



# First Presbyterian Church

OF LAKE FOREST

**December 27, 2020**

**Christmastide**

**PRAYER of the DAY**

Almighty God,  
you wonderfully created,  
and yet more wonderfully restored,  
the dignity of human nature.  
In your mercy,  
let us share the divine life of Jesus Christ  
who came to share our humanity,  
and who now lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
One God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**PRELUDE**

**The First Noel**

arr. Diane Bish, 1993

**WELCOME**

**CALL to WORSHIP**

Leader: Let us proclaim the gracious acts of God;

**People: God's steadfast love endures forever.**

Leader: Now we have seen the saving love of the Lord,

**People: The glory of God's people and a light to the nations.**

**HYMN OF PRAISE, No 110****Love Has Come**

- Bring a Torch

*Love has come: a light in the darkness!  
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.  
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it:  
Hear how their song of joy arises:  
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!  
Love! Love! Glory of God on high.*

*Love is born! Come, share in the wonder.  
Love is God now asleep in the hay.  
See the glow in the eyes of his mother;  
What is the name her heart is saying?  
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers.  
Love! Love! Jesus, Emmanuel.*

*Love has come and never will leave us!  
Love is life everlasting and free.  
Love is Jesus within and among us.  
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.  
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.  
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!*

**PRAYER OF ADORATION**

**Glory to you, almighty God,  
for you sent your only-begotten Son,  
that we might have new life.  
Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ,  
for you became flesh and lived among us  
that we might become your people.  
Glory to you, Holy Spirit,  
for you direct and rule our lives.  
Glory to you, Almighty God,  
and to your Son, Jesus Christ,  
and to the Holy Spirit,  
now and forever. Amen.**

## **PASSING the PEACE of CHRIST**

### **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Rev. Clinton G. Roberts

### **OFFERING**

### **A READING FROM SCRIPTURE**

Luke 2:21-40

After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,  
according to your word;  
for my eyes have seen your salvation,  
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,  
a light for revelation to the Gentiles  
and for glory to your people Israel.'

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with

fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

**“ Where is Our Hope on Christmas? “**

Jim Cochrane

**CAROL SING**

Tom Tropp and Barry Wenger

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**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 125**

**Before the Marvel of This Night**

-MARVEL

*Before the marvel of this night,  
adoring, fold your wings and bow;  
then tear the sky apart with light  
and with your news the world endow.  
Proclaim the birth of Christ and peace,  
that fear and death and sorrow cease:  
sing peace; sign peace; sing gift of peace;  
sing peace; sing gift of peace.*

*Awake the sleeping world with song:  
this is the day the Lord has made.  
Assemble here, celestial throng,  
in royal splendor come arrayed.  
Give earth a glimpse of heavenly bliss,  
a teasing taste of what they miss:  
sing bliss; sing bliss; sing endless bliss;  
sing bliss; sing endless bliss!*

*The love that we have always known,  
our constant joy and endless light,  
now to the loveless world be shown,  
now break upon its deathly night.  
Into one song compress the love  
that rules our universe above:  
sing love; sing love; sing God is love;  
sing love; sing God is love!*

## **THE BLESSING**

**POSTLUDE**

**Go Tell It On the Mountain**

arr. Callahan & Kerr

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**\*To give to our COVID-19 Fund: [FirstChurchLF.org/give/covid-fund-donations](https://FirstChurchLF.org/give/covid-fund-donations)**

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***Pastor Kristie's day off is on Friday. Pastor Clint's day off is on Monday.***

### **Worship Participants**

**Rev. Clint Roberts**

**Rev. Kristie Finley**

**Jim Cochrane, Director of Youth Ministries**

**Sarah Seccombe, Director of Children's Ministries**

**Barry Wenger, Director of Bell Choirs and Organist**

**Tom Tropp, Director of Music and Arts**

**Susan Noble, Director of Children's Music**

**Will Elliot, AV Support**

**Peter Elliot, AV Support**