



Magnificat by Jan Richardson

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WILMETTE
Communion Sunday
Third Sunday in Advent
Sunday, December 12th, 2021
10:00 am Worship Service
Experience God. Grow Disciples. Transform Lives.

Welcome to worship at First Presbyterian Church of Wilmette! We're so glad you're here. Whether you're a long-time member or first-time visitor, we are blessed to have you with us. We hope joining us for worship today will nurture your heart and transform your mind. You are loved and never alone!

Our mission statement here is **“Experience God. Grow Disciples. Transform Lives.”** As a church, we strive to be about that simple and challenging work day after day, in season and out of season. The COVID-19 pandemic has dramatically altered our lives, but it has also revealed what is most important. As we lean into what the weeks and months ahead will be like, we will continue to pray for one another. We will keep growing as followers of Christ. We will keep loving and listening to our neighbors. We will keep the hand to plow, working to embody God's dream for the world. We will keep reminding ourselves that we are a work in progress.

As we resume in-person and livestreamed services, we are committed to keeping everyone safe and finding fresh and creative ways to worship together. We value your feedback – let us know what is going well and what could be better!

- A worship bulletin will be available (hardcopy in person or pdf online)
- Please join in the liturgy and prayers and passing of the peace, as directed
- Please linger and fellowship with one another after worship in the Wallace Moore Fellowship Center in the lower level, we would be delighted to catch up with you!
- The offering plate will be available to place a cash or check gift in before or after the service
- We're so glad to be worshipping with you in person and online! You are loved and never alone, friends.

With gratitude in Christ,

Pastors Nancy Dolan and Laura Sherwood

Spiritual Practice: Breath Prayer

A "Breath Prayer" is a way of praying that captures our deep yearning for intimacy, wholeness and a sense of peace with God. The short prayer is spoken slowly using our natural rhythm of breathing. This increased consciousness of our breathing is a reminder of our physical and spiritual dependence on God.

There are many different breath prayers, often based on Scripture. They are short — seven to eight syllables long; 3-4 syllables to inhale; 3-4 syllables to exhale. They normally include a name for God: Holy Lord, Lord Jesus, Holy Spirit, etc., and they involve a short request: give peace, bring joy, have mercy, etc. The number of potential breath prayers is limitless. Some of the better-known breath prayers include:

"Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening" (1 Samuel 3:10); *"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want"* (Psalm 23:1); *"Jesus, son of David, have mercy on me"* (Mark 10:47); *"Abba, I belong to you"* (cf. Romans 8:15); *"Be still and know that I am God"* (Psalm 46:10).

To begin, you might select a short verse from the examples above, or another familiar passage you find meaningful, or allow the Spirit to form a personal breath prayer in your soul. Try one for a day or two and see if it assists in your practice of the presence of God and nurtures your soul. If it does, stick with it, if not consider trying another one.

Praying Your Breath Prayer

- Sit quietly, listen to your body breath. Sense the tension. Feel the rhythm.
- Begin to slowly repeat the prayer while breathing in, out (3-4 syllables to inhale; 3-4 syllables to exhale).
- Become increasingly aware of God's presence.
- Release (exhale) the things you are burdened about.
- Invite (inhale) God in.
- Enjoy the peace and security that come from simply resting in God's arms.
- If it seems natural and brings you closer to God, continue using it. If it seems artificial or if it isn't helpful, try another. The gift of a particular breath prayer may last for years, even decades. But God may also periodically replace it with a new one as you continue to journey with the Divine through life.

Reference: Thomas Keating, *Open Mind, Open Heart* (New York: Continuum, 1992)

Order of Worship
Sunday, December 12, 2021

***Indicates please stand, rise in body and spirit as you are able.**

Worship Leaders

Rev. Laura Sherwood, preaching
Rev. Nancy Dolan, pastoral liturgist
Robert Hariman, liturgist
The Zimmer family, Advent Candle liturgists
Will Zimmer, light bearer
The Chancel Choir
Soojin Kim, accompanist
Peggy Massello, Director of Music

PRELUDE - *People Look East*

arr. Richard Warner

WELCOME AND COMMON LIFE

ENTRANCE OF THE LIGHT HYMN NO. 88 verse 6 (seated)

**O come, thou dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent there;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE (Matthew 11:1-6)

ARE WE THERE YET? - JOURNEYING TOWARD THE LIGHT OF JOY

Sometimes on our journey, our feet get heavy, ...

We light the candles of peace and hope and joy to light our way as we continue on our Advent journey.

Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, that God may teach us the ways of peace, hope, and joy.

Let us pray together:

ADVENT PRAYER (unison)

Christ is coming to make all things new!

In prayerful waiting, we prepare him room,

and we are opening ourselves to Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

***HYMN NO. 104** - *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You*

VALET WILL DIR GEBEN

CALL TO CONFESSION

In this season of waiting, in this time of preparation, we long to draw closer to God, as a comfort and as our savior. So often, we get in our own way; we make choices that trip us up as we move toward God. So then, let us make our confession, first in silent prayer...*(silence is kept)*...Let us now pray together:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we confess that we are busy with many preparations.

We are busy with parties, with feasts, with giving. We are busy cleaning house and wrapping presents. We are busy with the stuff of the holiday.

And we confess that our busyness may be misplaced,

that we spend more time preparing for things, than preparing for You.

Draw us back to the center which is You. Remind us that our hearts and souls, have work to do, too. Enable us to let go of that which does not matter, and to see what does matter. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

The good news of this Advent season is forgiveness and new life.

Let us commit our lives to Christ's way of peace, hope and joy.

Thanks be to the Advent God, who sets us free to love and serve! Amen.

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Now, let us share with each other the peace that forgiveness brings, saying:

The peace of Christ be with you!

And also with you.

Children are invited to pass the peace and come forward and gather with Children's Chapel leaders.

PRAYER FOR OUR CHILDREN - Let us sing our prayer for the children as they move to their chapel time:

HYMN NO. 469 *Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying*

Lord, listen to your children praying,

Lord, send your Spirit in this place.

Lord, listen to your children praying,

Send us love, send us power, send us grace.

SCRIPTURE READING - Luke 1:47-55

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON - "Journeying Toward the Light of Joy"

Rev. Laura Sherwood

ANTHEM - *Deepest Heart*

David Childs

Morning dawns, the moment of wonder, the threshold of darkness and light.

The cardinals, the robins ask to live. God gives them breath and opens their eyes.

The birds begin to dance and sing.

When Gabriel told Mary of God's plan, she was filled with doubt and fear.

The angel assured her, "So it will be." She listened to her deepest heart.

"Here I am, the servant of the Lord."

"Here we are!"

Help us to see the sacred place in every heart, where God's truth and glory meets our despair,
where the angels say, "Do not be afraid." where God has planted the seed of love.

God calls us to open our eyes, to see the divine in ourselves and each other,

To welcome the stranger, and say "Yes" to the outcast.

May the loneliness and the darkness of this life vanish in love's healing light.

Let us dance and sing with the first birds of morning.

God is with us, God of love. God, our hope, and God our light.

PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

(First Part sung to "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice")

Leader: O may the good Lord be with you.

All: And may the Lord be with you too.

Leader: Lift your hearts to Him in praise.

All: To the Lord our hearts we raise.

Leader: Let us offer praises true.

All: It is fitting so to do. Gratefully we sing to the Lord our King!

(Second Part sung to “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”)

Leader: Holy, holy, holy Lord! God of hosts, by all adored!

Heav'n and earth cannot contain all the glory of your name.

All: Hail, hosanna, God most high, blest is he who now draws nigh.

In the name of God the King, hallelujahs glad we sing;

Hail, hosanna, praises due be forever, Lord, to you!

THE 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

BLESSING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (unison)

We thank you, God, for your wisdom and love personified in Jesus, the Word Made Flesh. Having feasted together at this table, may we be more mindful of the many ways you are sharing yourself with us. By this same awareness, may our relationship with you and with one another ever deepen, and may your kingdom of peace and justice ever expand. In the name of the One for whom we wait, amen.

CALL FOR OFFERING

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE - The Doxology (Hymn No. 606)**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below;

Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)**

Holy One, this Advent season we wait in joy,

And we give with joy.

Joy for all you have given us;

Joy because of your sacred promises.

Receive these generous offerings,

And use them to spread your joy in our world. Amen.

SENDING HYMN NO. 100 - *My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

STAR OF THE COUNTRY DOWN

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

Sources:

Journeying Toward the Light: Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy 2021 - Adapted by Rev. Laura Sherwood for FPCW from Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy 2019 by Derek Weber (UMC). Advent (unison) Prayers from Light for the World: An Advent Candle Liturgy 2016 by Heather Prince Doss ((PC)USA). Light Bearer element from Advent Waiting and Wondering – Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

Confession: Call, Prayer: Written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, 'Hold Fast to What Is Good'. Used with permission.

Prayer after Communion: Written by Rev. Jeffrey A. Nelson (UCC)

Prayer of Dedication - written by Joanna Harader (Pastor of Peace Mennonite Church in Lawrence, Kansas)

<https://spaciousfaith.com/2017/12/01/offertory-prayers-for-advent/> Offertory Prayers for Advent

Our Common Life

Week of December 12th, 2021



A Note from Pastor Nancy –

What a joy to see so many of you at the Lessons and Carols Advent service and Wassail Party on Sunday, and to feel the presence of all who gathered remotely via that Livestream. Our choirs' music and the Fellowship Ministry's hospitality filled all of us with the hope and joy of the season. Many thanks to all involved! It was a special day in the life of the church.

You know by now that I'll be with you through the end of January for Pastor Jeff's medical leave. Pastor Laura and I have divided Jeff's responsibilities, with me working part-time, and Pastor Laura increasing to full-time. We are sharing pastoral support for committees, and worship and preaching leadership. Pastor Laura and Sue Sklansky, along with your Deacons, will continue to provide pastoral and congregational care. Please contact either with your pastoral care concerns.

As together we surround Pastor Jeff and his family with our prayers, we also can together ensure his leave is protected. Please be encouraged to send cards and notes to the Lehns at their home address and participate in providing meals as you are inclined rather than contacting them directly. Please also reach out to me or Pastor Laura first if you have something that you feel needs Jeff's input or attention.

May the peace, joy, hope, and love of Advent fill your hearts and minds with the possibilities that the season brings.

The Personnel Support Ministry (aka Personnel Committee) is looking for a new member. The committee works with our Session, Pastors, and Staff to ensure we have staffing appropriate to achieve the church's mission. Specific duties include oversight of job descriptions, policies, compensation, and performance reviews. A multi-year commitment is necessary; experience in HR is a plus. The person selected will replace Emily Karottki who recently stepped down from the committee after three years of outstanding support. If you are interested in serving, please contact Brian Hughes at bd_hughes@hotmail.com.

Giving Tree Update and Thank you

Thanks to all of you who so generously contributed to this year's Giving Tree project. All 150 gifts requested by Erie Neighborhood House, Family Promise, and Orchard Village have been purchased by members of our congregation. Thanks to those of you who carefully selected "Christmas wishes" hung on the Christmas tree outside the church office that were made by young children at Erie House. And thanks to those of you who braved the on-line experience of navigating the Sign-up Genius website to choose gifts for those served by Family Promise and Orchard Village. Your generosity will bring much holiday cheer and happiness to those who receive these gifts. So many thanks on behalf of these three organizations and the FPCW Mission Committee for supporting this project once again this year.



2022 Stewardship Update - Week Five

Thank you to all who have submitted your financial commitment toward the life and ministry of our church in 2022! This year's theme is "A Future with Hope," drawing on the beautiful promise of Jeremiah 29:11. Through week five of our campaign, we have received 97 pledges totaling \$710,394. We are deeply grateful. We anticipate receiving another 20 pledges once everyone has responded. If you have not yet pledged and wish to do so, the Giving Team kindly requests you do so via mail or online.



Christmas Pageant 2021

Next Sunday, December 19th, during worship we will have a special treat. Like last year we will present a one of a kind Christmas pageant performed by our Mid-Week Meet-Up kiddos. Written and directed by Lindley Traynor and musical direction by Peggy Massello. This year's pageant will be a video presented during worship. You won't want to miss this creative and unique Christmas pageant.



Longest Night Service is a place where you can feel God's presence and love. Join us Tuesday, December 21st at 7 pm, in the Sanctuary/Livestream (only the worship leaders will appear in the Livestreaming). God has promised to meet us here and welcome us for who we are. Light will defeat the darkness.



December 24th Christmas Eve

4:00 pm Family Candlelight Service (outdoors)

9:00 pm Candlelight Worship Service (Sanctuary/Livestream)



Support First Pres with Amazon Smile

When you shop on Amazon, please consider selecting "First Presbyterian Church of Wilmette" as your preferred charity and we will receive .5% of the purchase price as a donation. To do this, just visit smile.amazon.com and select our church as your charity. Many thanks!

Meals for the Lehn family

Many of you have asked how you can be a support for the Lehn family while Jeff is on medical leave. One way is to supply meals for the family. A Signup Genius link has been created and the Lehn family has requested meals only twice a week. Meals can be dropped off at the Manse back door. Please put the meal you bring in the cooler by the back door at 4:30 pm. No need to ring their doorbell as they will be expecting the meal to be dropped off. The Signup Genius link is available in the Daily Bread and on the News & Publications page of our website. Many thanks to all who wish to prepare meals and support the Lehn family.

Important Sanctuary and Worship Updates.

Air Exchange in the Sanctuary

At fpcw we are fortunate to have an excellent air exchange system promoting good airflow in the Sanctuary and the Wallace Moore Fellowship Center. The object is to maximize the flow of outside air at ground level from both sides of the front of the sanctuary to the upper back of the balcony. Please note, as we are well within the colder months the air exchange system can cause cooler temperatures in the Sanctuary so please consider dressing warmly on Sundays.

Livestream on Sundays in the Lounge

A special benefit of our ability to Livestream our worship services is you can sit comfortably in the Lounge on Sunday to watch the service. Or if you have a child who no longer wants to be in the Sanctuary the Lounge is a good option. Also, please note: as our services are recorded each week and you do not wish to appear in the recording please consider sitting in the balcony, the livestream cameras do not cover that area of the Sanctuary.



FPCW's hosting of three Family Promise guest families came to its conclusion on Sunday. It was another successful hosting for our church, with most of the success due to our enthusiastic volunteers. While still not back to the pre-Covid model of providing meals and shelter at the church, we did take a big step closer by utilizing our many volunteers to be overnight hosts, saving Family Promise the cost of paying staff to do so. We also had many volunteers provide dinners for two weeks and also provide breakfast and lunch items for the families. We hope that the next time FPCW hosts guest families we will be back to the pre-Covid model of preparing and eating dinners with the families at FPCW before they retire for the night to their rooms upstairs at the church.

Kara Hughes and I want to thank the many meal volunteers who prepared (or ordered) dinners and delivered that meal to the Day Center in Evanston. The families always appreciate the fine meals that our volunteers provide and are especially appreciative when dietary restrictions are acknowledged by those preparing the meals.

We also want to thank the many overnight volunteers that willingly spent a night (or two or more) sleeping on a cot or sofa in the lounge. This hosting period was very different from past hostings in that all three of the parents of the families worked late or overnight shifts. It's tough enough to get a good night's sleep when sleeping on a cot at church, but when you need to wake up at 1:30 am to let a father and his son into the church after his late shift, it makes sleep even more difficult. We applaud and thank all of the volunteers that generously, and without complaint, set their alarms for those late-night arrivals. After a week or so of these late-night arrivals, Family Promise did provide a staff member to take over the late-night entries, allowing the volunteers to sleep through the night. We would also like to recognize Amy Russell for the many nights she spent at church during the three weeks and also for the wonderful and fun Thanksgiving decorations she provided for the families and their living space.

And finally, thank you to Jeff, Laura, Madeline, and all the staff and Session at FPCW for the continued commitment and generosity given to the Family Promise and the wonderful families in the program.

Rick Drake, fpcw Family Promise Coordinator



A note from Madeline

I'm excited to share with you that I will be on vacation beginning this Saturday, December 11th through Tuesday, December 21st. My husband Mark and I will be traveling to Florida to spend time with our daughter, son-in-law, and granddaughter. This is a trip we planned many months ago and are excited to spend time with our children.

While I'm away the staff will be covering the office but the regular 9 to 5 pm office hours will be altered. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday office hours will be 10 am to 12 pm. There will be no office hours on Friday, December 17th. If you need to come to the church on a time outside of these hours please check in with Pastor Laura or Sue Sklansy. We will do our best to accommodate you.

Many thanks for this precious time away with family. I'm deeply appreciative and very grateful.

CHURCH CALENDAR

The week of December 12th, 2021

Sunday, December 12th

10:00 am	In-person Worship	Sanctuary
	Livestreaming Worship	YouTube
10:15 am	Chapel Time	Chapel
11:00 am	Fellowship Hour	WMFC
1:00pm	Troop 5 Scouts	WMFC
5:00 pm	Girl Scouts	Yellow Room

Monday, December 13th

12:00 pm	Special Committee Meeting	Lounge
7:00 pm	Session	WMFC
	Investment Club	Lounge
7:30 pm	Troop 5	

Tuesday, December 14th

10:00 am	Staff Meeting	Lounge
----------	---------------	--------

Wednesday, December 15th

4:30 pm	Midweek Meet Up	WMFC
6:15 pm	Book Group	Lounge
7:30 pm	Chancel Choir	WMFC

Thursday, December 16th

10:00 am	Bible Study	WMFC
7:00 pm	Men's Hour	Lounge
7:30 pm	Chancel Bells	WMFC

Friday, December 17th

No meetings scheduled

Saturday, December 18th

8:00 am	Men's Council	WMFC
---------	---------------	------

Sunday, December 19th Pageant Sunday

10:00 am	In-person Worship Service	Sanctuary
	Livestream Worship	YouTube
11:00 am	Fellowship Hour	WMFC
5:00 pm	Tower	WMFC
7:00 pm	Troop 5	Upper Room

Fellowship Hour

Please consider hosting Fellowship Hour one Sunday. It's very easy to host fellowship just a couple of plates of cookies will be all that's needed. A Sign Up Genius link has been created and is posted on the News and Publications page of our website. You can also find the link in the Tuesday Daily Bread. Please help support this very special, long-time fpcw tradition. This is a wonderful opportunity for our members and visitors to check in and stay connected.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

- For the joy of in-person and livestreaming worship which brings us all together in one place,
- For the season of Advent, which reminds of the everlasting Hope, Peace, Joy and Love that comes from Christ,
- For those with health concerns, for those who are grieving, and for our homebound members,
- For those who suffer from depression, anxiety or addictions, and for those who walk alongside them,
- For Pastor Jeff Lehn and his family while he is away.

WEBSITE

www.fpcw.org

FACEBOOK

[facebook.com/1st Presbyterian Church of Wilmette](https://facebook.com/1stPresbyterianChurchofWilmette)

TWITTER

[@1stPresWilmette@FPCWilmette](https://twitter.com/1stPresWilmette)

SERMONS

www.fpcw.org/worship-and-music/sermons

CALENDAR

www.fpcw.org/events-calendar

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Nancy Dolan
Interim Senior Pastor
revnancy.dolan@gmail.com

Laura Sherwood
Interim Associate Pastor
lsherwood@fpcw.org ext. 24

Peggy Massello
Director of Worship & Music
pmassello@fpcw.org ext. 16

Lindley Traynor
Director of Children & Family Ministry
ltraynor@fpcw.org ext. 20

Sue Sklansky
Director of Congregational Care and Engagement
ssklansky@fpcw.org ext. 14

Madeline Weston
Office & Communications Coordinator
office@fpcw.org ext. 11

Marvin Behm
Financial Manager
finmanager@fpcw.org ext. 13

OFFICE HOURS

9am-5pm (Monday-Thursday)
9am-3:30pm (Friday)



INCLUSIVITY STATEMENT

Gathered by the grace of Jesus Christ, we are a vibrant and supportive Christian family whose welcoming spirit reflects God's love for all people. We invite participation in all aspects of our church life by persons of every race, language, national origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, physical or mental ability, economic or marital status, or faith background. FPCW is a member of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians, a broad-based, national group of clergy and lay leaders working for a church that is simultaneously faithful, just, and whole.



ADVENT 2021

JOURNEYING TOWARD THE LIGHT

Sunday Worship in Advent: In-person/Virtual
(all services masked)

Advent 3 Dec. 12, 10 am Christmas Joy Offering

Advent 4 Dec. 19, 10 am Christmas Pageant

Tuesday, Dec. 21, 7pm Longest Night Service

December 24 Christmas Eve

- 4 pm Family Candlelight Service (Fellowship Garden)
- 9 pm Candlelight Worship Service (Sanctuary)

December 24 Christmas Eve

- 4 pm Family Candlelight Service (Fellowship Garden)
- 9 pm Candlelight Worship Service (Sanctuary)

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WILMETTE

600 9th Street, Wilmette, IL 60091-2779

847-256-3010

office@fpcw.org www.fpcw.org