

**WELCOME, GUESTS!**

**Thank you for worshipping with us tonight.**

Please sign the Friendship Pad and pass it along the pew, and introduce yourself to those around you after the service. Then stop by the Welcome Center in the Narthex (lobby) to pick up information that will acquaint you with our church services and programs. If you have questions, members of the Welcomers Corps will be there to answer them. You are also invited to join the conversation on Facebook, at [facebook.com/firstpresah](https://facebook.com/firstpresah), and Twitter, at [@FirstPresAH](https://twitter.com/FirstPresAH). We look forward to connecting with you again.

**CHILD CARE**

Children of all ages are warmly welcomed and encouraged to participate in worship tonight and always. On Sundays, child care is available (infants through age four) in the Christian Education Wing (8:15 am – 12:15 pm). We encourage 3- and 4-year-olds to participate in Preschool Sunday School, offered from 9:45 to 10:45 am.

**CLASSES FOR ALL AGES**

From September through May, Sunday morning Christian education classes are held for all ages. These include classes for preschool, elementary, middle school, and high school students, as well as education and discussion groups for adults. Children's and youth education, as well as adult classes, take place from 9:45 to 10:45 am. To learn more, visit [firstpresah.org](https://firstpresah.org) or call the church office at 847-255-5900.

**SPECIAL ASSISTANCE**

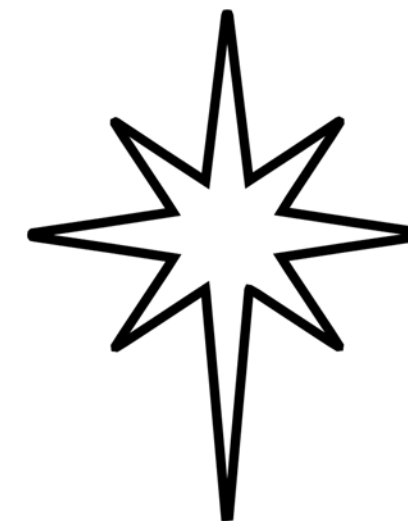
Large print bulletins, large print hymnals, and hearing amplifiers are available from the ushers.

**IMPORTANT WORSHIP REMINDERS**

Please silence cell phones and refrain from taking photos or recording the worship service. Visit the Webcast Archives page at [firstpresah.org](https://firstpresah.org) to experience this service again. To download or listen to a podcast of tonight's sermon (available soon), visit [firstpresah.org/media/podcast](https://firstpresah.org/media/podcast). Past sermons and other educational broadcasts are available through the Media section of our website.

**First Presbyterian Church  
of Arlington Heights**

*A congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)  
Organized in 1855*



“Possible things are easy to believe.  
The Glorious Impossibles are those things  
that bring joy to our hearts, hope to our lives,  
songs to our lips.”  
— Madeleine L'Engle

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**SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY  
CHRISTMAS EVE**

**DECEMBER 24, 2017  
11:00 PM**

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**Choose love. Be the light. Change the world.**

**First Presbyterian Church of Arlington Heights**  
302 N. Dunton Avenue / Arlington Heights, IL 60004  
847-255-5900 / [mail@firstpresah.org](mailto:mail@firstpresah.org) / [www.firstpresah.org](https://www.firstpresah.org)



*Order of Worship*  
*December 24, 2017 ~ Christmas Eve 11:00 pm*

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CHRISTMAS MUSIC FOR ORGAN Traditional

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## GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

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WELCOME AND INVITATION TO WORSHIP Judy Hockenberry

✠ CALL TO WORSHIP (Luke 1:68-79)

One: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for God came and redeemed us.

**All: By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us,**

One: we who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death will have light.

**All: The Lord will guide our feet into the way of peace.**

One: Let us worship God.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES College Aged Youth

✠ CAROL 133 (vv. 1, 3, 4) “O Come, All Ye Faithful” Adeste Fidelis

CALL TO CONFESSION TC Anderson

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**O God, Wonderful Counselor and Prince of Peace: we come to you in the stillness of this night looking for miracles and hoping for impossible things. We long to be filled with hope and yet we linger in despair. We want to follow your will but it just seems too hard. We get caught up in the “should” of this world and forget your kingdom is about something else entirely. Forgive our small-minded ways. Forgive us when we fail to see all the possibilities that the baby in the manger brings us. Forgive us for trying too hard to please others and not trying hard enough to please you. Restore our hearts that we might receive our King this night. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.**

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

✠ GLORY TO GOD (Hymn 583)

**Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!**

**Glory to God, glory to God, alleluia, alleluia!**

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## THE PROPHECY

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FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 9:2, 6-7  
(Pew Bible, p. 555) Drew Larson  
The Word of the Lord/**Thanks be to God!**

CAROL 82 “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”  
Hyfrydol

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## THE BIRTH

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SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:1-7  
(Pew Bible, p. 832) John Treppa  
The Word of the Lord/**Thanks be to God!**

CAROL 121 “O Little Town of Bethlehem”  
St. Louis

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## THE SHEPHERDS AND THE ANGELS

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THIRD SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:8-20  
(Pew Bible, p. 833) Hannah Blanck  
The Word of the Lord/**Thanks be to God!**

CAROL 113 “Angels We Have Heard on High”  
Gloria

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## THE STAR AND THE GIFTS

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FOURTH SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 2:1-11  
(Pew Bible, p. 783) Judy Hockenberry  
The Word of the Lord/**Thanks be to God!**

SERMON “The Glorious Impossibilities of God”  
Judy Hockenberry

PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND CHRISTMAS OFFERING

OFFERTORY “It Feels Like Christmas”  
TC Anderson, guitar/voice; Wes Carroll, piano;  
Adam Hendrickson, guitar/voice  
*Paul Williams*

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER  
Alex Lang/TC Anderson

THE INVITATION

One: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

THE COMMUNION PRAYER

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.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

## THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE Alex Lang  
One: The prophet declared, “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light:

**All: those who dwelled in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.”**

One: Jesus said, “I am the light of the world;

**All: whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”**

One: Jesus said, “You are the light of the world;

**All: let your light so shine before others, that they may see your good works and give glory to God who is in heaven.”**

SHARING THE LIGHT

*An usher will light the candle of the person at the end of each pew. As your neighbor lights his/her candle from yours, give the greeting, “The peace of Christ be with you.” The congregation will join in singing “Silent Night.” During the last verse, carefully raise your candle. Please extinguish candles following the Benediction and place them in the receptacles in the Narthex as you leave.*

CAROL 122 “Silent Night, Holy Night!”  
Stille Nacht

BENEDICTION Judy Hockenberry

✠ POSTLUDE “Toccata on ‘Adeste Fidelis’ ”  
*arr. Richard Purvis*

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✠ Please stand as you are able.

**Preaching:** Judy Hockenberry

**Pastors:** Alex Lang, Judy Hockenberry, TC Anderson

**Drector of Music and Worship:** Adam Hendrickson

**Associate Director of Music and Organist:** Christopher Urban

### NEW YEAR’S EVE WORSHIP SERVICE

**10:00 am** — Traditional worship in the Sanctuary

### REGULAR SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

**8:30 am** — *finding grace* (modern worship in the Chapel)

**9:30 am** — CROSSROADS (blended worship in the Sanctuary)

**11:00 am** — HERITAGE (traditional worship in the Sanctuary)

### LEARN MORE

If you are thinking about joining the congregation of First Presbyterian and would like to learn more about the church, contact Pastor TC Anderson at 847-255-5900 or tcanderson@firstpresah.org.