

CALL AND PRAYER FOR OFFERING

BELL OFFERTORY - *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

arr. Tyleen Stults

CANDLE LIGHTING AND SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

The People who walked in darkness have seen a great light.
The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them a light has shined.
The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all.

CAROL MEDLEY (see insert, congregation please stay seated)

BENEDICTION

*You are invited to take your candle with you and take the light of Christ into the world.
Thank you for worshipping with us. The pastors, staff, officers, and members of First Pres Wilmette wish you a very Merry Christmas!*

***POSTLUDE** - *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

arr. M. Burkhardt

Sources

Prayers for Christmas Eve ~ ~ written by Rick Pryce, and posted on Rick Pryce. <http://rickpryce.wordpress.com/>

Opening Prayer by Lisa Frenz, <http://re-worship.blogspot.com/>

Offertory Prayer - from Ministry Matters, Christmas Eve

WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Nancy Dolan, Preaching
Rev. Laura Sherwood, Pastoral Liturgist
Peggy Massello, Music Director, Organist
Advent Wreath & Christ Candle liturgists
The Hughes Family: Brian, Kara, Kathleen,
Anna, and Margaret
Kent Darbyshire, Guitar & Vocals
Linnea Jacobs, Vocals
Chancel Choir
Chancel Bells

FIRST PRES CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Nancy Dolan, Interim Senior Pastor/Head of Staff
Rev. Laura Sherwood, Interim Associate Pastor
Peggy Massello, Director of Worship and Music
Scott McElhenie, Director of Student Ministries
Lindley Traynor, Director of Children's Ministry
Sue Sklansky, Director of Congregational Care and Engagement
Madeline Weston, Communications and Office Coordinator
Marvin Behm, Financial Manager
Ethan Holterman, Livestream Engineer

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Kate Cosgrove, "Nativity Three," (2014)

First Presbyterian Church of Wilmette
Christmas Eve
December 24th, 2021
9:00 pm Candlelight Service

Experience God, Grow Disciples, Transform Lives.

Welcome to the First Presbyterian Church of Wilmette! We are glad you are here this evening for this service of celebration and candlelight. If you need assistance, please feel free to ask an usher. For families with young children needing to move around, the service is piped into the Lounge as well. Enjoy the service! Please silence electronic devices in preparation for worship.

* please stand if you are able.

BELL PRELUDE - *He Is Born the Holy Child*
Starry Night

French Carol, B. Kinyon
arr. B. Austin

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER

*ENTRANCE OF THE LIGHT AND PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. 133

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH AND CHRIST CANDLE

ARE WE THERE YET? JOURNEYING TOWARD THE LIGHT OF LOVE

(John 1:1-5 & 14; Luke 2:11-12; and Isaiah 9:2)

Reader: We light these candles. It seems a simple thing, lighting candles,...We light these candles as a sign of the light of the world that is coming to all of us in Christ.

Reader: We light the candles of Peace, Hope, Joy and Trust as our circle is complete.
(Lighting of the Advent Candles)

Reader: And we light the Christ Candle, as a sign of Christ's Love among us, no matter how dark it may seem.
(Lighting of the Christ candle)

Reader: The people who have walked in darkness have seen a great light. Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth let there be Love. Our journey toward the light has led us here tonight to the One whose love lights up the world and is carried in our hearts.
Let us pray together:

CHRISTMAS PRAYER (unison):

Christ comes to make all things new!

We open ourselves to Christ, whose love lights the world. Amen.

ANTHEM - *Christmas Hymn*

17th Cent. German arr. H. Jungst

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING - Luke 2:1-7 (pg. 58 in the New Testament)

SONG - *Carrying the Child*

Kent Darbyshire

SCRIPTURE READING — Luke 2:8-20 (pg. 58 in the New Testament)

HOMILY

Rev. Nancy Dolan

***RESPONSIVE HYMN NO 121** — *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

ST. LOUIS

Prayers for Christmas Eve and the Lord's Prayer Laura

God of life, God of new life, by the birth of Jesus
you have brought light into our darkness. Shine in our lives.
Christ Jesus, by your coming, Set us free to serve.

God of life, God of new life, nothing will ever separate us from your love.
Give us faith to trust your promise.

Christ Jesus, by your coming, Set us free to serve.

God of life, God of new life, you call us to serve the hungry, the poor,
the lonely and the outcast. Show us how we can respond.

Christ Jesus, by your coming, Set us free to serve.

God of life, God of new life, Jesus was born into poverty and lived under oppression.
Open our eyes to injustice, and inspire us to proclaim your reign.

Christ Jesus, by your coming, Set us free to serve.

God of life, God of new life, by the birth of Jesus, bring your healing to those in need,
especially those we name before you in the quiet prayers of our hearts...

(Silent Prayer)

God of life, God of new life, inspire this congregation to reach out beyond our walls,
beyond our fears, beyond our past. Help us to welcome your future.

Christ Jesus, by your coming, Set us free to serve.

God of life, God of new life, by the birth of Jesus
you have brought light into our darkness. Shine in our lives.

Christ Jesus, by your coming, Set us free to serve.

We pray in the name of Jesus,
our light, our life, and our hope, who taught us also to pray, saying,
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.