

WELCOME

Adam Hendrickson

✦ **CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: This little light of mine.

All: **I'm going to let it shine.**

One: This little light of ours,

All: **we're going to let it shine.**

One: This little light of the world

All: **has overcome darkness.**

One: We have followed the light to this place,

All: **and the glory of God's presence is among us! Let us worship God!**

✦ **"HERE I AM TO WORSHIP"**

Tim Hughes

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND HOPEFULNESS

Rev. Barbara Gorsky

God of glory, you sent Jesus among us as the light of the world, to reveal your love for all people. We confess that our sin and pride hide the brightness of your light. We turn away from the poor; we ignore cries for justice; we do not strive for peace. In your mercy, cleanse us of our sin, and baptize us once again with your Spirit, that, forgiven and renewed, we may show forth your glory shining in the face of Jesus Christ...

✦ **SUNG RESPONSE**

"Glory to God"

HYMN 582

✦ **TIME OF GREETING**

Adam Hendrickson

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please sign the Friendship Pad and pass it along to those around you.

GENESIS 1:1-5

MESSAGE

"Finding Your Star"

Rev. Barbara Gorsky

Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12

SONG

"Go Light Your World"

Chris Rice

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

SHARING OUR GIFTS

"Home By Another Way"

James Taylor

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

✦ **"I WANT TO WALK AS A CHILD OF THE LIGHT"**

Kathleen Thomerson

✦ **CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

Rev. Barbara Gorsky

✦ Please stand as you are able.

Compass: Dan Berg, guitar; Amy Carroll, piano; Kevin Carroll, bass; Adam Hendrickson, guitar/vocals; Greg Schultz, saxophone; Todd Smith, drums; Katie Walsh, vocals

WELCOME, GUESTS!

Thank you for worshipping with us this morning.

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

Unless otherwise noted, scripture readings are from the NRSVUE (New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition); Litanies and prayers are from The Call to Worship, published by the Office of Theology and Worship of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

**First Presbyterian Church
of Arlington Heights**

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



Cover art by Cam Griesemer

**SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
EPIPHANY**

**JANUARY 7, 2024
9:00 & 10:30 AM**

Choose bve .Be the light.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



10:30 AM WORSHIP

GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE "Declamation on 'Dix' " *Craig Phillips*
"The First Nowell" *Sharon Elery Rogers*

*The prelude is your invitation to quiet preparation
for the worship of Almighty God.*

WELCOME Rev. Barbara Gorsky

✦ CALL TO WORSHIP

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All: I'm going to let it shine.

One: This little light of ours,

All: we're going to let it shine.

One: This little light of the world

All: has overcome darkness.

One: We have followed the light to this place,

All: and the glory of God's presence is among us! Let us worship God!

✦ HYMN 150 "As with Gladness Men of Old" DIX

CALL TO CONFESSION Kris Ward

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of glory, you sent Jesus among us as the light of the world, to reveal your love for all people. We confess that our sin and pride hide the brightness of your light. We turn away from the poor; we ignore cries for justice; we do not strive for peace. In your mercy, cleanse us of our sin, and baptize us once again with your Spirit, that, forgiven and renewed, we may show forth your glory shining in the face of Jesus Christ...

SILENT CONFESSION

(please pray a silent and personal prayer of confession during this time)

...in Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

One: Anyone who is in Christ has seen the light. The darkness will never overcome the light.

All: In Christ we are forgiven. Amen.

✦ GLORY TO GOD (Hymn 583)

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

Glory to God, glory to God, alleluia, alleluia!

✦ TIME OF GREETING Rev. Barbara Gorsky

COMMUNITY LIFE

Please sign the Friendship Pad and pass it along to those around you.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION Kris Ward

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Genesis 1:1-5
(Pew Bible, p. 1) Kris Ward
The Word of the Lord/**Thanks be to God!**

ANTHEM "Heavenly Star" *Pepper Choplin*
"Rising, shining, soaring overhead as the world goes on below. But very few, very few will lift their eyes to see the star, heavenly star. Searching, praying, staying on the path the star leads on before. So come and join as we seek the holy Child. We will follow the star, heavenly star. Star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright; westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy light, thy perfect light! Searching, yearning, learning, all who seek will surely one day find. And all who will search, who will search with open eyes, who will pray with open hearts, they will see the light and find the Lord."
Chancel Choir

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 2:1-12
(Pew Bible, p. 783) Rev. Barbara Gorsky
The Word of the Lord/**Thanks be to God!**

SERMON "Finding Your Star" Rev. Barbara Gorsky

✦ HYMN 152 "What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright" PUER NOBIS

GIVING THANKS TO GOD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Rev. Barbara Gorsky

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

OFFERING In the Bleak Midwinter *Michael John Trotta*
"In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan, Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone; Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow, In the bleak midwinter, long ago. Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain; Heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign. In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ. What can I give Him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part; Yet what I can I give Him: give my heart."
Men's Chorus; Michelle Fielder, oboe

✦ RESPONSE

**What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him: give my heart.**

✦ PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

One: God of majesty and light, you hold the whole world in your hand. So we give you our great praise that in Jesus Christ all people may see your glory. We thank you for revealing Jesus to be your Son, and for claiming our lives in baptism to be his glad disciples.

All: Amen.

GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

✦ HYMN 147 (vv. 1, 5, 6) "The First Nowell" THE FIRST NOWELL

✦ BENEDICTION Rev. Barbara Gorsky

POSTLUDE "March of the Kings" *Carl Simone*

✦ Please stand as you are able.

Preaching: Rev. Barbara Gorsky

Liturgist: (9:00 am) Adam Hendrickson, (10:30 am) Kris Ward

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

Praise Band: Compass (9:00 am service)

Tech Support and Livestream: Amy Senior and Jonah White

WORSHIP NOTES

Prayer Requests

Healing & Comfort

First Pres Community

Mario Alberico
 Carole Anderson
 Don & Judy Ayers
 Wendy Blanck
 Virginia Blocki
 Dawn Bruce
 Laura Carlson
 Jean Castles

Mary Clabour
 Marilyn Giacoppi
 Marylyn Jirsa
 Sandy Naehar
 Patty Richard
 Sandy Richardson
 Susan Scott
 Nancy Stautzenbach

Friends & Family

Karl Gates — friend of Mary Kiepora
 Donna Hames — friend of Mary Halatek
 Tom Nemeck — friend of Kevin & Carol Kelley
 Desa Peric — great-granddaughter of Steve Smith
 Phil Perillo — brother of Kristie Cerniglia
 Larry Pohlman — friend of Kevin & Carol Kelley

Jerry Shields — husband of Dianne Shields
 Tom Spaeth — friend of Steve Smith
 Ken Stiles — friend of Jan Niemeyer
 Dale VanEck — friend of Corinne Peterson
 Claire Walsh — cousin of Mary Hebden
 Pamela Wilson — daughter-in-law of Al & Karen Wilson

Sympathy to

Jo Christian, on the death of her husband, **Bill Christian**
 Cindy Koerner, on the death of her brother, Tom Cole

Serving in the Armed Services

MU2 Wesley Carroll, Navy — son of Kevin and Amy Carroll, grandson of JoAnn Thompson
 Lt. Col. Michael B. Ford, US Army Reserves — stepson of Kris Ford
 Brandon Latuzek — nephew of Elaine Chen
 Capt. John Olszewski, USMC — nephew of Steve and Lisa Olszewski
 Col. Gretchen Wiltse — sister of Vincent and Heidi Wiltse

About First Pres

STAFF

Interim Pastor / Head of Staff:
 Laura Sherwood

Bridge Interim Associate Pastor:
 Barbara Gorsky

Pastor Emeritus: Harry Thompson

Associate Pastor Emerita:
 Dianne Shields

Director of Children's & Youth Ministries: Rebekah Anderson

Director of Music and Worship:
 Adam Hendrickson

Associate Director of Music and Organist: Christopher Urban

Worship Technicians:
 Amy Senior, Jonah White

Business Administrator:
 Debbie Walter

Senior Administrative Assistant:
 Mary Fino

Administrative Assistant / Receptionist: Carol Vega

Facilities Director: Tony Scheurich

Facilities Coordinator:
 Michele Holifield

Director of First Pres PDO & Preschool: Coleen Anzalone

Nursery Coordinator: Beth Johnson

Save the Date

Today	Congregational Meeting
January 10	Family Night Resumes
January 14-15	MLK Day of Service
January 15	Office Closed
February 7	Wednesday@Noon
February 11	Souper Bowl of Caring
February 11	Annual Meeting of the Congregation
February 18	Organ Fest

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 Rev. Barbara Gorsky, at barbaragorsky@firstpresah.org, or 847-255-5900, extension 225 or Rev. Laura Sherwood, at laurasherwood@firstpresah.org or 847-255-5900, extension 229 or call the church office to share your pastoral needs.

LIVE WEBCAST & WORSHIP RECORDINGS — 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. If you need help with technical problems, please send an email to webcasting@firstpresah.org.

GET CONNECTED — Join the conversation on Facebook, at facebook.com/firstpresah; Twitter, at @FirstPresAH; and Instagram, at @firstpresah. Download the free ACS Church Life app or visit the website to access the church directory or manage your giving online. Simply set up a user account at firstpresah.org under the Member Login tab to get started. We look forward to connecting with you!

Church Life

January 7, 2024

We believe in building the kingdom of God in this world. We strive to be a welcoming and inclusive church that celebrates the diversity existing in our community. That means bringing good news to the poor, freedom to the oppressed, welcoming the stranger, and loving one another as Jesus loves us. We do this by choosing love and being the light that changes the world. Thank you for worshiping with us in this spirit.

WELCOME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ARLINGTON HEIGHTS: Please sign the Friendship Pad and pass it along to those around you.

CALL FOR CONGREGATIONAL MEETING — *Today / 11:30 am / Sanctuary* — Session has called for a meeting of the congregation for the purpose of electing one new Deacon for an unexpired term, **immediately following the 10:30 am worship service**, in the Sanctuary.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY FOOD & ESSENTIALS DRIVE — *Sunday, January 14 - Monday, January 15* — Honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by dropping off non-perishable food items and essential household items at the church. Drop-off on Sunday morning in the lobby or on Monday from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm at the front steps on Dunton Ave.

YOUTH HANDBELLS — *Starts Today / 5:00-5:45 pm / Bell Choir Room* — This year we're excited to begin a brand-new music opportunity for all youth in grades 5-12: **Youth Handbell Choir!** It was amazing to hear youth ring at the Christmas Pageant and we're thrilled to have more opportunities for youth music! Youth handbell choir will rehearse on Sunday evenings from 5:00 to 5:45 pm in the bell choir room starting today, January 7. All youth who participate in bell choir are invited to join us for dinner afterward with students attending HSYG, but dinner is optional. If you have any questions, contact Rebekah Anderson at rebekahanderson@firstpresah.org.

January 7 — Baptism of the Lord

8:45 am – 11:15 am — Child care (infants – 4 years) — Room 205/207 (Blue Room), Main Floor Christian Education (CE) Wing
 9:00 am **Worship** — Chapel
 9:00 am Adult Education — Boardroom
 10:00 am Adult Choir Rehearsal — Choir Auditorium
 10:00 am Fellowship Time — Parlor, Narthex
 10:30 am **Worship** — Sanctuary
 10:30 am Preschool Sunday School (3- & 4-year olds) — Room 206
 10:30 am K-5 Sunday School — Room 304
 10:30 am Sunday School (Grades 5-7 & 9-12) — Room 301/303
 10:30 am Confirmation — Room 109/111
 10:30 am Coffee: Grounds for Discussion & Service — Room 110
 11:30 am Congregational Meeting — Sanctuary
 11:30 am Fellowship Time — Parlor, Narthex
 12:30 pm Scout Troop 32 Eagle Court of Honor — Sanctuary, Parlor, Narthex
 5:00 pm Youth Handbell Choir — Bell Choir Room
 6:00 pm HSYG — HS Lounge, Gym



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

First Presbyterian Church of Arlington Heights
 302 North Dunton, Arlington Heights, IL 60004
 847-255-5900 / www.firstpresah.org / mail@firstpresah.org



Upcoming Events



FAMILY NIGHT PROGRAMMING — *Wednesdays / 6:00-8:00 pm / September through May* — Come and share dinner and fellowship with families from First Pres and the broader community. This program includes dinner, adult education and programs for children and youth.

Weekly Schedule:

- 6:00-7:00 pm:** Drop-in dinner time for all ages
- 6:30-7:00 pm:** Children's Choir (grades K-5)
- 7:00-8:00 pm:** Classes and programs, including:
 - ENGAGE & ENCOUNTER adult Christian education
 - Kids Connect (grades K-5)
 - Middle School Youth Group (grades 5-8)

ENGAGE & ENCOUNTER — *Wednesdays, January 10 through February 7 / 7:00 pm / Chapel / Exodus: A Historical Approach / Dr. Donald Kaasch* — What does the historical record, outside of the Old Testament, tell us about the pivotal importance of the Exodus story? Who wrote Exodus? When? What does it set up for the rest of the OT? Who is Moses in the OT and what does history tell us about him? There's so much good stuff to learn, come and take part!

MISSION DELEGATION TO FRONTERA DE CRISTO — *March 10-15 / Registration Closes January 15!* — Join others from First Pres on a journey to the Arizona/Mexico border for a time of learning and reflection on life at the border. During our time, we will be hosted by the Presbyterian Borderland Ministry, Frontera de Cristo. A \$200 deposit is required to reserve your spot. You will need a passport for this journey, so make your plans now as passport application wait times are currently high. The cost for the trip includes transportation, lodging, meals and daily activities. For more information, contact Michele Holifield at micheleholifield@firstpresah.org or Kim Hogan at k_hogan2003@yahoo.com.

DONATE SANCTUARY FLOWERS — We are now in a new year and an opportunity to remember important people and events in your life is here. For a suggested \$40 donation, the flowers in the Sanctuary on Sundays can be dedicated to people and/or events you choose. The dedication will appear in the Sunday Bulletin on the requested date. Presbyterian Women will be available in the Narthex after both services to accept your requests and donations on Sundays, January 14, 21 & 28. For questions, please contact Sue Henderson at 847-804-1682.

WEDNESDAY@NOON — *Wednesday, February 7 / 12:10 pm / Sanctuary* — As we approach Valentine's Day, the music for the program will be focused on love: our love of God's kingdom, God's love for us and our love for each other. Christopher Urban, organ.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION — *Sunday, February 11 / 11:30 am / Sanctuary* — Please plan to attend in person, as we need a quorum of the congregation to conduct business.

THE 39TH ANNUAL ORGAN FEST — *Sunday, February 18 / 4:00 pm / Sanctuary* — Join organists Michael Gagne, Marianne Kim, Christopher Urban and Gary Wendt as they team up to provide another dynamic and inspiring organ concert.

Serving, Giving, and Growing

COFFEE: GROUNDS FOR DISCUSSION & SERVICE — *Sundays / 10:30 am / Room 110* — Coffee: Grounds for Discussion will take a break for the holidays. Watch here for information on new classes starting soon!

SUNDAY EDUCATION FOR ADULTS — *Sundays, today through February 11 / 9:00 am / Boardroom / Rev. Rebekah Anderson / The Journey Inward: Embracing Vulnerability as a Spiritual Practice* — Over the past decade, the work of researcher Brené Brown has brought experiences of vulnerability and shame out of the darkness and into the light. But what does it look like to live in a way that embraces vulnerability rather than running from it? What does it mean to face the kind of challenge real vulnerability brings without being consumed by it? In this class, we'll learn about what vulnerability looks like, the things that get in the way of living authentically, and why embracing a life of vulnerability is not only what we're called to do as followers of Jesus, but also a critical part of finding the capacity to withstand life's greatest challenges.

PW CIRCLE MEETINGS — Presbyterian Women is a community of women helping to make a difference in the lives of others. Join us for our study, *Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts*.
Circle 7: Tuesday, January 16 / 7:00 pm / Parlor
Circles 1, 2, 3: Wednesday, January 17 / 9:30 am / Parlor

HELP US CLOSE THE 2023 DEFICIT — The Administration & Finance Committee is prayerfully requesting you to consider helping close the 2023 budget deficit. This initiative can also be supported in early 2024 by selecting "2023 Deficit Fund" from the dropdown menu by giving online or by denoting the same on your check.



HAVE YOU TURNED IN YOUR 2024 COMMITMENT CARD? — If you have not yet had a chance to turn in your Commitment Card for 2024, you are invited to place your card in the offering plate today. Or, you can drop it off or mail it to the church office, to the attention of Debbie Walter, business administrator. You can also enter your commitment online at firstpresah.org.

NEW ONLINE GIVING PORTAL — Effective January 2024, we will be transitioning to a new online giving portal, Abundant Online Giving. The new portal will allow members to cover the processing fee for online credit card giving. In 2022, we were charged \$11,000 in processing fees and we expect to be charged approximately \$9,800 in 2023. These are fees that could be going to the mission and ministry of First Pres. More information will be coming in a Constant Contact. If you have any questions, contact business administrator, Debbie Walter, at debbiewalter@firstpresah.org.

BLANKET DRIVE SPECIAL OFFERING — *Collection through January & February* — On our cold winter nights, it is wonderful to have a warm house and a cozy blanket to wrap ourselves in. Not everyone is lucky to have that warmth and comfort. During the months of January and February, PW will be collecting for the Church World Services Blanket Drive. A \$10 donation will provide a blanket for someone needing a little support, warmth and encouragement. Please help by donating! Checks may be made out to First Presbyterian Church, indicate Blanket Drive in the memo, or you may donate online by selecting Blanket Drive in the drop down menu. Thank you! Questions? Contact Lois Meisterheim at mlmeisterheim@gmail.com.

Worship Next Sunday

January 14, 2024: Second Sunday after Epiphany

9:00 am — Worship (Chapel)
Music: Compass

10:30 am — Worship (Sanctuary)
Music: Chancel Choir

Preacher: Adam Hendrickson
Scriptures: Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; 1 Samuel 3:1-10
Sermon Title: "Somebody's Knocking at Your Door"

If you give electronically but would like to put something in the offering plate, we invite you to use the laminated bookmarks available in the pew rack in front of you. We will be keeping you abreast of your generosity.

Bookmarks	\$0.00
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NEW GIVING OPPORTUNITY: PC (USA) Native American Church Property Fund — The Native American Church Property Fund assists with needed repairs of Native American churches and chapels in the Presbyterian Church, PC(USA). Repairing the infrastructure of Native American churches and chapels also supports the mission, ministry and presence of Native American congregations in the PC(USA). The need for funds to conduct urgent and immediate repairs and improvements, including health and safety repairs, will enable continued use of the facilities by congregations and the public who visit the churches. Currently, there are approximately ninety-five Native American PC(USA) congregations in the United States.

PLEASE GIVE TO COVER YOUR PER CAPITA APPORTIONMENT — Each year every Presbyterian church is apportioned a share of the ecclesiastical expenses of the Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly. These are the activities that make us Presbyterian. This apportionment is based on church membership. In 2024, this apportionment is \$36.50 per member. Any funds you designate for the apportionment will be used for this purpose and will free up our General Fund dollars to be used in supporting the vision, overall ministry and missions of our congregation. Please consider contributing your share of the Per Capita Apportionment. An Initial Offering Envelope for this purpose has been included with the 2024 weekly offering envelopes. If you do not receive envelopes, please use one of the Per Capita envelopes from the pew pockets in the Chapel and Sanctuary or donate online by selecting 'Per Capita' in the dropdown menu.

CHRISTOPHER HOUSE FAMILY TO FAMILY THANK YOU — Thank you to all who adopted one of the 35 families to buy them Christmas gifts and Aldi or Jewel food gift cards. The bags of gifts were delivered to their Logan Square location drop off site. Liz Thompson, representative for Christopher House

PADS (PUBLIC ACTION TO DELIVER SHELTER) — The First Pres PADS overnight shelter is open for the season. Each evening, we need twelve volunteers to fill our shifts. Training is provided for all volunteers. We also have many opportunities to donate food and other items for our guests. If you have any questions or would like more information, email pads@firstpresah.org.

WE NEED YOU! — To update your contact information with the church! Help us update our records. Many families have dropped landlines or even moved and have forgotten to let the church know. Please call the office or email Mary Fino at maryfino@firstpresah.org to update your information!