

SUNDAY WORSHIP

DECEMBER 13, 2020

PRELUDE “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” *arr. Diane Bish*

WELCOME Alex Lang

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE Carolyn Dow

HYMN 145 (vv. 1, 3) “What Child is This” Greensleeves

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Judy Hockenberry

Gracious God, forgive us when we wrestle control away from you. Forgive us for the chaos we create in our homes, our churches, and our world. Remind us that suffering is part of living and forgive us when we bemoan small inconveniences. Forgive us when we cling too tightly to traditions, beliefs, and our own certainty. Teach us to let go and live in the certainty of your love. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEUTERONOMY 30:15-20

MESSAGE “Controlled Chaos” Alex Lang
Scripture: Job 1:13-22

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE TC Anderson

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

“Children Will Listen” *Stephen Sondheim*
“Careful the things you say, children will listen. Careful the things you do, children will see. And learn. Children may not obey, but children will listen. Children will look to you for which way to turn, to learn what to be. Careful before you say, ‘Listen to me.’ Children will listen. Careful the wish you make, wishes are children. Careful the path they take, wishes come true, not free. Careful the spell you cast, not just on children. Sometimes the spell may last past what you can see and turn against you. Careful the tale you tell. That is the spell. Children will listen.”

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

BENEDICTION Alex Lang

HYMN 99 (vv. 1, 2, 5) “My Soul Gives Glory to My God (Song of Mary)”
Morning Song

POSTLUDE “Gaudeamus” *Sidney Campbell*

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

Music: Adam Hendrickson and Chris Urban

Flowers: Kathryn Daugherty—In appreciation for everyone involved in keeping church services alive through online streaming services

CHURCH LIFE ANNOUNCEMENTS
DECEMBER 13, 2020

CHIMES NEWSLETTER DEADLINE — Tomorrow — Monday, December 14 — Please submit articles for the January/February combined issue of the *Chimes* to Mary Fino at maryfino@firstpresah.org by Monday, December 14.

PW CIRCLE MEETING — CIRCLE 7: Tuesday, December 15 / 5:00 pm / via Zoom — On Tuesday, December 15, join Circle 7 on Zoom at 5:00 pm. Get in the spirit and gather together with a discussion of “Almost Everything: Notes on Hope” by Anne Lamott. **ALL CIRCLES:** Don’t forget to dress in your favorite holiday sweater or outfit and join us for our holiday gathering on **December 16**. See below for more details and registration information!



PW CHRISTMAS PROGRAM: MEMORIES OF CHRISTMAS PAST — Wednesday, December 16 / 1:00 pm / via Zoom — Imagine what it would be like to manage all the decorating for Marshall Fields for Christmas. Join us for our very special Presbyterian Women’s Christmas Gathering! On December 16, at 1:00 pm, you are invited to join Amy Meadows, the former Director of Decorations for Marshall Fields’ windows, giant Christmas tree, and decorations on all levels. Hear her stories and see wonderful decorations from the past. This is an inspiration to start thinking about decorating your own home for Christmas! All are welcome to view this program via Zoom. To join the holiday magic, send your reservation to Wendy Blanck at blanckfamily@sbcglobal.net by December 13. You will receive the Zoom link on December 14. Questions? Contact Wendy!

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR CHRISTOPHER HOUSE — If you were planning to make a Christmas donation to the Christopher House Thrive Fund, please do so by this **Tuesday, December 15**. While we cannot do our traditional giving of wrapped Christmas gifts because of the pandemic, we can help the families struggling to pay rent and utility bills. There are two ways you can 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.
4. Select "Christopher House Thrive" from the drop-down menu.

By check:

Send a check, made out to First Presbyterian Church, to the church office. On the memo line, indicate Christopher House Thrive Fund.

Your donation can make a dramatic, positive difference for families who have been hit hard economically by the virus. Thank you for your generosity. Fran Spencer, 847-767-2334 or fran109spencer@yahoo.com, and Liz Thompson, 847-537-9087 or lizht85@yahoo.com.

ZOOM CHRISTMAS CAROLING PARTY — December 20 / 4:00 pm / via Zoom — Although we can't go door-to-door spreading Christmas cheer, we can still sing loud for all to hear! You're invited to join us on Zoom on Sunday, December 20 from 4:00-5:00 pm for Christmas caroling with a twist! Sign up to have your family share a favorite Christmas song, hymn, or carol with us! A caroling emcee will help keep things moving while we take turns sharing our songs! If you're not up for singing, you can still join in on the fun and share the hour with us! Everyone is invited to this caroling party with a twist! We hope to see and hear you there! Please RSVP to Katy Allen at katyallen@firstpresah.org.

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING — Through December 20 — Are you looking for the perfect gift? Trying to find a gift that communicates how well you know or love someone? Family? Friend? Boss? We all want to find the perfect gift to express our feelings toward others. God gave the perfect gift to us.

Jesus came to live among us, bringing light and love into our world. Jesus was the greatest leader teaching us to love and give to others. Leaders impact our lives in so many ways, our lives of faith, and are role models for our own journeys of faith.

During Advent, we celebrate the gift of leaders through the Christmas Joy offering. This offering supports leaders from Presbyterian-related schools and colleges that educate communities of color, so that the wideness of God's intended diversity is reflected to all. Well-equipped future leaders are needed for the church. This offering also supports church leaders and their families dealing with critical financial needs. The Christmas Joy offering is evenly distributed with 50% going to Providing Opportunities for Communities of Color (Leadership Development) and 50% for Giving Back (Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions).

Take a moment to think of the leaders in your life that had an impact on you. Would you be where you are today without them? Would you be who you are today without them? Please give generously to the Christmas Joy Offering so that great leaders will continue to be developed for future generations and to also provide financial assistance to past leaders. - Phyllis Orzechowski, Mission Committee Chair

CHRISTMAS COLORING BOOK – FUN FOR ALL AGES — Children's Ministries is pleased to offer all children of the congregation their own copy of a very special Christmas coloring book. Watch your mail beginning December 2. But coloring isn't just for kids! If you would like your own copy of the Christmas coloring book, please email Katy Allen at katyallen@firstpresah.org to request a copy to be mailed to you.

DECEMBER @HOME PROJECT — Make memories while making a special Christmas keepsake! Children's Ministries families are invited to pick up a supply kit to make an angel ornament at home. Supplies and detailed instructions are included. You will need to supply your own hot glue gun, glue gun glue sticks, and Elmer's liquid (school) glue. Stop by Door 9, Mondays-Thursdays from 9:00 am – 3:30 pm or Sundays from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm to pick up your kit. Families are asked to take no more than two kits to ensure we have enough for everyone. Please contact Katy Allen at katyallen@firstpresah.org if you have any questions.

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 can be made, as well.



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.

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

Wednesday Engage & Encounter: The Power of Restorative Justice in Our Communities and Our Lives
— Final Class this Wednesday, December 16 / 7:00 pm / via Zoom / Instructor: Michele Holifield

Sunday Adult Education: Out of Exile — Sundays, through December 20 / 10:00 am / via Zoom — Instructor: Dr. Donald Kaasch

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/10Co44DADAF29A7FB6-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.

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. By continuing to give, you continue to help your church pay its bills, make its payroll, and be a light in the world.

BUILDING UPDATE — The following was sent to the congregation on Saturday, November 14, as an update to the opening of our building.

Dear First Pres family,

At our November meeting, the Session approved a Covid-19 Task Force recommendation that going forward we follow the guidelines for Covid-19 as stipulated by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH). As you all know, we are seeing a record number of cases of Covid-19 throughout our state.

The IDPH and the Cook County Department of Public Health have issued some advisories and ask everyone to comply for at least the next thirty days. To that end, our staff will once again work from home. **All activity**, outside of PDO and ongoing building maintenance, will stop in the church building. We will continue to collect supplies for and deliver meals for PADS because that is an essential service.

PDO will follow the guidance of District 25. Their director, Coleen Anzalone, is staying in close communication with the parents, children, and staff of PDO, as well as First Pres staff.

Some church staff will be in and out of the building during the week to check mail, phone messages, and to continue recording Sunday morning worship. All other work will be done from home. We will hold all of our meetings through the Zoom platform.

You will be able to reach the pastors through their cell phones. Those numbers are: Alex (717) 608-1396; Judy (502) 445-9281; TC (734) 624-6682.

At this time, we are hoping that we can return to our current level of in-office presence on December 15. However, we will continue to follow the guidance and advice of the Illinois Department of Public Health.

On-line Sunday worship is available to you throughout Sunday morning. Please join us for worship and do not hesitate to call one of the pastors if you have a special need, a prayer request, or a question.

Praying for you and with you,
The Session of First Presbyterian Church

ONLINE WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY

December 20, 2020: Fourth Sunday of Advent

Worship (firstpresah.org/media/live-stream/)



Scriptures: Matthew 5:33-37, Matthew 23:25-28

Preacher: Alex Lang

Sermon Title: Consistently Inconsistent

Prayer Requests

Healing & Comfort

Mario Alberico
Brian Aldrich
Pat Almblad
Liz Armstrong
Dave Berkow
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
Michael Fischer — grandson of Dave & Pat Almblad
Mary Carol Frieburg
Virginia Gardner — friend of Jo Christian
Karl Gates — friend of Mary Kiepora
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
Rich Jacobs — son-in-law of Barbara MacDowell
Mary Jessogne — sister-in-law of Myrtle Jessogne
Steve Jessogne — nephew of Myrtle Jessogne
Marylyn Jirsa

Marjorie Kalivoda
John Lamb — friend of Kris Ward
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
Jim Rohe — friend of Jo Christian
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

Sympathy to:

Dan and Laura Carlson and family, on the death of Laura's father, Fred W. Langer

Jim Doering and family, on the death of Jim's twin brother, John Doering

The Perenchio family, on the death of their son, Max

Ray and Janet Powers, on the death of Janet's aunt, Elizabeth Postell

The Truskowski family, on the death of **Jewell Truskowski**

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