

First Presbyterian Church of Arlington Heights



Cover art by Hadley Smith

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

December 24, 2023

4:00 PM

302 N. Dunton Ave | Arlington Heights, IL 60004 | (847) 255-5900 | firstpresah.org

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE "Greensleeves" *arr. Richard Purvis*

WELCOME Rev. Rebekah Anderson

✠ **CALL TO WORSHIP** Andrew Haines

One: Friends, families and neighbors, the presence of God is always with us and brings peace and still.

All: God is with us. We are never alone.

One: It is good to be with friends: they remind us that God is near.

All: God is with us when we gather with friends and loved ones.

One: It is joyful to gather with one another in this sacred place.

All: God is here with us. God is with us at all times and in every place!

One: Let us come together to celebrate Christmas, when God sent Jesus to be born.

All: God is with us, let us worship!

✠ **CAROL 133** (vv. 1, 3, 4) "O Come, All Ye Faithful" *ADESTE FIDELES*
Organ and Youth Handbell Choir

SCRIPTURE LESSON Isaiah 9:2-7 A Prophet Speaks Words of Promise *Jessica Lynn*

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES *Anika Larson*

CALL TO CONFESSION *Elijah Lang*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *Sidney Drey*

Gracious God, we give thanks that you are always with us. We confess that we are easily distracted from the things that matter most. We forget to love our neighbors. We get angry and say hurtful things. We yell at each other. We react with impatience rather than responding with compassion and understanding. We are selfish even if we want to be generous. Forgive us God. Help us to start again and to be guided by your presence with us. Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

✠ **RESPONSE** (Hymn 583)

Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest. Glory to God, glory to God, alleluia, alleluia!

THE CHRISTMAS NATIVITY *Annette McDermott*

AN ANGEL APPEARS TO MARY

CAROL 121 (vv. 1, 3, 4) "O Little Town of Bethlehem" *ST LOUIS*

NO ROOM AT THE INN

ANTHEM "A Baby in a Manger, Gloria!" *Vicki Tucker Courtney*
Children's Choir

SHEPHERDS AND ANGELS

CAROL 119 (vv. 1 & 3) "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" *MENDELSSOHN*

WORSHIP THE NEWBORN KING

ANTHEM "Sing We Nowell" *Terry D. Taylor*
Children's Choir & Youth Handbell Choir

THE WISE MEN

CAROL 151

“We Three Kings of Orient Are”

KINGS OF ORIENT

GIFTS FOR BABY JESUS

CAROL 134 (vv. 1, 2, 4)

“Joy to the World”

ANTIOCH

Organ and Youth Handbell Choir

GIVING THANKS TO GOD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER

Rev. Barbara Gorsky

OFFERTORY

“Everybody Can Sing at Christmas”
Children’s Choir

Mark Burrows

GOING FORTH IN GOD’S NAME

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Rev. Rebekah Anderson

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

✠ HYMN 122

“Silent Night, Holy Night!”

STILLE NACHT

All children are invited to leave their pews and come forward to share in singing of Silent Night.

✠ BENEDICTION

Rev. Rebekah Anderson

All children return to their seats after the Benediction.

✠ POSTLUDE

Toccata on “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

Gordon Young

✠ Please stand as you are able.

PAGEANT PARTICIPANTS

Joseph

Jackson Gutzmer

Mary

Jayne Martinka

Angel Gabriel

Evie Ciontea

Messenger Angel

Juliette Bolotin

Innkeeper

Charlie Madsen

Narrators

Abigail Lindstrom

Brynn Miller

Nolan Lindgren

Shepherds

Mary Martinka

Jonathan White

Matthew Moy

Wise Men

James White

Lily Hendrickson

Robin Wehrheim

Angel Choir

Teddy Aldrich

Elsie Anderson

Lachlan Anderson

Trey Chandler

Jaxson Domagata

Grace Gibbs

Jayden Gibbs

James Gutzmer

Sawyer Gutzmer

Isabella Juarez

Leo Juarez

Knox Lindgren

Elise Lindstrom

Reagan Lukowicz

Elle Madsen

Mary Martinka

Sarah Martinka

Cole McDonough

Keira McDonough

Ellie Milford

Lila Milford

Kiefer Miller

Eliana Pulikowski

Louis Pulikowski

George Richardson

Max Richardson

Zac Shultz

Scarlett Wagner

Robin Wehrheim

Luke Wehrheim

Choir Director

Nick Pulikowski

Spotlight

Eric Larson, Jr.

Parent Helpers

Kristen Aldrich

Heather Behles

Ginger Fauscett-Gibbs

Laura Grochocki

Therese Haines

Lindsay Lukowicz

Jane Treppa

Sarah White

Sue Lyon

Melissa Anderson



WITH GRATEFUL APPRECIATION TO THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR
DONATIONS TO HELP BEAUTIFY FIRST PRES FOR THIS ADVENT &
CHRISTMAS SEASON

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Anonymous | Jim & Ingrid Kaufman |
| Ron & Pat Baker | The Kiepura Family |
| The Beihoffer Family | Joann Kort |
| Andrew Bennett | Marty Kraybill |
| Dave & Linda Berkow | Betty Launer |
| Mark & Kristi Bishop and
Family | Richard & Meredith Levinsky |
| Bruce & Linda Byus | The Lock Family |
| Tom & Susan Carroll | Barbara Martin and Family |
| Curt & Lori Chandler | The Martinka Family |
| Bill & Jo Christian | Tom & Cathy Mataloni |
| The Churchill Family | Rhoda Merilatt |
| Kelly, Bailey & Reagan Dean | Sandra L. Meyer |
| Jim & Kathy Doering | Larry Moats |
| Kris Ford | Earl Oak |
| Cynthia Goldsberry | The Olszewski Family |
| Mary Halatek | Corinne Peterson |
| Lois Hartung | Carolyn Schmidt |
| The Hempleman Family | The Stanhope Family |
| Jim & Sue Henderson | Bill & Liz Thompson |
| The Hogan Family | Christopher Urban |
| Jane Horswill & Family | Kris Ward |
| | Allen & Karen Wilson |

WORSHIP SCHEDULE DECEMBER 31, 2023

10:30 am — Worship in the Sanctuary

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE RETURNING JANUARY 7, 2024

9:00 am — Worship in the Chapel

10:30 am — Worship in the Sanctuary

LEARN MORE

If you are interested in learning more about First Pres or how to become a member of this congregation, please contact Pastor Laura Sherwood laurasherwood@firstpresah.org.



Choose love. Be the light. Change the world.

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