

## 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.**

Anthem *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

Hal Hopson

## The Benediction

Lesson Seven – *The Work of Christmas* by Howard Thurman

Hymn #134 *Joy to the World*

## Connecting with our Community

◆**Congregational Sung Benediction #136** *Go Tell It On the Mountain*

*(Congregation sings refrain; choir sings a verse; repeat refrain)*

Refrain

**Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;  
go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!** *(Choir sings verse; then repeat refrain)*

◆**Postlude** String Quartet

---

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

Affirmation of Faith written by Rev. Rebecca F. Harrison, Transitional Pastor, Spanish Springs Presbyterian Church, Sparks, NV

## Thank you to members of this morning's String Quartet:

Igor Kalnin, Violin 1

Jace Kim, Viola

Eun Namkung, Violin 2

Barbara Hedlund, Violoncello



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN

December 15, 2024

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of 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.

Office: 302 West Church, Champaign, IL 61820 ♦ 217.356.7238  
info@firstpres.church ♦ Rev. Beth Wagner (beth@firstpres.church) ♦ Rev. Joe Lundy (joseph@firstpres.church)  
www.firstpres.church ♦ Facebook: fb.com/firstpreschampaign

## **Welcome to worship!**

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

We are presently worshipping 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!**

## **Prepare Him Room: A Service of Lessons and Carols**

### **Prelude** String Quartet

Igor Kalnin, Violin 1; Eun Namkung, Violin 2; Jace Kim, Viola; Barbara Hedlund, Violoncello

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

*Please pass the Friendship Pad, noting with whom you are sitting, and list prayer concerns on the prayer request cards in the pads.*

### **Greetings/Welcome/Announcements**

### **Threshold Moment**

### **Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

**#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.**

### **Lesson One** – *Luke 2:1-7* (The Nativity Story)

**Anthem** – *Prepare the Way, O Zion*

Kenneth Drake

### **Lesson Two** – *Hebrews 13:1-6* (Hospitality and Contentment)

♦ **Carol #347** *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent*

### **Passing of the Peace**

May the Peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

### **Lesson Three** – *First Coming* by Madeleine L'Engle (Reflection on Christ's Humble Arrival)

**Anthem** *What Child Is This?*

Hal Hopson

♦ **An Affirmation of Faith** *Advent Statement of Faith*

**We are an Advent people, a people of hope.**

**For us, Advent is a time of waiting, and so we wait.**

**We wait for the coming of the One who is the fulfillment of God's promise,  
the fulfillment of hope, the declaration that we have been redeemed.**

**Even so, we are not a naïve people.**

**We know that the world in which we live  
will continue to be filled with pain and sorrow.**

**We know that hatred and violence will continue to exist.**

**We know that death and separation will continue to be a part of our lives.**

**But because we are an Advent people,  
we know that none of these things will win in the end.**

**The Holy One is coming, to make holy once again all that was, is, and ever will be.**

**And in our waiting and our hoping, we work and worship, pray and play,  
in all things hoping that peace, love and joy will reign in our lives and in our world,  
now and forever.**

### **Lesson Four** – *Isaiah 58:6-11* (True Justice and Compassion)

**Carol #149** *All Hail To God's Anointed*

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

**Offertory/Anthem** *Infant Holy Infant Lowly*

Andrew Risinger

♦ **Response of Gratitude**

**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.**

**The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.**

**This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!**

♦ **Prayer of Dedication & Thanksgiving**

**Lesson Five** – *Luke 2:8-14* (The Shepherds and Angels)

**Carol #113** *Angels We Have Heard on High*

**Lesson Six** – *Mathew 15:35-40* (Serving Christ by Serving Others)

**Carol #115** *Away in a Manger*

## This Week

### Sunday, December 15

- 9:00 AM Worship/Westminster Hall
- 10:10 AM Easy English Fellowship/Rooms 204, 206, 207
- 10:10 AM Children's Sunday School/CE Building
- 10:10 AM Adult Education/Parlor
- 1:30 PM DREAAM/Centennial Hall

### Monday, December 16

- 9:15 AM ELL Classes In-Person/CE Building & Café
- 1:00 PM Grow/Family Library
- 1:30 PM Bible Study/Library
- 2:00 PM DREAAM After School Program/CE Building
- 3:30 PM Environmental Team/Zoom
- 5:30 PM AA/Centennial Hall
- 6:00 PM DREAAM Cheer/Gym

### Tuesday, December 17

- 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast Bible Study/Parlor & Zoom
- 9:15 AM ELL Classes In-Person/CE Building & Café
- 10:30 AM Staff/Parlor & Zoom
- 12:00 PM Classic Book Study/Parlor & Zoom
- 2:00 PM DREAAM After School Program/CE Building
- 3:30 PM Community Mission Deacons/Parlor & Zoom
- 5:00 PM DREAAM Mentoring Program/Centennial Hall
- 6:00 PM DREAAM Dance/Gym

### Wednesday, December 18

- 9:00 AM Cuba Partners Leadership Team/Zoom
- 9:15 AM ELL Classes In-Person/CE Building & Café
- 2:00 PM DREAAM After School Program/CE Building
- 3:00 PM DREAAM Family Night/Centennial Hall & CE Building
- 7:30 PM Together on Tuesdays/Zoom

### Thursday, December 19

- 9:00 AM Compassion, Peace, Justice/Zoom
- 10:00 AM Paster Beth's Coffee Hours/Bakelab at Lodgic (1807 S. Neil)
- 12:30 PM Windsor of Savoy Bible Study/Windsor of Savoy
- 2:00 PM DREAAM After School Program/CE Building
- 5:00 PM DREAAM Elite Study Hall & Dinner/Centennial Hall
- 6:00 PM DREAAM Cheer/Gym
- 7:00 PM Session/Parlor & Zoom
- 7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal/Choir Room

### Friday, December 20 Church Office closes at noon

- 8:15 AM Men's Prayer/Zoom
- 10:00 AM Christ Community Church Choir Rehearsal/Chapel
- 2:00 PM DREAAM After School Program/CE Building
- 5:30 PM Gather for Christmas Caroling Party/Church Parking Lot

### Saturday, December 21

- 6:00 PM French Worship Service/Chapel

## Announcements

- **We are glad you're here!** Questions about First Pres, see **either pastor** after the service or contact the church office (info@firstpres.church). We are presently worshipping in Westminster Hall while the elevator to our historic Sanctuary is being replaced.
- Please wear your **nametag** to help our **staff** get acquainted.
- **Sarah Laufenberg** is our liturgist this morning. If you would like to serve, contact **Carol Miles**.
- Our Advent themed series for our **Adult Discussion** continues this morning immediately following the service in the Parlor. This morning **Carol Penka** will lead a discussion about the Wise Men.
- **Poinsettias** will enhance our worship during December. If you would like to donate a poinsettia in memory or honor, drop your check for \$10 in the offering plate marking it "poinsettia." Include a note who you are giving the poinsettia for.
- **During December** join **Paster Beth** for coffee at **Bakelab at Lodgic** (1807 South Neil Street) on Thursdays from 10-12.
- **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance** is the recipient of this year's **Advent Offering** in December. With our nation's recent disasters as well as world disasters, we feel this is a very meaningful way to share God's love. Please think about your gift to PDA and write *Advent* on your check or online contribution.
- **Christmas Caroling Party** Friday, December 20, 6 PM. Meet in the church parking lot at 5:30 PM to car pool to different locations for holiday singing. We will return to the church for hot chocolate and cookies in the Parlor.
- **Blue Christmas – Sunday, December 22 4 PM ...** An Advent service for those experiencing grief or for whom this season is a time of grieving. It offers a space to express those feelings, but also to experience the hope we find in Christ.
- Help us stock our **Free Little Pantry**. Donations are appreciated. This time of year stocking hats and gloves are great. Drop off contributions in the church office or in Westminster Hall on Sundays.
- 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 Meyer/Capel 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.

## Christmas Eve Tuesday, December 24

### 4 PM Family Service

Hear the Christmas story from scripture, sing Christmas carols, a wonderful storybook to convey our Christmas Eve message and the lighting of candles as our service ends. All are welcome to join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

### 8 PM Worship

Join us as we celebrate the birth of the Christ Child at a contemplative worship service with choir, communion and candlelight.