

SUNDAY WORSHIP

DECEMBER 27, 2020

PRELUDE "I Wonder As I Wander" arr. Robert Hebble

WELCOME TC Anderson

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader 1: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens;

Leader 2: praise the Lord in the heights!

Leader 1: Praise the Lord, all God's angels and hosts.

Leader 2: Praise the Lord sun and moon and all you shining stars.

Leader 1: Let them praise the name of the Lord, for God alone is exalted!

HYMN 134 (VV 1, 2, 4) "Joy to the World" Antioch

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Alex Lang

Lord, we have fallen short of your aim for us. We have seen the Christmas star in the sky and have decided to go our own way. We have seen the gifts given to us and hoarded them instead of sharing with others. We have seen the immigrant couple in need of help and shut our doors to them. Forgive us. Help us to see the Christmas story as a challenge to our lives and help us to keep your spirit in our hearts throughout this next new year. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LUKE 2:22-35

MESSAGE "Darkness Breaks" TC Anderson
Scripture: Luke 2:36-40

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Judy Hockenberry

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.

SHARING OUR GIFTS

"Mary and Joseph Came to the Temple" David Haas

"Mary and Joseph came to the temple brought the boy Jesus, offered him there. People were waiting wanting to greet him; long had they sought him, solace for care. Anna had prayed there, widowed, long waiting, worshipping God by day and by night. Now she is praising, filled with elation: here is God's promise, Christ is her light. Simeon sings now: God proffers blessing, brilliantly gilding dawn of his day. Light in the darkness, never extinguished, Light of all nations, light up our way."

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

BENEDICTION TC Anderson

HYMN 136 "Go, Tell It On the Mountain" Go Tell It

POSTLUDE "Postlude on 'Joy to the World'" Anthony Giamanco

Worship led by: Alex Lang, Judy Hockenberry, TC Anderson

Music: Adam Hendrickson and Chris Urban

CHURCH LIFE ANNOUNCEMENTS

DECEMBER 27, 2020

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT — As we continue to stream worship services until further notice, we ask that you keep your giving to the church up-to-date by mailing in a check or by going online. By continuing to give, you continue to help your church pay its bills, make its payroll, and be a light in the world. To give online:

1. Go to www.firstpresah.org.
2. Click on "GIVE" which is the top line of the website.
3. Click on the GIVE NOW link in blue.

Online giving can be done on a one-time basis or you can set up a recurring gift. It is easy and our website uses Secure Socket Layering (SSL) to protect personal credit information before it travels over the Internet.

HAVE YOU TURNED IN YOUR COMMITMENT CARD? — If you have not yet had a chance to turn in your Commitment Card for 2021, you are invited to mail it to the church office, to the attention of Debbie Walter, Business Administrator. You can also enter your commitment online at firstpresah.org/giving. Remember, 2020 year-end contributions must be received by December 31 to be included in 2020 giving.



NEW SECURE MAILBOX — For your convenience, we have installed a new, secure mailbox by Door 9. Please use this mailbox for items that need to be dropped off for the church staff. This mailbox will be checked and emptied on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

NEW ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES

Wednesday Evening Adult Education: Just Jesus — January 6-February 10 / 7:00-8:00 pm / via Zoom — Instructors: Rev. Alex Lang and Dr. Donald Kaasch

The Jesus of history and the Jesus of the Christian religion are often two very different people. In this class, Rev. Lang and Donald Kaasch will be comparing the traditional thinking behind Jesus with the information about Jesus produced by scholars of religious history. Sometimes these two sources align, often they diverge. The question we will be exploring is where is the truth? Can we ever know the real Jesus? How do we as Christians reconcile the different competing theories of who Jesus is and what does that mean for our faith? Join us as we work our way through the weeds to discover just Jesus! **Register in advance for this class** by clicking the link in Weekly Highlights or going to <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMtf-2prjwuHdzPy6hbl2YWlvMXPhvzLw37>

Thursday Evening Adult Education: Testimony: Remembering; Reclaiming; Rearticulating Our Reformed Faith — January 7-February 11 / 7:00-8:00 pm / via Zoom — Instructor: Rev. Judy Hockenberry

This class is an opportunity to gather together and explore who God is and who we are so that our lives embody the liberating love and grace of Jesus Christ. **Register in advance for this class** by clicking the link in Weekly Highlights or going to <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUudemuqTMjHteJi3SuQoAEW3hwhs8dS2Mt>

SAVE THE DATE — On Monday, January 18, Stone Catchers will host the **Third Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service Community Food Drive and Lunch**. You can get involved by participating in the drive-thru Community Food Drive on Sunday, January 17, and Monday, January 18, from 9:00 am - noon in the church parking lot. Volunteers will gather at the church to provide a safe and contactless drop-off. Watch Church Life and the Chimes for more details in the coming weeks. For questions, contact Michele Holifield at micheleholifield@firstpresah.org or Katy Allen at katyallen@firstpresah.org.

PW THANK YOU — You have brought a huge smile to the many families of the Christopher House and Firman House communities with your generous donations to the food drive. In all, we collected \$1105, which was split between the two organizations. Through your donations, families could have a very special holiday and much needed food and supplies during this difficult time. Gift cards were given to the families and Christopher House provided each family a turkey along with the gift cards. Over 4,100 individuals benefitted from these donations. We are very grateful! – Kathy Doering & Barb Larson

JOURNEYS MEAL DONATION AND DELIVERY HELP WANTED — First Pres continues to deliver meals to two Arlington Heights hotels where guests from our PADS program are currently staying. We anticipate providing these meals for the foreseeable future. Through your generosity, we continue to provide three meals a day, once per week, for 90 people. Also, we will provide 24 people with a box of food that will provide breakfast and lunch for a week. We need food donations, cash donations, and volunteers to pack and deliver. Sign up at signupgenius.com/go/10C044DADAF29A7FB6-winter. If you have any questions, please contact the PADS food team at padsfood@firstpresah.org.

PASTORAL CARE — If you have a death in the family, an anticipated surgery, the birth of a new baby, or if you or a loved one are struggling, your pastors and church family want to be there to support you. Please contact Pastor Judy Hockenberry, at judyhockenberry@firstpresah.org or 847-255-5900, or call the church office to share your pastoral needs.

ONLINE WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY

January 3, 2021: Second Sunday of Christmas
Worship (firstpresah.org/media/live-stream/)



Scriptures: Genesis 41:25-36, Mark 3:1-5
Preacher: Alex Lang
Sermon Title: The Genetic Revolution
Sermon Series: A Brave New World

Prayer Requests

Healing & Comfort

Mario Alberico
Brian Aldrich
Pat Almblad
Liz Armstrong
Dave Berkow
Mark Bishop
Wendy Blanck
Dawn Bruce
Samuel Bruce — brother of Lee Bruce
Betty Lou Bukowski
Brian & Jennifer Butler — brother-in-law & sister of Dawn Bruce
Jane Cassaro — friend of Beth Balow
Bob & Paulette Christian — family of Bill & Jo Christian
Mary Clarbour
Sally Costello
Carol Dahn
Alice Davitt — friend of Kris Ward
Jim Dean — father-in-law of Kelly Dean
Michael Fischer — grandson of Dave & Pat Almblad
Mary Carol Frieburg
Virginia Gardner — friend of Jo Christian
Karl Gates — friend of Mary Kiepura
George Gerner — cousin of Kelsey Fuentes
Bill Ginnodo
Gloria — friend of June Johnson
Dorita & Houston Godfrey
Ermina Gomez & daughter — friends of Elaine Chen
Kit Graham — friend of Betty Sanders
Barbara Hayes
Jeanne Holl — grandniece of Myrtle Jessogne
Mary Kay Holl — niece of Myrtle Jessogne
Bob Jackson — friend of Hal Stern
Mary Jessogne — sister-in-law of Myrtle Jessogne
Steve Jessogne — nephew of Myrtle Jessogne

Marylyn Jirsa
Marjorie Kalivoda
John Lamb — friend of Kris Ward
Kurt Landwehr
Helen Lawson — friend of Liz Armstrong
Beth Lepage — sister of Bill Thompson
Penny Lumsden — mother of Stu Lumsden
Quentin Mare'
Richard Martin — friend of June Johnson
Mary — sister of Liz Thompson
Sean McClory — friend of Mario Alberico
Scott and Laura Morrison — friends of Mario & Claudia Alberico
Lee Nelson
Gloria Oak
Jim Richardson — brother of Jan Richardson
Betty Roach
Sandy & Tim — friends of Myrtle Jessogne
Theresa Scola — friend of Meg Haddad
Susan Scott
Dee Sievertsen
Ed Slivovsky
Je'Anna Paris Smith
Wendell Stoike
Arne Stollfuss
David Stratton — brother-in-law of Elaine Chen
Barb Talley — friend of Jo Christian
Jaquan Thompson
Norm & Mary Thompson — family of Bill & Liz Thompson
Vasilios Tsironis — friend of Beth Balow
Dan Tsutsumi
Wes Upton — friend of Ralph Larsen
Marilyn Votava — sister of Judy Ayers
Gary Walker

Congratulations to:

Myrtle Jessogne, on the birth of her great-great-grandson, Rhett Austin Haneger

Sympathy to:

The Makeever family, on the death of **Pat Makeever**

Serving in the Armed Services

AMN Charles Arthur Brousseau, Air Force — son of Liz Moses and Bob Wendling
Maj. Michael B. Ford, US Army Reserves — stepson of Kris Ford
Brandon Latuzek — nephew of Elaine Chen
Geoffrey Martineau — brother of Lisa Martineau
E5MM Marc Robert McGrath, Jr., Navy — grandson of Donald and Jacqueline Schultz
2 LT Kristen Reese, Army — daughter of Jim and Becky Reese, sister of Adam and Brian Reese
Sergeant Benjamin David Schultz, Air Force — grandson of Donald and Jacqueline Schultz
Colonel Gretchen Wiltse — sister of Vincent and Heidi Wiltse