

WELCOME, GUESTS!

Thank you for worshipping with us tonight.

Stop by the Welcome Center in the Narthex (lobby) to pick up information that will acquaint you with our church services and programs. You are also invited to join the conversation on Facebook, at facebook.com/firstpresah, Twitter, at @FirstPresAh, and Instagram, 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 (8:45 am – 11:45 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. To learn more, visit firstpresah.org or call the church office at 847-255-5900.

SPECIAL ASSISTANCE

For worship in the Sanctuary, large print bulletins and hearing amplifiers (some with T-Coil lanyard adapters) are available from the ushers.

IMPORTANT WORSHIP REMINDERS

Please silence cell phones and refrain from taking photos or recording the worship service. Services are webcast live at firstpresah.org/experience/livestream. To download or listen to a podcast of today's sermon, search Apple podcasts for **The Word @ First Pres**. Past sermons are available at firstpresah.org/experience/sermons.

SOURCES FOR WORSHIP

Worship litanies and prayers from *God with Us* by Illustrated Ministry; unless otherwise indicated all scripture readings are from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition (NRSVUE).



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

Anonymous

Ron & Pat Baker

The Beihoffer Family

Andrew Bennett

Dave & Linda Berkow

Mark & Kristi Bishop and Family

Bruce & Linda Byus

Tom & Susan Carroll

Curt & Lori Chandler

Bill & Jo Christian

The Churchill Family

Kelly, Bailey & Reagan Dean

Jim & Kathy Doering

Kris Ford

Cynthia Goldsberry

Mary Halatek

Lois Hartung

The Hempleman Family

Jim & Sue Henderson

The Hogan Family

Jane Horswill & Family

Jim & Ingrid Kaufman

The Kiepura Family

Joann Kort

Marty Kraybill

Betty Launer

Richard & Meredith Levinsky

The Lock Family

Barbara Martin and Family

The Martinka Family

Tom & Cathy Mataloni

Rhoda Merilatt

Sandra L. Meyer

Larry Moats

Earl Oak

The Olszewski Family

Corinne Peterson

Carolyn Schmidt

The Stanhope Family

Bill & Liz Thompson

Christopher Urban

Kris Ward

Allen & Karen Wilson

First Presbyterian Church of Arlington Heights

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



Cover art by Luke Griesemer



Art by Sarah Martinka

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP
DECEMBER 24, 2023
7:30 PM PRELUDE
8:00 PM SERVICE

Choose bve .Be the lght.Change the w orld .

First Presbyterian Church of Arlington Heights
302 N. Dunton Avenue • Arlington Heights, IL 60004
847-255-5900 • firstpresah.org • mail@firstpresah.org



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CHRISTMAS EVE PRELUDE

SOLO “Mary Did You Know?” *arr. Jack Schrader*
Colin Stanhope, trumpet

SOLO “Divinum Mysterium” *Raymond Haan*
Tom Walter, cello

CAROL 123 (vv. 1, 3, 5) “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” CAROL

TRIO “I Wonder as I Wander” *Appalachian Folk Tune*
Kristen Walter, alto; Steve Walter, guitar; Tom Walter, cello

SOLO “Bring a Torch” *arr. Mark Hayes*
Kathy Sobeski, soprano

CAROL 147 (vv. 1-3, 5) “The First Nowell” THE FIRST NOWELL

SOLO “O Holy Night” *Adolphe Adam*
Nick Pulikowski, tenor

THE PROMISE OF EMMANUEL - GOD WITH US

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Laura Sherwood

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES College Students
HOPE, PEACE, JOY, LOVE

✠ CAROL 133 (vv. 1, 3, 4) “O Come, All Ye Faithful” ADESTE FIDELES

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: ISAIAH 40:1-9
THE GLORY OF THE LORD SHALL BE REVEALED

ANTHEM “I Hear the Prophet Calling” *Pepper Choplin*
“I hear the prophet callin’, ‘Prepare the way of the Lord.’
Come and make straight the way in the desert, a highway for our God.”
Chancel Choir; Nick Pulikowski, tenor

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING: MATTHEW 3:1-3
JOHN THE BAPTIST PROPHECIES ABOUT JESUS

REFLECTION ON THE PROMISE OF EMMANUEL
Rev. Barbara Gorsky

✠ CAROL 129 “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” ES IST EIN’ ROS’

THE BIRTH OF EMMANUEL - GOD WITH US

THIRD SCRIPTURE READING: MATTHEW 1:18-24
THEY SHALL NAME HIM EMMANUEL

ANTHEM “What Strangers are These?” *Dan Forrest*
“O where shall I find Him? Where shall I seek?
He is here and now, Jesus your Savior.”
Steve Walter, guitar

FOURTH SCRIPTURE READING: LUKE 2:1-7
THERE WAS NO PLACE FOR THEM AT THE INN

REFLECTION ON THE BIRTH OF EMMANUEL
Rev. Rebekah Anderson

✠ CAROL 121 “O Little Town of Bethlehem” ST. LOUIS

THE GIFT OF EMMANUEL - GOD WITH US

FIFTH SCRIPTURE READING: LUKE 2:8-20
IN THAT REGION THERE WERE SHEPHERDS LIVING IN THE FIELDS

ANTHEM “Angels Carol” *John Rutter*
“Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo!”
Hear the angels sing their joyful song.”
Chancel Choir; Samantha Bittle, harp

SIXTH SCRIPTURE READING: JOHN 1:14-16 AND TITUS 3:4-7
THIS SPIRIT Poured OUT ON US RICHLY
THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR SAVIOR

REFLECTION ON THE GIFT OF EMMANUEL
Rev. Laura Sherwood

✠ CAROL 128 “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY

PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND CHRISTMAS OFFERING

OFFERTORY “This Christmastide” *Donald Fraser*
“Green and silver, red and gold. And a story born of old:
Peace and love and hope abide, This Christmastide.”
Chancel Choir; Eric Allen & Colin Stanhope, trumpets;
Tom Walter, cello; Samantha Bittle, harp

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Pastors Sherwood, Gorsky, Anderson
One: On this night, we remember God promised to send a child, Emmanuel, God-With-Us.
One: We lit the candles of hope, peace, joy and love, in anticipation of the One who will never leave nor forsake us.
One: The good news is here. The child has come. We light the final candle, proclaiming his birth.
All: **Now we share this light among us because the God who is with me is with you. God is with us all.**

SHARING THE LIGHT

Please turn on your candles as we sing “Silent Night”. During the last verse, raise your candle. Turn your candles off following the Benediction and place them in the receptacles in the Narthex as you leave.

✠ CAROL 122 “Silent Night, Holy Night!” STILLE NACHT

✠ BENEDICTION

✠ SUNG RESPONSE “Hallelujah Chorus” *G.F. Handel*
“The kingdom of this world is become. The kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign for ever and ever. Hallelujah!”
Chancel Choir; Eric Allen & Colin Stanhope, trumpets

POSTLUDE “Toccata on ‘Adeste Fideles’ ” *Richard Purvis*

✠ Please stand as you are able.

Listing of Worship Leaders:

Preaching: Rev. Laura Sherwood, Rev. Barbara Gorsky,
Rev. Rebekah Anderson

Pastors: Rev. Laura Sherwood, Interim Head of Staff
Rev. Barbara Gorsky, Bridge Associate

Director of Music and Worship: Adam Hendrickson

Associate Director of Music and Organist: Christopher Urban

Director of Children’s and Youth Ministries: Rev. Rebekah Anderson

Tech Support and Livestream: Amy Senior and Jonah White

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

DECEMBER 31, 2023

**10:30 am — Worship in the Sanctuary/Livestream
Lessons & Carols**

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

RETURNING JANUARY 7, 2024

9:00 am — Worship in the Chapel

10:30 am — Worship in the Sanctuary

Epiphany Sunday—Magi follow the star and bring gifts (star gifts for everyone in worship and Sunday school classes).

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 at laurasherwood@firstpresah.org.