



Advent Lessons & Carols



Advent 2021

Journeying Toward the Light

Sunday, December 5, 2021, 4:00 pm

First Presbyterian Church of Wilmette



Advent Lessons & Carols

Prior to the start of the worship service, please ensure that all electronic devices are silenced.

***PLEASE STAND**

BELL PRELUDE — *I Wonder as I Wander*

Brenda Austin

WELCOME AND COMMON LIFE

BAGPIPE PROCESSIONAL

ENTRANCE OF THE LIGHT

LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE (Isaiah 11:1-2)

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

Every journey faces the unknown...

We light the candles of peace and of hope to give us strength for the journey and the light that is coming. Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, that God may teach us the ways of peace and hope. 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. 106** — *Prepare the Way, O Zion*

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

CALL TO CONFESSION

In this season of Advent, we are reminded of God's love for us, shown in the impossible act of God becoming incarnate, taking on human flesh, to reach us in love and save us from our worst abilities. This is the God to whom we pray, to whom we make our confession. Let us then come to God with the truth of our lives, first in silent prayer...(*silence is kept*)...Let us pray now together:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of grace and truth,

long ago your prophets told of your promises –
a promise of restoration and salvation.

We confess that we have not always believed your promise,
that we often have preferred brokenness to restoration,
and have lingered with dis-ease rather than welcome salvation.

We have remained steadfast in the ease of the status quo,
not wanting to face the hard work of repentance and change.

Forgive our stiff necks, and renew our strength,
so that we may receive the fullness of your promise,
and live into the joy of that hope. 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 hope and peace.

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



***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE HYMN NO. 795** (refrain)
Healer of our every ill, light of each tomorrow,
Give us peace beyond our fear, and hope beyond our sorrow.

***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.

Service of Lessons & Carols: Journeying Toward the Light

(please remain seated for hymns)

FIRST LESSON - Genesis 1:1-19 “God’s Light in Creation”

ANTHEM - *Lost in the Night*

Finnish Folk Tune, arr. Kyle Haugen

Lost in the night do the people yet languish, longing for morning the darkness to vanquish.
Plaintively heaving a sigh full of anguish. Will not day come soon? Will not day come soon?
Must we be vainly awaiting the morrow? Shall those who have light no light let us borrow.
Giving no need to our burden of sorrow? Will you help us soon? Will you help us soon?
Sorrowing wanderers, in darkness yet dwelling, dawned has the day of a radiance excelling,
Death’s dreaded darkness forever dispelling.
Christ is coming soon, Christ is coming soon!
Will not day come soon? Come and save us soon! Christ is coming soon!

SECOND LESSON - Isaiah 60:1-3; 19-22 “Prophecy of Everlasting Light”

HYMN NO. 87 - *Comfort, Comfort Now My People* (vs. 1 & 3 congregation, vs. 2 choir)

GENEVAN

THIRD LESSON - Luke 1:26-38 “Mary’s Light of Love and Faithfulness”

ANTHEM - *An Angel Brought the News to Mary*

Anne and Wm. McNair

An angel brought the news to Mary. An angel brought the news of a child:
“God has chosen you, God has chosen you, God has chosen you to bear a child.”
“I do not understand,” said Mary. “I do not understand, but I know
God has chosen me, God has chosen me, God has chosen me to bear a child.”
“Do not be afraid, dear Mary. Do not be afraid to bear this child.”
“I am not afraid, I am not afraid, I am not afraid to bear this child.”

“This child will come in peace, this child will come in love.
This child will bring salvation to the world, hope, love and joy!
This child will rule our hearts. This child will bear our pain.
This child will glorify God’s name!”

The angel went away from Mary. The angel went away but Mary stayed
And pondered in her heart, pondered in her heart, pondered in her heart the news that day.
Pondered in her heart the news that day.



FOURTH LESSON - Matthew 2:1-10 “Led by Starlight to God Incarnate”

ANTHEM - *May My Light Shine*

Lynn Bailey & Becky Mayo

May my light shine like the star of Bethlehem.
May the world see God’s love through me.
May my light shine for my Jesus and my King.
May I shine so others see.

Star of wonder, star of light, shining down for all to see.
Star of wonder, star of light, shine your light through me. (*refrain*)
Star of wonder, star of light, may I keep my eyes on you.
Star of wonder, star of light, shine in all I do. (*refrain*)

“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”

LITANY FOR PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

You were born to set us free:
we pray for the people all around us,
tangled, trapped, and bound by our own sins and fears
and the cumulative sins and fears of humanity, piling ever deeper.
We pray especially for those in special need of care today . . .

**Let us find our rest in you.
Come, Lord Jesus, come.**

You are the hope of all the earth:
we pray for a world where things so often feel hopeless
where peoples dearly desire wholeness only you can provide.
We pray especially for people in conflict and danger . . .
for those who lay down their lives . . .
and for those who lead us . . .

**Send your joy to every loving heart.
Come, Lord Jesus, come.**

You are born to deliver us and to reign in us:
We pray for your Holy Church, called to bring in your reign . . .
**Reign in us forever, and help us to live out the justice of your promised Kingdom.
Come, Lord Jesus, come.**

HYMN NO. 82 - *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*, verse 1 (seated)

HYFRYDOL

**Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.**

We offer these prayers in your name, at your throne,
where you reign with God and the eternal Spirit.
Raise us there, so we may join the saints and angels in praising you,
even as we join together to pray as you have taught us, 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.**



CALL FOR OFFERING

OFFERTORY - *Sing We Now of Christmas*

French tune, arr. Kevin McChesney

***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 hope. And we give in hope.
Hope for your coming reign;
Hope because of your presence with us even now.
Receive these generous offerings,
And use them for your work of healing and hope in our world. Amen.

***HYMN NO. 105** - *People, Look East* (verses 1, 4 & 5)

BESANÇON

***BAGPIPE RECESSIONAL TO THE WASSAIL PARTY**

All are invited outside for refreshments.

Thank you to our Fellowship Ministry Group for hosting the Wassail Party, a long-standing *fpcw* tradition.

Worship Leaders:

Rev. Nancy Dolan, Pastoral liturgist

Rev. Laura Sherwood, Pastoral Liturgist

The Soderholm Family, readers

Lindley & Paul Traynor, readers

The Lehmer Family, readers

Bob and Fran Langewisch, Advent Candle Lighters

Dan Langewisch, Light Bearer

Peggy Massello, Director of Worship and Music

Rose McGrath, Soloist

Hyejin Joo, Accompanist

Patrick Lynch, Bagpiper

Chancel Choir

Midweek Meetup Singers

Chancel Bells



Our Common Life

Week of December 5th, 2021



Welcome Rev. Nancy Dolan

Pastor Dolan will be with us part-time through the end of January while Pastor Jeff is on a medical leave of absence. She will be leading worship, supporting the staff, and available for Session as needed. Also, she plans to be at the church on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays. Please introduce yourself and offer a warm welcome to Pastor Dolan.

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.

Pastor Jeff is on a medical leave of absence until early February.

The best way to support Jeff is to continue to participate in and support the church's many ministries and programs. To reach him personally, he would prefer a card or letter (his address is 816 Greenleaf). If you are interested in supporting the Lehn family, such as providing meals, please contact Stephanie Phelan (stephaniephelan2@gmail.com). Please note, the Session is fully committed to supporting Jeff and his family while we continue to lead our church's ministry. With your support and prayers and with God's grace, we will ride through this together.



Invitation to all from the Lunch Group

Jerrold Leitner will present a program on Charles Dickens and the Making of the Christmas Carol Wednesday, December 8th, in the Wallace Moore Fellowship Center. Bring your own lunch and join the lunch group at noon or come at 12:45 pm for the program.

A Christmas Carol story is extravagantly symbolic - as rich in symbols as a Christmas pudding is rich in raisins. The program will cover Dicken's childhood, family life, and activism, wealth, and poverty in 19th century England, Dickens, religion, and Jesus as well as the Christmas Carol.

Printed handouts of the material covered will be provided.

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.





Advent Devotional

Our Advent theme this year is "Journeying Toward the Light." We want to offer you this Advent devotional book "Shadow and Light: A Journey into Advent," which ties in with our theme of Light and Journey. This is a new Advent devotional from Tsh Oxenreider and we hope it will inspire you to celebrate this season of wonder. Please Pick up a devotional on the table adjacent to the church office.



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!



Christmas Pageant 2021

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.



Calling all American (or British bakers)! It's cookie week!

Too soon?? We know it's hard to think of Christmas already, but the deacons are planning ahead. **Please mark your calendars for the week of December 5-9** to bake and drop off 2-3 dozen cookies for the deacons to distribute to our almost 50 members who receive deacon care. Cookies can be dropped off in the upstairs kitchen of the church, off the narthex. Thanks!! Please email or text Sue Sklansky if you can help. ssklansky@fpcw.org 312-608-4909



Longest Night Service is a place where you can feel God's presence and love. Join us on Tuesday, December 21st at 7 pm, in the Sanctuary/Livestream. 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)





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



Sunday's Wrapping Party for Giving Tree gifts—hosted by the Mission Committee. Thank you to all who came – it was great fun and a great help to our Mission partners!



CHURCH CALENDAR

The week of December 5th, 2021

Sunday, December 5th Advent Lessons & Carols

4:00 pm	In-person Worship Livestreaming Worship	Sanctuary YouTube
5:00 pm	Wassail Party	Fellowship Garden

Monday, December 6th

7:30 pm	Strategic Planning Scouts Troop 5	Lounge WMFC
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Tuesday, December 7th

10:00 am	Staff Meeting	Lounge
7:00 pm	Buildings & Grounds Youth & Family Ministry	Lounge WMFC

Wednesday, December 8th

12:00 pm	Lunch Group	WMFC
2:30pm	Racial Justice Committee	Zoom
4:30 pm	Midweek Meet Up	WMFC
6:00 pm	FBO	Lounge
7:30 pm	Chancel Choir	WMFC

Thursday, December 9th

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

Friday, December 10th

6:00 pm	Tower Youth Progressive Dinner	Host home
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Saturday, December 11th

8:00 am	Men's Council	WMFC
1:30 pm	Girl Scout Meeting	WMFC

Sunday, December 12th

10:00 am	In-person Worship Service Livestream Worship	Sanctuary YouTube
10:15 am	Chapel Time for Children	Chapel
11:00 am	Fellowship Hour	WMFC

Fellowship Hour

Please consider hosting Fellowship Hour one Sundays in December. 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

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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 2 Dec. 5, 4 pm Advent Lessons and Carols

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)

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