

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, X, 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 on Sundays (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.

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 847-255-5900 or laurasherwood@firstpresah.org.



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

First Presbyterian Church of Arlington Heights

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



Rilla Puckett

Cover Art by Rilla Puckett

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

DECEMBER 24, 2024

4:00 PM

Choose love .Be the light.Change the world .



Choose love .Be the light.Change the world .

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Order of Worship
December 24, 2024 ~ Christmas Eve 4:00 pm

FESTIVAL OF PREPARATION

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

DUET “Joseph’s Song” *Jim Strathdee*
Ben & Willian Haines

SOLO “Carol of the Bells” *Randall & Nancy Faber*
Jessica Lynn, piano

ANTHEM “Hark! The Herald Angel’s Sing”
Youth Handbell Choir

GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

WELCOME AND INVITATION TO WORSHIP
Rev. Rebekah Anderson

OPENING PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP & LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

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

FIRST LESSON—LIGHT

SCRIPTURE READING John 1:6-8, 19-23
(Pew Bible, p.862) Youth

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

✠ GLORY TO GOD (Hymn 583)
Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!
Glory to God, glory to God, alleluia, alleluia!

SECOND LESSON—AN ANGEL APPEARS TO MARY

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 1:26-38
(Pew Bible, p. 831) Youth

ANTHEM “Carol of the Bells” *Arnold Sherman*
Youth Handbell Choir

THIRD LESSON—TRAVEL

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:1-7
(Pew Bible, p. 832) Youth

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

HOMILY “United by Hope” Adrian Kociubinski

FOURTH LESSON—SHEPHERDS

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:8-16
(Pew Bible, p. 833) Youth

ANTHEM “Calypso Carol” *Jester Hairston, arr. Raney*
“On a clear and starry night, on a hillside far away, shepherds saw a golden light, and they heard the angels say: Alleluia, shout for joy, sweet music fills the sky. The heavens ring while angels sing a Christmas lullaby. Sleep, little one, rest your head. Dream of peace on earth in your manger bed. Angels filled the evening sky and with joy began to sing: “Glory be to God on high! Let the bells of heaven ring!” Alleluia, shout for joy, sweet music fills the sky. The heavens ring while angels sing a Christmas lullaby. It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old, from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold. Alleluia, shout for joy, sweet music fills the sky. The heavens ring while angels sing a Christmas lullaby. Sleep, little one, rest your head. Dream of peace on earth in your manger bed. Alleluia, shout for joy, sweet music fills the sky. The heavens ring while angels sing a Christmas lullaby.”
Youth Choir

FIFTH LESSON—MAGI

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 2:1-12
(Pew Bible, p. 783) Youth

✠ CAROL 151 “We Three Kings of Orient Are” KINGS OF ORIENT

INVITATION TO CHRISTMAS OFFERING

OFFERTORY “What Gift Can I Bring?” *Miller & Reynolds*
“A babe in a manger, a baby, yet King. What can I give You? What gift can I bring? I’ll rock you gently, and in my arms hold to keep You away from the cold. Look at this baby, so gentle, so small. He is the Savior, the Lord of us all. What can I give You? What gift can I bring? With all my heart, I can sing. Alleluia! Jesus is Lord of the earth! Singing Alleluia! The heavens rejoice on this day of birth. You are the joy that was sent form above. Jesus, I’ll give you my love.”
Youth Choir

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Sixth Lesson—The Word Became Flesh

SCRIPTURE READING John 1:1-14
(Pew Bible, p. 862) Youth

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.**

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 has light 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;

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

SHARING THE LIGHT

An usher will light the candle of the person at the end of each pew. As your neighbor lights his/her candle from yours, give the greeting, “The peace of Christ be with you.” The congregation will join in singing “Silent Night”. During the last verse, carefully raise your candle. Please extinguish candles following the Benediction and place them in the receptacles in the Narthex as you leave. Battery-operated candles will also be available.

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

BENEDICTION Rev. Rebekah Anderson

✠ POSTLUDE “Joy to the World” *Nigel Williams*
Colin Stanhope, trumpet

✠ Please stand as you are able.

Preaching: Adrian Kociubinski
Worship Leaders: Middle School, High School and College-age Youth
Pastor: Rev. Rebekah Anderson
Director of Music and Worship: Adam Hendrickson
Associate Director of Music and Organist: Christopher Urban