

Interactive Christmas Pageant -- The Nativity

Scene 1

It's so bright.

What's up with that?

Sung response #147 *The First Noel* (vs. 2,4)

Scene 2

But all Mary and Joseph heard was...

Moo, Ba-gock, Baa

Sung response #140 *Once in Royal David's City* (vs. 1,2)

Scene 3

And the angels said...

Ahh

Sung response #119 *Hark the Herald Angels Sing* (verse 1)

Scene 4

What was that noise?

Murmur, mutter

Sung response #136 *Go Tell It On the Mountain*

Scene 5

Repeating the responses from above as directed.

Sung response #133 *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

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.

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.*

❖ **Hymn for Commitment #128** *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

❖ **Charge and Benediction**

❖ **Congregational Sung Benediction #88** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (v. 1)

❖ **Postlude**

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



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN

December 19, 2021

Fourth 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.

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.

*If you are visiting, please stop by the Welcome Center downstairs in Westminster Hall after the service, mingle with other friends and guests, and learn how this congregation can become your church home. **Welcome!***

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

Advent Candle Lighting

Kevin, Hyungsoo, and Celeste Kim

❖Call to Worship

We are seeking—

deeper faith, a place to belong, the feeling that God is here in this room.

We are seeking—

joy that overflows, the movement of the Spirit, a hand to hold, when alone in the dark.

We are seeking—

the freedom to be, the courage to love, the conviction to act in the face of injustice.

We are seeking, but here in this space,

We are found.

Take a deep breath. This is your sanctuary.

God is here. We are found. Amen.

❖Hymn of Praise #82 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

Call to Confession

In confidence of God's enduring love and forgiveness

let us confess our sins to God.

Prayer of Confession

God of safe spaces, we wish we were more like Mary, who in the face of great change, went and sought help. She did not wait for help to find her; she walked to the shelter she needed. Forgive us for failing to care for ourselves the way you would care for us. Give us the courage to be more like Mary. God of safe places, we wish we were

more like Elizabeth, who greeted Mary with laughter and contagious joy. How many people have crossed our doorstep and how many times have we failed to see them? Give us the courage of Mary, and the grace of Elizabeth. Gratefully we pray, amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Family of faith, even if we miss the person standing on our doorstep, even if we fail to care for ourselves the way God would care for us, even if we forget and ignore, turn away and shut down, God still loves us. There is nothing we can do to lose God's love.

Rest in this promise:

If we get lost,

we will be found.

If we mess up,

we are forgiven.

If we withhold love,

God is lavish in loving us.

We are claimed. We are loved. We are forgiven.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

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

Offertory *Ring Little Bells*

arr. Lynne Hollander

Upper Room Ringers; Libby Sternhagen, Director

Prayer of Dedication

We Gather Around God's Holy Name

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

Scripture *Luke 1:46b-55*

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”)

Special Music

Jose Pukuta

This Week

Sunday, December 19

- 9:00 AM Worship/Sanctuary
- 10:00 AM Candy House Activity/Westminster Hall
- 10:15 AM Advent Study/Parlor
- 10:15 AM Worship/Windsor of Savoy
- 11:00 AM Easy English Fellowship/Zoom
- 5:15 PM Christmas Caroling/Gather in Church Parking Lot

Monday, December 20

- 1:00 PM Women’s Bible Study/Parlor
- 1:00 PM GROW/Family Library
- 5:30 PM AA/Centennial Hall

Tuesday, December 21

- 8:00 AM Men’s Breakfast Study/Zoom
- 10:30 AM Church Staff Meeting/Parlor & Zoom
- 12:00 PM Classic Book Study/Parlor & Zoom
- 6:00 PM Longest Night Service/Sanctuary

Wednesday, December 22

- 9:00 AM Cuba Steering Committee/Parlor & Zoom
- 6:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal/Bell Room
- 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal/Choir Room

Thursday, December 23

- 12:30 PM Bible Study/Windsor of Savoy

Friday, December 24 Christmas Eve Church Office Closed

- 8:30 AM Men’s Prayer/Zoom
- 4:00 PM Family Worship/Sanctuary
- 8:00 PM Traditional Candlelight Service/Sanctuary

Saturday, December 25 Christmas Day

The church office will be closed Friday, December 24, and Monday, December 27, in observance of the Christmas holiday. May the joy and peace of Christmas be with you all through the year. Wishing you a season of blessings. Merry Christmas!

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

Worship

•We **welcome children** of all ages to worship. Childcare is available for children 4 years and younger in the education building 8:45 AM-12:15 PM. **Sunday School** will be held at 10:15 this morning.

•Thank you to **Rick Murphy** for serving as our organist/pianist this morning.

•Liturgist this morning is **Mary Jane Kelley**. Contact **Carol Miles** to serve as a liturgist. **Jose Pukuta** will read our scripture in French today.

•Members of the Upper Room Ringers are **Kate Cole, Laura Curtis, Wes Curtis, Betty Hollister, Viki Johnson, Carol Miles, Lizz Pippin Andrew Schwenk,** and **Karin Vermillion**.

•**Rev. Dr. Rachel Matthews** will preach at this morning’s 10:15 AM service at the Windsor of Savoy.

•**Christmas poinsettias** will decorate our Sanctuary this coming holiday season. Poinsettias are \$17 per plant and can be given in honor or memory or someone. Include “poinsettia” on your check along with a note for whom it is given.

•Everyone **must wear a mask** indoors for safety.

•This morning’s **sermon** will be available on-line or on WDWS 1400AM next Sunday at 10:30 AM.

•**If unable to attend church**, catch our 9 AM service live each Sunday morning at [first-pres.live](https://firstpres.live)

Connect

•**We are glad you’re here!** Questions about First Pres, contact **Pastor Matt** or call the church office. After the service, join us for conversation in Westminster Hall.

•After the service, stay for **candy house building** in Westminster Hall.

•Join us this morning for the discussion of *Advent in Plain Sight* by Jill Duffield at 10:15 in Mae Chapin Parlor.

•Copies of this week’s **Daily Advent Devotional** from *The Presbyterian Outlook* can be found in the kiosks in the back of the church or Westminster Hall.

•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.



Experience the journey leading to the birth of Christ
this Advent season
at First Presbyterian Church of Champaign

Advent Offering

November 28-December 19...This year's offering supports The Refugee Center to assist six Afghan families evacuated to our area. Write "Advent Offering" in the memo of your check or on the front of the envelope with your contribution.

Advent Study

Sundays in December...Let's prepare our hearts and minds for the birth of Christ. Join us this season in looking at the ordinary and glimpsing the divine. *Advent in Plain Sight* by Jill Duffield will be discussed Sundays at 10:15 AM in the Mae Chapin Parlor. Books are \$15 each.

Christmas Caroling

December 19 – 5:15 PM...If you're looking for ways to spread a little holiday cheer, join us for Christmas caroling Sunday, December 19. We will meet at the church at 5:15 PM and carpool then sing from 5:30-7 PM. Afterwards we will gather around the turquoise picnic table for cookies, hot cocoa and hot cider.

Longest Night Worship

December 21 – 6 PM...The Longest Night service is designed to provide space for prayer, reflection and remembrance amidst the holiday hustle and bustle. On Tuesday, December 21, the longest night of the year, we gather at 6 PM to bring hope amidst the darkness, with scripture, prayers, poetry and candles. Join us for this brief service of hope while we wait for the Light of the World.

Christmas Eve Worship

4 PM – Family Worship

8 PM – Traditional Candlelight Worship

Worship and Carol Sing

December 26 – 9 AM



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