

SUNDAY WORSHIP

DECEMBER 20, 2020

PRELUDE “O Come, All Ye Faithful” arr. Frederick Swann

WELCOME Alex Lang

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE
Speciale-Peddicord Family

HYMN 104 “O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?” Valet Will Ich Dir Geben

PRAYER OF CONFESSION TC Anderson

Holy God, we are struggling to get ready for your arrival. We are consistently inconsistent in our preparations. We decorate our homes and fail to read our Advent devotion. We buy gifts and forget to acknowledge the greatest gift. We are often irrational, impulsive, and driven by our emotions. Forgive us, Holy One, and show us the way to become our authentic selves through your love and grace. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MATTHEW 5:33-37

MESSAGE “Consistently Inconsistent” Alex Lang
Scripture: Matthew 23:25-28

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

“The Sun Never Says” Dan Forrest
*“Even after all this time, the sun never says to the earth, ‘You owe me.’
Look what happens with a love like that. It lights the Whole Sky.”*
Chancel Choir (Recorded 12/22/2019)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

BENEDICTION Alex Lang

HYMN 110 “Love Has Come” Bring a Torch

POSTLUDE “Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella” arr. Keith Chapman

Worship led by: Alex Lang, Judy Hockenberry, TC Anderson
Music: Adam Hendrickson, Chris Urban, and The Chancel Choir
Flowers: Jan Niemeyer—In loving memory of Don Niemeyer

CHURCH LIFE ANNOUNCEMENTS

DECEMBER 20, 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.

ZOOM CHRISTMAS CAROLING PARTY — Today /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 — Final Day — 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

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

ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES

Sunday Adult Education: Out of Exile — Final Class Sunday / 10:00 am / via Zoom — Instructor: Dr. Donald Kaasch

The Babylonian exile, along with the exodus from Egypt, are the pivotal experiences of the Jewish people. What led up to this event? Who were targeted by the Babylonians for removal to Babylon? How long did the exile last? Something was produced during and after the exile that would forever define Judaism, to this day. When the exile was ended and return to Judah and Jerusalem was open to everyone, what happened? Who freed the exiles? Don't miss this exciting look at what might well be the single, most important, period of Jewish history! Register in advance for this meeting by going to [zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAoduGtpjMuHNVni8owoYlXyc4jkkJ4Pww8](https://zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tJAoduGtpjMuHNVni8owoYlXyc4jkkJ4Pww8) or clicking the link in Weekly Highlights.

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

December 27, 2020: First Sunday of Christmas
Worship (firstpresah.org/media/live-stream/)

Scriptures: Luke 2:22-35, Luke 2:36-40

Preacher: TC Anderson

Sermon Title: Darkness Breaks

Prayer Requests

Healing & Comfort

Mario Alberico
Brian Aldrich
Pat Almblad
Liz Armstrong
Dave Berkow
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

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