

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.



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 Thaompson
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*



Cover art by Haleigh Smith

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP
DECEMBER 24, 2024
7:30 PM PRELUDE
8:00 PM SERVICE

Choose love. Be the light. Change the world.



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First Presbyterian Church of Arlington Heights
302 N. Dunton Avenue • Arlington Heights, IL 60004
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CHRISTMAS EVE PRELUDE

SOLO “Carol of the Bells” *Holsinger & Sharik*
Kris Ward, handbells

SOLO “Sweet Little Jesus Boy” *Spiritual*
Kathy Sobeski, soprano

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

SOLO “Do You Hear What I Hear?” *Kevin McChesney*
Kris Ward, handbells

SOLO “I Wonder as I Wander” *John Jacob Niles*
JoAnn Thompson, soprano

CAROL 147 (vv. 1, 4, 6) “The First Nowell” THE FIRST NOWELL

SOLO “O Holy Night” *Adolphe Adam*
Dan Richardson, bass

THE PROMISE OF LIGHT

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Laura Sherwood

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

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

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: ISAIAH 9:2-7

ANTHEM “Unto Us a Child is Born” *John Purifoy*
“Unto us a Child is born! Unto us a Son is given! And the government shall be
on His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful and Counselor,
almighty God, Prince of peace, everlasting Father.”
Chancel Choir

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING: MICAH 5:2-5A

✦ CAROL 121 “O Little Town of Bethlehem” ST LOUIS

THE DAWN OF HOPE

THIRD SCRIPTURE READING: MATTHEW 1:18-25

ANTHEM “The Rose” *Ola Gjeilo*
“The lily has a smooth stalk, Will never hurt your hand;
But the rose upon her brier Is lady of the land.
There's sweetness in an apple tree, And profit in the corn;
But lady of all beauty Is a rose upon a thorn.
When with moss and honey She tips her bending brier,
And half unfolds her glowing heart,
She sets the world on fire.”
Chancel Choir

FOURTH SCRIPTURE READING: LUKE 2:8-14

✦ CAROL 119 (vv. 1, 3) “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” MENDELSSOHN

THE GIFT OF JOY

FIFTH SCRIPTURE READING: MATTHEW 2:1-12

REFLECTION ON THE WONDERS OF GOD’S LOVE

Rev. Barbara Gorsky

ANTHEM “Star Carol” *John Rutter*
“Sing this night, for a boy is born in Bethlehem, Christ our Lord in a lowly
manger lies; Bring your gifts, come and worship at his cradle,
Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary! See his star shining bright in the
sky this Christmas Night! Follow me joyfully; Hurry to Bethlehem and see the
son of Mary! Angels bright, come from heaven’s highest glory,
Bear the news with its message of good cheer: “Sing, rejoice,
for a King is come to save us, Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!”
See, he lies in his mother’s tender keeping; Jesus Christ in her loving arms
asleep. Shepherds poor, come to worship and adore him, offer their humble
gifts before the son of Mary. Let us all pay our homage at the manger,
Sing his praise on this joyful Christmas Night; Christ is come,
bringing promise of salvation; Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!”
Chancel Choir

SIXTH SCRIPTURE READING: PSALM 98

✦ CAROL 134 (vv. 1, 2, 4) “Joy to the World” ANTIOCH

PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND CHRISTMAS OFFERING

OFFERTORY “The Little Drummer Boy” *Harry Simeone*
“Come they told me, Our newborn King to see, Our finest gifts we bring,
To lay before the King, So to honor Him, When we come. Baby Jesus, I am a
poor boy, too. I have no gift to bring, That’s fit to give our King. Shall I play for
you, On my drum. Mary nodded, The ox and lamb kept time, I played my drum
for Him; I played my best for Him, Then He smiled at me, me and my drum.”
Chancel Choir

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

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

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

✦ CHORAL RESPONSE “Still, Still, Still” *Normann Luboff*
“Dream, dream, dream of the joyous day to come. While guardian angels
without number watch you as you sweetly slumber. Dream, dream,
dream of the joyous day to come.”
Chancel Choir

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

✦ Please stand as you are able.

Listing of Worship Leaders:

Preaching: Rev. Barbara Gorsky

Liturgists: Rev. Laura Sherwood, Interim Head of Staff
Rev. Rebekah Anderson, Associate Pastor for Children, Youth &
Families

Director of Music and Worship: Adam Hendrickson

Associate Director of Music and Organist: Christopher Urban

Tech Support and Livestream: Amy Senior and Jonah White

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

DECEMBER 29, 2024

10:30 am — Worship in the Sanctuary/Livestream

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.