

## We Respond to God's Word

As God invites us to be disciples of his Son, we prayerfully respond to God with affirmations of faith and acts of self-giving, commitment, and thanksgiving.

### Song for Centering #92 *While We Are Waiting Come*

While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.  
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

### Prayers of the People

*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.

*Christmas Music presented by the Chancel Choir*  
*Sora Shepard, Piano; Joe Grant, Director*

*Before the Marvel of this Night* by Carl Schalk  
*O Bethlehem* (based on a Basque carol) by Carl Schalk  
*On Christmas Night* (Sussex Carol) arr. Philip Ledger  
*Silent Night* by Franz Gruber *Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine* (German Carol) arr. Richard Rossi  
Trenna Thomas, flute

## We Go Out In God's Name

Having gathered together in God's name and been fed by God's Holy Word,  
we go out in God's name bearing the peace of Christ to the world.

◆Hymn for Commitment #106 *Prepare the Way, O Zion*

◆Charge and Benediction

◆Congregational Sung Benediction #105 *People Look East*

People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.  
Make your house fair as you are able; trim the hearth and set the table.  
People, look east: Love, the Guest, is on the way.

◆Postlude

◆Please stand if able. Remain seated if need be.

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# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN

December 10, 2023 Second Sunday in Advent/Music Sunday



**HE CAME DOWN  
THAT WE MAY HAVE  
PEACE**

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church  
Bienvenue à La Première Eglise Presbytérienne de Champaign  
Bienvenidos a La Primera Iglesia Presbiteriana

삼페인 제일 장로교회에 오신것을 환영합니다.

Si vous souhaitez que le service soit traduit en français,  
procurez-vous un récepteur et des écouteurs à l'arrière du sanctuaire.

## **Welcome to worship!**

*When you enter the worship space, please be mindful of the silent prayers of those around you.*

*We are presently worshiping in Westminster Hall while our elevator is being replaced.*

*We invite you to share your contact info in the Friendship Pad when passed,*

*then to stay after the service for coffee and fellowship.*

*Mingle with other friends and guests and learn more about this congregation's ministry. **Welcome home!***

## **We Gather Together In God's Holy Name**

*God calls us together as "children." Wonderful it is to be so loved! Our natural response is worship.*

### **Prelude**

### **Chiming on the Hour of Tower Bell**

### **Act of Friendship & Sharing of Prayer Concerns**

*Please pass the Friendship Pad and list prayer concerns on the prayer request cards in the pads.*

### **Greeting & Announcements**

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath/**We light the candle of peace. Ken & Kena Jo Chapman

**Sung Response:** He came down that we may have peace ... hallelujah forevermore.

### **♦Call to Worship (from Psalm 98:1-9)**

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;

**break forth into joyous song and sing praises.**

Sing praises to the LORD

**make a joyful noise before the LORD.**

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

**the world and those who live in it.**

Let the floods clap their hands;

**let the hills sing together for joy at the presence of the LORD,**

O sing to the LORD a new song!

**Introit** *Twas in the Moon of Winter Time*

arr. Sandra Eithun

Upper Room Ringers

### **♦Hymn of Praise #113 *Angels We Have Heard on High***

**Call to Confession – Hymn #88** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (vs. 1)

**O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,**

**That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

### **Corporate Confession**

**Holy God, our hearts are loyal to many things. We seek your will but admit that not only are our loyalties divided but also our loyalties divide us. We affirm that we are united as one body in the body of your son Jesus, but we willingly estrange ourselves from brothers and sisters who are "different."**

**We strive to be good neighbors, but in serving ourselves first, we often lack the energy or desire to serve others. We love your good earth, but refuse to admit the**

**complicated ways we abuse it. We want to sing your praises, but are reluctant to sing in anything but our favorite key. We are a people with both noble intentions and practiced excuses.**

**In your mercy, forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. O Come, O Come, Emmanuel. A M E N .**

### **Assurance of Pardon**

The proof of God's amazing love is this: While we were yet sinners, God greets us with a baby's cry from a Bethlehem manger.

**Hallelujah!**

God's Messiah has befriended us, taught us, challenged us, and walks with us into a new way of life.

**The old life is gone; the new life has begun.**

Believe the Gospel and be at peace:

**In Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven. Alleluia!**

### **Passing of the Peace**

**Invitation to the Offering** (*We are invited to return God's tithes and give our offering.*)

**Offertory** *Still, Still, Still*

arr. Tammy Waldrop

Upper Room Ringers

**Response of Gratitude #648** *Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise*

**Thankful hearts and voices raise; tell everyone what God has done.**

**Let everyone who seeks the Lord rejoice and bear the name of Christ.**

**Send us with your promises and lead your people forth in joy**

**With shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.**

### **Prayer of Dedication & Thanksgiving**

## **We Gather Around God's Holy Word**

*At the center of Christian life and worship is God's Word incarnate in Christ and God's Word as recorded in scripture. We hear the story of God's love in scripture and sacrament and we say, "Thanks be to God!"*

### **Word with Children**

**Prayer for Illumination #83** *Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

**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.**

**Scripture** *Luke 1:46-56* (NT, pg. 57)

This is the Word of the Lord./**Thanks be to God!**

Ceci est la Parole du Seigneur./**Gloire à Dieu** (pronounced "glow-ah ah dew")

**Sermon** *My Soul Magnifies the Lord*

Matt Matthews

# Announcements

- **We are glad you're here!** Questions about First Pres, contact **Pastor Matt Matthews** or call the church office. We are presently worshiping in Westminster Hall while our elevator is being replaced.
- Please wear your **nametag** to help new **Associate Pastor Joe Lundy** get acquainted.
- **Judi Geistlinger** is our liturgist this morning. If you would like to serve, contact **Carol Miles**.
- Join us for a **Christmas Charcuterie Brunch** immediately following worship this morning in Centennial Hall. Brunch is free as is the fellowship. Donations welcome!
- **Gale Brandner** will preach this morning's service at the Windsor of Savoy.
- We invite you to donate to the **Christmas decor** throughout the church in memory or honor of someone. With the change in worship location, we do not have the space for poinsettias this year. New greenery and other decor was purchased. If you would like to donate, mark your contribution "greenery" and indicate who it is in honor or memory of. All contributions will be noted in an upcoming bulletin.
- The **Angel Tree/Advent Offering** support The Refugee Center and will be received throughout December. Monetary donations will go towards a refugee's first month's housing. Our church and other organizations will be collecting household items needed. We have a collection box in Westminster Hall. Items needed: full sheet set; twin sheet set; 1 tall trash can and one box of trash bags; 4 towel/washcloth sets; 2 small waste baskets; 1 set of pots and pans; 1 12+ piece dinnerware set; 1 kitchen utensil set; 2 can openers; 1 pack-n-play.
- The **Christmas Joy Offering** will be received on Christmas Eve and again on Sunday, December 31.
- **TODAY, at 3 PM Blue Christmas service.** This is an advent service for those experiencing grief or for whom this season is a time of grieving. The service will offer a space to express feelings but also to experience the hope we find in Christ.
- **Christmas Caroling** will take place on Sunday, December 17 from 3-5 PM. Please meet at the church at 2:30 PM.
- If you or a loved one is **in the hospital or in need of a pastoral visit**, contact the church office.
- Check out the **book cart** in Westminster Hall. Donate a book for others to enjoy and take some.
- The **December newsletter** is available in the kiosks or at [firstpres.church/newsletter](http://firstpres.church/newsletter).
- Please **do not park** in the spaces marked Reserved 24/7 behind the law office on Sundays.
- **If unable to attend church**, watch our 9 AM service live each Sunday at [firstpres.church/live](http://firstpres.church/live). The Sunday **sermon** is available on-line anytime or on WDWS 1400AM the next Sunday at 10:30 AM.

## *Chancel Choir*

Sora Shepard, Pianist/Organist

Joe Grant, Director

### **Soprano**

Terri Dodson

Allison Howe\*

Brandi Lowe

Que Nguyen\*

Jaclyn Zamarron\*

### **Alto**

Tanya Deckert

Kim File

Ann Finnegan

Mary Nicholas

Linda Sims

Jeannie Snoeyink

### **Tenor**

Andrew Schwenk

Dennis Sims

### **Bass**

Jim Berger

Allan File

Atabak Ghajari

\*section leader/soloists

## *Bell Choir*

Libby Sternhagen, Director

Erica John

Carol Miles

Andrew Schwenk

Brandi Lowe

Holly Nordheden





December 10, 2023  
Music Sunday Text

*Before The Marvel of this Night* by Carl Schalk

Before the marvel of this night  
Adoring, fold your wings and bow,  
Then tear the sky apart with light  
And with your news the world endow.  
Proclaim the birth of Christ and peace,  
That fear and death and sorrow cease:  
Sing peace, sing peace, sing gift of peace!

Awake the sleeping world with song,  
This is the day the Lord has made.  
Assemble here, celestial throng,  
In royal splendor come arrayed.  
Give earth a glimpse of heavenly bliss,  
A teasing taste of what they miss:  
Sing bliss, sing bliss, sing endless bliss!

The love that we have always known,  
Our constant joy and endless light,  
Now to the loveless world be shown,  
Now break upon its deathly night.  
Into one song compress the love,  
That rules our universe above:  
Sing love, sing love, Sing God is love!

*O Bethlehem* by Carl Schalk (based on a Basque carol)

O Bethlehem! See your glory shines so brightly, O Bethlehem.  
You are raised up with favor divine. You are chosen, yours the favor,  
Chosen of God to cradle the Savior, O Bethlehem!

O Bethlehem! Here at last we see the Promised One, O Bethlehem.  
Let us give praise with joyful hearts. He has opened heaven before us,  
Come let us join the heavenly chorus, O Bethlehem!

O Bethlehem! Soon comes the cross, the nails the piercing, O Bethlehem.  
Then the glorious Easter morn, Conquering death, its bondage breaking,  
Christ victorious, new life awaking, O Bethlehem!

O Bethlehem! Now with the shepherds we, too, worship, O Bethlehem.  
He who made the heaven and earth, Wondrous birth, the Lord of all,  
Born a child in manger stall, O Bethlehem!

*On Christmas Night* (Sussex Carol) arr. Philip Ledger

On Christmas night all Christians sing, to hear the news the angels bring.  
News of great joy, news of great mirth, news of our merciful King's birth.

Then why should men on earth be so sad, since our Redeemer made us glad,  
When from our sin he set us free, all for to gain our liberty?

When sin departs before his grace, then life and health come in its place.  
Angels and all with joy may sing, all for to see the newborn King.  
All out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night:  
Glory to God and peace to all, now and for evermore, Amen.

*Silent Night* Franz Gruber/*Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine* (German Carol) arr. Richard Rossi  
Trenna Thomas, flute

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht! Alles schläft, einsam wacht.  
Nur das traute, hochheilige Paar, Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,  
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh, schlaf in himmlischer Ruh.

Joseph Lieber, Joseph mein, hilf mir wiegen mein Kindelein.  
Gott, der will dein Löhner sein im Himmelreich, der Jungfrau Kind Maria.

Joseph dearest, Joseph mine, help me cradle the child divine.  
God reward thee and all that's thine in paradise, so prays the mother Mary.

Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright.  
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child. Holy Infant so tender and mild.  
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.