

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WILMETTE



Sunday, December 3rd, 2023

The First Sunday in Advent

Advent Lessons & Carols: In Light and Darkness

*Experience God. Grow Disciples. Transform Lives.*

\*PLEASE STAND

BOLD TYPE INDICATES CONGREGATIONAL SPEAKING OR SINGING

PIANO AND BELL PRELUDE - *Comfort, Comfort You My People*  
*Prepare the Way, O Zion*

arr. Sondra Tucker

INTROIT - YOUTH BELL CHOIR - *"Sleepers Wake!" A Voice Astounds Us*

arr. Erin MacGorman

WELCOME AND COMMON LIFE

BAGPIPE PROCESSIONAL AND ENTRANCE OF THE LIGHT

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

In our most desperate times, by day or by night, the hope of Christ may be found. We watch and we wait to witness the hope of heaven making a place here on earth. Tonight we light the candle of hope, because hope has come to us.

**Come, hope of heaven! We lift up our heads with expectation. Where will we find you today?**

\*OPENING HYMN NO. 106 - *Prepare the Way, O Zion*

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

OPENING PRAYER

SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS

*(please remain seated for hymns)*

FIRST READING - JOHN 1:1-5

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

MIDWEEK MEETUP ANTHEM - *Will You Be Ready?*

Mark Patterson

People who walk in darkness have seen a great light.  
The light will shine upon them; may it shine brightly tonight.

*(refrain)* Will you be ready for the light? Ready for the light to shine upon you?  
Will you be ready for the light? Ready for the light to shine.

Will you be watching? Will you be listening? Will you hear the angels sing?  
Will you be waiting? Will you be searching for a Savior and a king? (*refrain*)

People keep watching, true light is coming, look for a bright star in the East.  
Look for the Christ Child, born in a manger, there you will find the Prince of Peace. (*refrain*)

## **SECOND READING - "BLESSING FOR WAKING," BY JAN RICHARDSON**

This blessing could pound on your door in the middle of the night. This blessing could bang on your window, could tap dance in your hall, could set a dog loose in your room. It could hire a brass band to play outside your house.

But what this blessing really wants is not merely your waking, but your company. This blessing wants to sit alongside you and keep vigil with you. This blessing wishes to wait with you.

And so, though it is capable of causing a cacophony that could raise the dead, this blessing will simply lean toward you and sing quietly in your ear a song to lull you not into sleep, but into waking.

It will tell you stories that hold you breathless till the end. It will ask you questions you never considered and have you tell it what you saw in your dreaming.

This blessing will do all within its power to entice you into awareness because it wants to be there, to bear witness, to see the look in your eyes on the day when your vigil is complete and all your waiting has come to its joyous end.

## **HYMN NO. 88, verses 1, 6, and 7 - O Come, O Come Emanuel**

VENI EMMANUEL

## **THIRD READING - LUKE 1:26-38**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

## **ANTHEM—Of a Rose, A lovely Rose from "Magnificat"**

John Rutter

*Of a rose, a lovely rose, Of a rose is all my song.*

Hearken to me, both old and young, how this Rose began to spring;  
A fairer rose to mine liking in all this world ne know I none. *Of a rose...*

Five branches of that rose there have been, the which be both fair and sheen;  
The rose is called Mary, heaven's queen. Out of her bosom a blossom sprang.

The first branch was of great honour: that blest Marie should bear the flower;  
There came an angel from heaven's tower to break the devil's bond.

The second branch was great of might, that sprang upon Christmas night;  
That star shone over Bethlehem bright, that man should see it both day and night. *Of a rose...*

The third branch did spring and spread; three kinges then the branch gan led  
Unto Our Lady in her child-bed; into Bethlem that branch sprang right.

The fourth branch it sprang to hell, the devil's power for to fell:  
That no soul there-in should dwell, the branch so blessedfully sprang.

The fifth branch it was so sweet, it sprang to heaven, both crop and root,  
Therein to dwell and to be our \*bote: so blessedly it sprang. *Of a rose...i*

Pray we to hear with great honour, she that bare the blessed flower,  
To be our help and our succour, and shield us from the fiendes bond.

~ 15th century English  
\*salvation

#### **FOURTH READING - ISAIAH 45:3-7a**

I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the Lord, the God of Israel, who call you by your name. For the sake of my servant Jacob and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name; I give you a title, though you do not know me. I am the Lord, and there is no other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me, so that they may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is no one besides me; I am the Lord, and there is no other. I form light and create darkness.

#### **BELL ANTHEM - *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear***

arr. Sandra Eithun

#### **FIFTH READING - A PRAYER BY THOMAS MERTON**

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

## HYMN - *While We Are Waiting, Come*

1. While we are wait - ing, come; \_\_\_\_\_  
2. In light and dark - ness, come; \_\_\_\_\_  
3. Come, Sav - ior, quick - ly come; \_\_\_\_\_

5  
while we are wait - ing, come. \_\_\_\_\_  
In light and dark - ness, come. \_\_\_\_\_  
Come, Sav - ior, quick - ly come. \_\_\_\_\_

9  
Je - sus, our Lord, Em - man - u - el,

13  
while we are wait - ing, come. \_\_\_\_\_

## SIXTH READING - "THE WORLD STILL KNOWS," BY ANN WEEMS

The night is still dark and a procession of Herods still terrorizes the earth,  
killing the children to stay in power. The world still knows its Herods,  
but it also still knows men and women who pack their dreams safely in their hearts  
and set off to Bethlehem, faithful against all odds, undeterred by fatigue or rejection,  
and kneel to a child.

And the world still knows those persons wise enough to follow a star,  
those who do not consider themselves too intelligent, too powerful, too wealthy  
to kneel to a child.

And the world still knows those hearts so humble that they're ready  
to hear the word of a song and to leave what they have, to go  
to kneel to a child.

The night is still dark, but by the light of the star, even today we can still see  
to kneel to a child.

## ANTHEM—*The Angel's Carol*

John Rutter

Have you heard the sound of angel's voices ringing out so sweetly, ringing out so clear?  
Have you seen the star shining out so brightly as a sign from God that Christ the Lord is here?

Have you heard the news that they bring from heaven to the humble shepherds who have  
waited long?

*Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo!* Hear the angels sing their joyful song.

He is come in peace in the winter's stillness, like a gentle snowfall in the gentle night;  
He is come in joy like the sun at morning filling all the world with radiance and with light.

He is come in love as the child of Mary;  
In a simple stable we have seen his birth;  
*Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo!* Hear the angels singing, 'Peace on earth'.

He will bring new light to a world in darkness, like a bright star shining in the skies above;  
He will bring new hope to the waiting nations when he comes to reign in purity and love.

Let the earth rejoice at the Saviour's coming; let the heavens answer with the joyful morn:  
*Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo!* Hear the angels singing 'Christ is born'.

#### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**HYMN NO. 105, verses 1 and 5 - *People, Look East***

BESANÇON

#### **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

#### **BAGPIPE RECESSIONAL TO THE WASSAIL PARTY**

All are invited to the Wallace Moore Fellowship Center  
for refreshments.

Thank you to Fran Langewisch and the Welcome and Connection Committee  
for hosting the Wassail Party, a longstanding tradition.

#### **WORSHIP LEADERS:**

Pastoral Liturgists:  
Rev. Jeff Lehn  
Rev. Kara Smith-Laubenstein

Musicians:  
Peggy Massello, Director of Worship and Music  
Wonee Kim, Accompanist  
Steve LaRue, Bagpiper  
Chancel Choir  
Youth Bell Choir  
Chancel Bells  
Jim Lyman, Drum

Advent Candle Lighters:  
Kara Smith-Laubenstein  
Amelia Smith-Laubenstein

Readers:  
David and Nancy Bennett  
Bob and Ellen Brown  
The Madrigal Family  
The Shannahan Family  
The SooHoo Family  
Alana Haro and Rose McGrath

**PLEASE PRAY FOR** Anne Menard and her family after the recent death of Anne's brother-in-law.

## POINSETTIAS IN MEMORY

|  |                            |
|--|----------------------------|
| Charles L. and Helen Aslaksen .....        | Bob and Linda Malstrom     |
| Charles M. Aslaksen .....                  | Bob and Linda Malstrom     |
| Aunt Teen.....                             | Laura and Jim Lyman        |
| Bob and Mary Brumitt .....                 | Jane Brumitt               |
| Claudia Colloredo .....                    | Eva Neuhauser              |
| Josephine Conway.....                      | Steve Reinhart             |
| Ginny and Syd Craig.....                   | Laura and Jim Lyman        |
| Grandma Dorothy .....                      | Marny Zimmer               |
| Grandma Lucy.....                          | Marny Zimmer               |
| Edward and Josephine Kuhles .....          | Joyce Knauff               |
| Kenneth Karl Kuhles .....                  | Joyce Knauff               |
| Shirley Lahr .....                         | Carolyn Jevelian           |
| Dorothy Larson.....                        | Steve Reinhart             |
| Eve Lawrence .....                         | Anonymous                  |
| Linda Kuhles Lellinger .....               | Joyce Knauff               |
| Jim and Janet Lusk.....                    | Wendy Lundgren             |
| Jean and Bob Lyman .....                   | Laura and Jim Lyman        |
| Tom and Barbara Lyon.....                  | The Bruce Lyon Family      |
| Bob and Betty Malstrom.....                | Bob and Linda Malstrom     |
| James and Guyneth Mikesell.....            | Bill and Guyneth Sharp     |
| Janice S. Miller .....                     | Jeffrey D. Miller          |
| Margaret "Peggy" Neuhaus .....             | Frank and Rosemary Neuhaus |
| Alice Panzica .....                        | Sharon Panzica             |
| Gabriele Pless.....                        | Eva Neuhauser              |
| Alice Pryor.....                           | The Bruce Lyon Family      |
| William, Joan, Janice, and Gary Sharp..... | Bill and Guyneth Sharp     |
| Betsie Zerlin .....                        | Sharon Panzica             |

## POINSETTIAS IN APPRECIATION

|   |               |
|---|---------------|
| Mary Acri.....                                | Anonymous     |
| Rick Lawrence .....                           | Anonymous     |
| Lunch Group for Women .....                   | Nancy Freeman |
| Church Congregation and Staff.....            | Sarah Lehmer  |
| Church Staff.....                             | Anonymous     |
| Church Staff.....                             | Anonymous     |
| Associate Pastor Kara Smith-Laubenstein ..... | Mary Watt     |
| Church Office Staff Member Jane Currie.....   | Mary Watt     |



## Common Life

### Week of December 3rd, 2023

## MISSION

### **Contribute Clothing to Under-Resourced Children at Learning Bridge Early Education Center**

This Evanston-based mission partner serves children between the ages of two and five, seventy percent of whom receive scholarship assistance. Many need warm clothing for the winter months ahead. Please consider contributing new and lightly worn coats, pajamas, and underwear in sizes 3T-6, slip-on winter boots in sizes 8-12, and appropriately-sized hats, scarves, mittens, and socks. Place items in the collection box outside the church office through January 3.

## MUSIC

### **Hear Lakeshore Brass at First Pres Wilmette**

Join us for a holiday concert on Tuesday, December 5 at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary. Please invite neighbors and friends to this festive and joyful event. The concert is free, but we will accept contributions (\$15 recommended) to benefit mission partner Family Promise.

## CONNECT, GROW, SHARE

### **Bake or Buy Cookies for Deacon Deliveries**

Our Deacons will deliver your contributions to their Care Partners and the newest members of our congregation. Drop off cookies, homemade or purchased, at the designated area in the Wallace Moore Fellowship Center Kitchen between Monday, December 4 and Friday, December 8. Contact Wendy Lundgren, Deacon Moderator, with questions ([claddison19@yahoo.com](mailto:claddison19@yahoo.com)).

### **Attend Adult Faith Formation this Advent**

Rev. Jeff Lehn's will continue an Advent study on the four titles for the Messiah found in Isaiah 9:6-7 (Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace) using Walter Brueggemann's [\*Names for the Messiah\*](#) on Sunday, December 17 at 8:45 am in the Church Lounge.

### **Pick Up an Advent Devotional**

This year's devotional offers weekly readings and questions for reflection on the themes of light and darkness. Readers will explore how their thoughts about light and darkness influence their views of God, faith, and the world. Visit the church office for a print copy; you will find the devotional on the desk as you enter. Contact the office to request a copy by mail or a PDF by email (847-256-3010 | [office@fpcw.org](mailto:office@fpcw.org)).

### **Make Your Pledge to the 2024 Stewardship Campaign**

We continue to welcome your pledge card by mail, hand delivery to the church office, and through [the online form](#). You will find an introduction and invitation to the 2024 Stewardship Campaign on the [stewardship page](#) of the church website. Thank you in advance for your commitment and generosity.

Follow links and generate email messages by viewing our Bulletin online.  
Find it at [fpcw.org/worship-livestream/worship-archive/](http://fpcw.org/worship-livestream/worship-archive/)

**ADVENT** is the period of preparation for the birth of Christ. We base our Lesson & Carols service on a number of traditions in the ancient church.

**CANDLES** have always represented Jesus, the Light of the world. The Advent wreath holds four candles. They represent peace, hope, joy, and love.

**GREENS** have traditionally been used in the decoration of the church during the Advent and Christmas season. The evergreens symbolize life eternal.

**BAGPIPES** remind us of the close ties we have with the Church of Scotland whose missionaries established the first Presbyterian churches in the New World. The patron saint of Scotland is St. Andrew, whose cross is shaped like the Greek X. St. Andrew's Day is celebrated on the 30th of November, and Advent begins on the Sunday nearest this day.

#### **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.

#### **CHURCH OFFICE**

847-256-3010  
Monday-Thursday 9:00am-5:00pm  
Friday 9:00am-3:30pm

#### **CHURCH STAFF**

Rev. Jeff Lehn  
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[jlehn@fpcw.org](mailto:jlehn@fpcw.org) ext. 101

Rev. Kara Smith-Laubenstein  
*Associate Pastor*  
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Rev. Dr. Lolly Dominski  
*Parish Associate for Congregational Care*  
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