

**First Presbyterian Church
of Arlington Heights**

Joy To
The World!



Cover Art by Brynn Miller

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

December 24, 2024

10:30 am

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE

"Greensleeves"

arr. Richard Purvis

WELCOME

Rev. Rebekah Anderson

✠ **CALL TO WORSHIP**

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

ISAIAH 9:2-7

A Prophet Speaks Words of Promise

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

"Sing We Nowell"
Children's Choir

Terry D. Taylor

SHEPHERDS AND ANGELS

ANTHEM

"Angels We Have Heard On High"
Children's Choir

GLORIA

WORSHIP THE NEWBORN KING

ANTHEM

"Go, Tell It on the Mountain"
Children's Choir

Becki Slagle Mayo

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

GIVING THANKS TO GOD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER

Rev. Barbara Gorsky

OFFERTORY

“Everyone 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

During the singing of “Silent Night”, all are invited to turn on their candle.

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

✠ BENEDICTION

All children return to their seats after the Benediction.

Rev. Rebekah Anderson

✠ POSTLUDE

Toccata on “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

Gordon Young

✠ Please stand as you are able.

PAGEANT PARTICIPANTS

Joseph

James White

Mary

Hadley Smith

Angel Gabriel

Robin Wehrheim

Messenger Angel

Eliana Pulikowski

Innkeeper

James Gutzmer

Narrators

Juliette Bolotin
Everett Landwehr
Mary Martinka
Brynn Miller

Prop Master

Jovie Smith

Shepherds

Trey Chandler
Penny Figiel
Lily Hendrickson

Wise Person

Violet Figiel
James Landwehr
Jayne Martinka

Choir Director

Nick Pulikowski

Adult Helpers

Melissa Anderson
Ginger Gibbs
Patti Janda
Sue Lyon
Carrie Martinka
Sarah White

Youth Helpers

Leighla Moriarity
Brianna Smith

Ensemble

Elsie Anderson
Lachlan Anderson
Max Ballinger
Maverick Bogoev
Oliver Bogoev
Gloria Bogoeva
Eli Bolotin
Emily Burke
Grace Gibbs
JJ Gibbs
Mallory Grochocki
Myles Grochocki

Sawyer Gutzmer
Owen Koehler
Abby Koehler
Laine Kozyra
Mason Landwehr
Calder Lewis
Sarah Martinka
Ellie Milford
Louis Pulikowski
Jovie Smith
Jay Sturgeon
Victor Vargas



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

Robert Ahrens
Ron & Pat Baker
Bonnie Barczak
The Beihoffer Family
Dave & Linda Berkow
Mark & Kristi Bishop and Family
Bruce Blanck
Bruce & Linda Byus
Chris & Gerri Campbell
Jo Christian
The Churchill Family
Jennifer Fick
The Haines Family
Lois Hartung
The Hempleman Family
The Hogan Family
Burt & Sally Jensen
Jim & Ingrid Kaufman
The Kiepura Family
Marty Kraybill
Betty Launer

Richard & Meredith Levinsky
Barbara Martin and Family
The Martinka Family
Walt & Sandra Meyer
Carolyn Nunley
Earl Oak
Darl Pochert
Jan & Sandy Richardson
Donald & Helen Ross
Carolyn Schmidt
Nancy Schmidt
Homer Smith
Joyce Spohr
The Stoike Family
Sue Taflinger
Bill & Liz Thompson
Christopher Urban
Kris Ward
Ken & Susan Weller
Allen & Karen Wilson

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE DECEMBER 29, 2024

10:30 am — Worship in the Sanctuary

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE RETURNING JANUARY 5, 2025

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 at laurasherwood@firstpresah.org.



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❤️ Choose love. 🕯️ Be the light. 🌍 Change the world.