

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 & Call to Prayer #92 *While We Are Waiting, Come* (vs. 1)

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

Prayers of Thanksgiving & Concern

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.

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.*

❖ Charge & Benediction

❖ Congregational Sung Benediction #134 *Joy to the World*

❖ Postlude

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

Office: 302 West Church, Champaign, IL 61820 ♦ 217.356.7238
info@firstpres.church ♦ Rev. Matt Matthews (matt@firstpres.church)
www.firstpres.church ♦ Facebook: fb.com/firstpreschampaign



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN

December 11, 2022 3rd Sunday in Advent



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 sanctuary, please be mindful of the silent prayers of those around you.

*We invite you to share your contact info in the Friendship Pad when passed, then to stop by our Welcome Center downstairs in Westminster Hall 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 pen.

Greeting & Announcements

❖Call to Worship

Keep watch! Look up! For soon the heavenly host will appear and proclaim the good news of Jesus' birth!

We watch for the light and listen for the voice of God's messengers today, and every day.

Do not be afraid! God's messengers proclaim good news of great joy for all people.

We gather like shepherds and sheep in a field, waiting for the good news of great joy.

In the darkest of nights and brightest of days we watch, and we wait. Good news is on the way.

Come, let us worship!

❖Hymn of Praise #113 *Angels We Have Heard On High*

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Libby Sternhagen and Andrew Schwenk

Call to Confession (from 1 John 1:8-9)

If we say we have no sin,
we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just
will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

In confidence of God's enduring love and forgiveness
let us confess our sins to God.

Prayer of Confession

God-with-us in light and darkness, you created a world with abundant sources of joy, but we have not always received your good gifts. We have turned to cheap thrills which fade away quickly. We have used our planet's resources for brief ease and entertainment, even when the damage is lasting.

We have spent money on pleasures that rob the dignity and livelihood of laborers. We have chosen the latest technology or opportunity over the most profound justice. We have judged the joy of others.

Forgive us, God. Help us begin again today. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Do not be afraid, for I bring you good news of great joy—our sins are forgiven and removed, as far as the east is from the west.

Every morning is a new opportunity to discover joy in God's good world. Receive the joy of pardon today.

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

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.*

Away In a Manger

arr. Patricia A. Sanders

Upper Room Ringers; Libby Sternhagen, Director

Response of Gratitude #93 *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* (vs. 1)

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates; behold the King of glory waits;

The king of kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here.

Prayer of Dedication & Thanksgiving

Proclamation of the 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!"

Introduction with Scripture *Luke 2:2-5*

Creator of the Stars of Night

Text Latin, 9th C.; arr. Richard Rossi

Sing We Now of Christmas (Noel Nouvelet)

Text Trad. French; arr. Richaard Zgodava

Congregational Hymn #129 *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

Here, Mid the Ass and Oxen Mild

Trad. French text and tune; arr. Alice Parker

Angels from the Realms of Glory

Text J. Montgomery; Music Malcolm Archer

Congregational Hymn #128 *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

How Unto Bethlehem

Text Trad. Italian; arr. Alice Parker

Come to the Cradle

Text Cathy Conger; Music Cathy/Laura Conger; arr. R. Scholz

Christmas Day (Choral Fantasy on Old Carols)

arr. Gustav Holst

Announcements

- **We are glad you're here!** Questions about First Pres, contact **Pastor Matt** or call the church office.
- **Linda Sandquist** is our liturgist this morning. If you would like to serve, contact **Carol Miles**.
- **Sunday School** for children this morning at 10 AM. Sign in children at the Welcome Center 8:45-9. After worship, they will be escorted to their class. Meet your child or children in the library in the Education Building at 11. Transportation is not being provided at this time.
- Our **Advent Offering** taken during December this year supports the ministry of **Mark Adams** and Frontera de Cristo. Frontera de Cristo has become a vital and absolutely essential border ministry for huge groups of immigrants on the Mexican border. The PCUSA **Christmas Joy Offering** is received in worship on December 24 and 25. It is about developing and sustaining our leaders.
- **The Rev. Dr. Rachel Matthews** will preach today's 10:15 AM service at the Windsor of Savoy.
- **If unable to attend church**, catch our 9 AM service live each Sunday morning at firstpres.live. The Sunday **sermon** is available on-line anytime or on WDWS 1400AM the next Sunday at 10:30 AM.
- **It's a Green Christmas!** Stop by the ESC table in Westminster Hall, fill out a questionnaire and register for the chance to win a Christmas stocking with environmentally friendly gifts. There are lots of great earth friendly shopping ideas for your holiday giving. Winning names are drawn weekly.
- If you or a loved one is **in the hospital or in need of a pastoral visit**, contact the church office.
- The **December newsletter** is available in the kiosks or at firstpres.church/newsletter.
- Join us **Christmas Eve** at 4 PM for an intergenerational service or at 8 PM for a candlelight communion service. Worship on **Christmas Day** is at 9 AM. There will be NO Sunday School or childcare or Christmas Day.
- This afternoon will be a **Caroling Party** starting with an open house at the home of **Michael Hogue and Bruce Rainey**, 1104 West Clark, Champaign, from 1-3 PM. At 3, we will walk/drive the neighborhood between Clark Street and the church and carol.
- Enduring the holidays can be tough if you have recently lost a family member. **Surviving the Holidays** will meet again on Wednesdays, December 21 and January 4, at 5 PM in the Parlor. This week's meeting on Wednesday will meet from 5-7 PM in the Parlor while December's meeting will start in the Parlor then end the evening at *The Longest Night* worship service in the Sanctuary. Contact **Rachel Matthews, Sherry Marble** or **Sallie Hutton** with questions.
- **Laetitia Kyungu**, one of our guest singers throughout the year, will hold a free concert *I Surrender* on Saturday, December 17, at 5 PM at the Independent Media Center, 202 South Broadway Avenue Suite 203, Urbana.

Advent...Join us for this season of light as the days grow shorter.

Highlights of the season include:

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|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| December 11 | The afternoon includes our caroling party. |
| December 18 | Our all-congregation, no-rehearsal Christmas pageant at 9 AM |
| December 21 | 6 PM Longest Night service especially for those for whom Christmas can be a hard time, surrounded by those of us to love and support them, full of quiet music and candlelight |
| December 24 | Christmas Eve!
4 PM Intergenerational service
8 PM Candlelight and communion service |
| December 25 | Christmas morning worship at 9 AM. (No Sunday School or childcare.) |
| January 1 | Ring in the New Year at 9 AM worship with carols, communion and few surprises. (No Sunday School or childcare.) |

Sanctuary Choir

Sora Shepherd, Pianist/Organist

Joe Grant, Director

Soprano

Janice Cunningham
Terri Dodson
Brandi Lowe
Jaclyn Zamarron*

Tenor

Jason Pandelidis*
Dennis Sims

Bass

Jim Berger
Allan File
Aidan Singh*

Alto

Tanya Deckert
Ann Finnegan
Kim File
Mary Nicolas
Alejandra Sandoval*
Linda Sims
Jeannie Snoeyink

*section leaders/soloists

Upper Room Ringers

Libby Sternhagen, Director

Betty Hollister
Carol Miles

Brandi Lowe
Andrew Schwenk

Instrumental Ensemble

Ai Yamaguchi Niemeyer, flute
Gaeun Kim, Eun Namkung, violin
Barbara Hedlund, violoncello

Evan Tammen, oboe
YooBin Lee, viola

This Week

Sunday, December 11

- 9:00 AM Worship/Sanctuary
- 10:00 AM Sunday School/CE Building
- 10:00 AM Easy English Fellowship/Room 204
- 10:15 AM Worship/Windsor of Savoy
- 1:00 PM Open House/Michael Hogue & Bruce Rainey
- 3:00 PM Caroling Party/Departing from 1104 West Clark, Champaign

Monday, December 12

- 8:00 AM DREAAM/Rooms 105,109, 212
- 1:00 PM GROW/Family Library
- 1:00 PM Prayer Ministry Team/Library
- 1:00 PM Knifty Knitters/Parlor & Zoom
- 2:00 PM DREAAM After School/CE Building
- 5:00 PM DREAAMette Dance Team/Gym
- 5:30 PM AA/Centennial Hall
- 6:00 PM Session Dinner/Rachel & Matt Matthews' home

Tuesday, December 13

- 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast Study/Parlor & Zoom
- 8:00 AM DREAAM/Rooms 105,109, 212
- 12:00 PM Classic Book Study/Parlor & Zoom
- 2:00 PM DREAAM After School/CE Building
- 4:00 PM Mission Team/Parlor Zoom
- 5:30 PM DREAAMette Cheer Team/Gym
- 7:00 PM Worship Team/Parlor & Zoom

Wednesday, December 14

- 8:00 AM DREAAM/Rooms 105,109, 212
- 9:30 AM Coffee with Matt/Parlor
- 1:30 PM CYF Meeting/Parlor & Zoom
- 2:00 PM DREAAM After School/CE Building
- 5:00 PM DREAAMette Dance Team/Gym
- 5:30 PM DREAAM Robotics/201, 204, 205, 206, 207
- 6:30 PM Welcomed & Affirmed/Zoom

Thursday, December 15

- 8:00 AM DREAAM/Rooms 105,109, 212
- 11:00 AM DREAAM Carle Partnership Lunch/Parlor
- 12:30 PM Bible Study/Windsor of Savoy
- 1:00 PM PEO Group/Parlor
- 2:00 PM DREAAM After School/CE Building
- 5:00 PM DREAAMette Dance Team/Gym
- 5:30 PM DREAAM Robotics/201, 204, 205, 206, 207
- 6:30 PM Bell Rehearsal/Bell Room
- 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal/Choir Room

Friday, December 16 Church Office Closes at Noon

- 8:00 AM DREAAM/Rooms 105,109, 212
- 8:30 AM Men's Prayer/Zoom
- 2:00 PM DREAAM After School/CE Building
- 7:30 PM Friday Night Lights/Zoom

Saturday, December 17

- 6:00 PM French Worship Service/Centennial Hall

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