First Presbyterian Church of Arlington Heights

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



HERITAGE

"It is the grace of the gospel... that it confronts us with the truth and says: You are a sinner, a great, desperate sinner; now come as the sinner that you are, to God who loves you." — Dietrich Bonhoeffer

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY BAPTISM OF THE LORD

JANUARY 8, 2017 11:00 AM

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 • www.fpcah.org • mail@fpcah.org



GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude	"Variations on 'Come, Thou Fount'"	Albert Travis
	I. Chorale	
	II. Air	
	III. Duo	
	IV. Andante	
	V. Toccata	
Welcome		Alex Lang

†CALL TO WORSHIP

- One: The One who calls us "beloved" also blesses us.
- All: Blessings come in ways we do not expect or understand.
- One: Jesus teaches that those who mourn, those who are meek, and those who are poor in spirit are blessed.
- All: We come to worship the One who blesses in ways we do not understand.

♥ Hymn 403	"Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty"	Unser Herrscher
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CALL TO CONFESSION

Judy Hockenberry

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of comfort and blessing, you have blessed us in ways we do not understand. We expect comfort and abundance by our culture's standards. When we fail to receive what we think we deserve, we rail against you. We feel forgotten and forsaken. Help us to understand that your blessings come in ways far different than the world expects. Forgive us when we turn our back on the blessings of grief and loss. Forgive us when we fail to be your peacemakers. Forgive us when we abuse our power and our wealth. Remind us that to follow the Way is challenging and strengthen us for the challenge.

SILENT CONFESSION

...in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

�GLORIA PATRI (Hymn 581)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

PASSING THE PEACE

One: The peace of Jesus Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us share the peace of Christ with one another.

COMMUNITY LIFE

HEARING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Judy Hockenberry

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Deuteronomy 28:1-6 (Pew Bible, p. 160) The Word of the Lord/**Thanks be to God!**

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 5:1-12 (Pew Bible, p. 785) Alex Lang The Word of the Lord/**Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

"Blessings"

Alex Lang

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (A Brief Statement of Faith, 10.2)

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God; preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemened for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

†HYMN 172

"Blest Are They"

Blest Are They

GIVING THANKS TO GOD

OFFERING

Judy Hockenberry

OFFERTORY "Through It All" Andraé Crouch, arr. Lari Goss

"I've had many tears and sorrows, I've had questions for tomorrow; there've been times when I didn't know right from wrong. But in every situation, God gave me blessed consolation that my trials only come to make me strong. I've been to a lot of places and I've seen a lot of faces; there've been times when I feel so all alone. But in those lonely hours, in those precious lonely hours, Jesus let me know that I was His own. Through it

all, I've learned to trust in Jesus, I've learned to trust in God. Through it all, I've learned to depend upon His Word. Well, I thank God for the mountains and I thank Him for the valleys; I thank Him for the storms He brought me through. For if I never had a problem, I wouldn't know that He could solve them; I wouldn't know what my faith in His Word could do. Some through the waters, some through the flood; Some through the fire but all through the blood."

Chancel Choir; Nick Pulikowski, tenor

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE INVITATION

THE THANKSGIVING

- 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.

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

SERVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

(All are invited to receive Holy Communion. Please partake of the bread as it is served. We will hold the cup and drink together. All bread served is gluten-free.)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

† Нумn 516	"For the Bread Which You Have Broken"	Kingdom
♦ BENEDICTION		Alex Lang
Postlude	"Fanfare in D"	David Lasky

◆Please stand as you are able.

Preaching:	Alex Lang	
Greeters:	Dave and Linda Berkow	
Ushers:	Dave Crim (head usher), Frank Morrone, Kaori Ozaki, Jan	
	Richardson, Kazue Sono, Andy Wendle	
Flowers:	Ed and Cathy Harding—In loving memory of May and Ken	
	Quast	
Pastors:	Alex Lang, Judy Hockenberry, TC Anderson	
Director of Music and Worship: Adam Hendrickson		
Associate Director of Music and Organist: Christopher Urban		

Thank you for worshiping with us this morning.

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/FPCAH, and Twitter, at @FirstPresAH. We look forward to connecting with you again.

CHILD CARE

Children of all ages are warmly welcomed and encouraged to participate in worship. 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 to10:45 am. To learn more, visit fpcah.org or call the church office at 847-255-5900.

SPECIAL ASSISTANCE

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

WORSHIP BAGS

Worship bags for young worshipers (ages 3-12 years) are available outside the Sanctuary and in the Chapel. The bags contain items designed to guide active participation in the service and learning about worship. Please return the bags to the basket as you leave.

IMPORTANT WORSHIP REMINDERS

Please silence cell phones and refrain from taking photos or recording the worship service. Services are webcast live at fpcah.org/webcast. Also visit the Webcast Archives page at fpcah.org. To download or listen to a podcast of today's sermon (available soon), visit the fpcah.org/podcast.