint, 630.220.7814
Pastor Clint's day off is on Monday.
Pastor Kristie's day off is on Friday.

Worship Participants

Rev. Clinton G. Roberts
Rev. Kristie W. Finley
Jim Cochrane
Sarah Seccombe
Dr. Tom Tropp
Dr. Barry Wenger
Rick Day
Alex McDowell
Aaron Helms

Serve, Learn & Connect

For our weekly ministries and Zoom links
firstchurchlf.org/ministries

Share Joys & Concerns

Kristie Finley 224.544.1967

Home Communion

Kristie Finley 224.544.1967

Arrange a Baptism

Sarah Seccombe 224.544.1958

Engagement

Lynnette Hinch engagement@firstchurchlf.org

Mission

Stewart Kerr 224.544.1968

Elders

Mike Adams
Paul Bergmann
Renee Borkowski
Koen Brown
Donna Coffin
Scott Crawford
Emma Darling
Paul Darling
John Gescheidle
Lynnette Hinch

John Johnson
Laura Johnson
Bruce Keith
Sally McDonald
Brian O'Keane
Diane Quinn
Kendall Severson
Nina Strnad
Mary Watanabe *Clerk*
Anne Winebrenner

Deacons

Bill Allen
Nancy Anderson
Katy Borkowski
Mallory Ciarrocchi
Dorothy Chantler
Susan Daly
Wendy Darling
Peg Gronau
Sharon Haltom
Nancy Hamming
Jeff Hinch
Hildo Hoogcarspel
Cindy Johnson

Dick Johnson
Susan McDowell
John McNicholas
Lisa Murray
John Noble
Tiffany Notz
Darcy Traynor
Sherry Trenchard
Joan Vie
Gale Strenger Wayne
Moderator
Brian Zeeman



First Presbyterian Church
OF LAKE FOREST

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