

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.

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

Offertory/Anthem *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

◆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

Call to Prayer #115 *Away In a Manger* (vs. 3)

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

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.*

Connecting with our Community

◆Hymn of Commitment #123 *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*

◆Charge and Benediction

◆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

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

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN

December 22, 2024

4th 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 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!***

We Gather Together In God's Holy Name

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

Prelude

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

Threshold Moment

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Members of the Worship Committee

#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.**

◆Call to Worship

Seasons come and seasons go,

but our God endures forever.

Our faith exhibits ebb and flow,

but our God endures forever.

Our lives may freeze up or may grow,

but our God endures forever.

So let our souls magnify the Lord our God this day.

◆Hymn of Praise #93 *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

Call to Confession (*Congregation may be seated.*)

Prayer of Confession

When our spirits despair and we deny our blessedness,

Forgive us, O God.

When we ignore the mighty things you have done,

When we doubt your mercy,

Forgive us, O God.

When we are proud

in the thoughts of our hearts,

When our power rests on the oppression of others,

When our wealth causes others to go hungry,

forgive us, O God. *Silence is kept.*

Help us, your servants,

according to the promises you have made. AMEN

Assurance of Pardon

God is good! God is faithful! God is merciful!

And God comes to us, in vulnerability, again and again, to show us how much we are loved.

We are forgiven; we are freed, We are beloved; we are blessed, Thanks be to God!

Amen.

Passing of the Peace

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 #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.

First Reading *Micah 5:2-5a*

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

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

Second Reading *Luke 1:46-55*

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

Message *On Your Tip Toes*

Beth Wagner

◆Hymn for Reflection #99 *My Soul Gives Glory*

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.

◆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.**

This Week

Sunday, December 22

- 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
- 4:00 PM Blue Christmas Worship Service/Westminster Hall

Monday, December 23

- 1:00 PM Grow/Family Library
- 5:30 PM AA/Centennial Hall

Tuesday, December 24 Christmas Eve

- 4:00 PM Family Worship/Westminster Hall
- 8:00 PM Communion & Candlelight Worship/Westminster Hall

Wednesday, December 25 Church Office closed

Thursday, December 26 Church Office closed

- 12:30 PM Windsor of Savoy Bible Study/Windsor of Savoy

Friday, December 27 Church Office closes at noon

- 8:15 AM Men's Prayer/Zoom

Saturday, December 28

- 6:00 PM French Worship Service/Chapel

Church office hours will vary December 24 through January 1.

Please call before making a trip to the office.

Contributions for 2024 need to be postmarked before January 1, 2025 or placed in the offering plate today or December 29.

*We wish you peace and love
this holiday season!*

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.
- **Miriam Chenault** is our liturgist this morning. If you would like to serve, contact **Carol Miles**.
- Our Advent themed series for our **Adult Discussion** concludes this morning immediately following the service in the Parlor. This morning **the Rev. Joe Lundy** leads a discussion of Caroling and the History of Carols..
- **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 the **Advent Offering**. 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.
- **Blue Christmas – this afternoon, 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.
- The **Christmas Joy** offering will be received at the Christmas Eve services and again December 29.
- **Ginny Waaler** has some copies of *Shades of Life* the second book written by former pastor **Malcolm Nygren**. If you are interested in a copy, contact Ginny.
- **Church office hours will vary December 24 through January 1.** Please call before making a trip to the office. (We will be closed December 25, 26 and January 1.)
- 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.
- 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. 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.

Poinsettias

Thank you to the following who donated towards the poinsettias decorating our worship space this Christmas season...

Mary Beastall in memory of Christmas morning with her parents, sister and grandparents;
Jim Berger in honor of Jo Foley and Jean Smith and in memory of Thomas E. Berger, Bertha Jean Berger, Frederick E. Berger, Agnes Zilly Berger and M. Louise Zilly;
Gary Bowen and Annilee Shaul in memory of Jean Bowen and Dave Shaul;
Jean Brunson;
Ken and Kena Chapman in memory of their son, Kevin;
Jim and Laurie Dey;
Dan and Camille Harmon in memory of Harley, Vivian and Collin Harmon and Bill and Billie Smith;
Michael Hogue and Bruce Rainey in memory of Jim and Leland Andrews;
Mark and Judy Hendrickson in memory of Paul and Jean Bates and Jack and Helen Hendrickson;
Beth Hutchens in honor of the Thursday morning Bible Study ladies;
John and Beth Hutchens in memory of J.Ben and Martha Shore Martin, Ben Martin Jr. and Pete and Marie Hutchens;
Joanne Kelly in memory of Chuck Kelly;
Nancy Martin in memory of Betty and Bob Eisner and in honor of Lisa and Vivian Schroeder;
Linda Miller in memory of Gene Miller;
Skip and Lacey Pickering;
Kurt and Lola Ruthmansdorfer in memory of Daniel Ruthmansdorfer and Edith Ruthmansdorfer;
Mark and Kathy Schoeffmann;
Michael and Judith Thompson in celebration of their children Hale, Jon (Tina), and Tom and grandchildren, Sylvie and Wilder, and in loving memory of their daughter, Clarrisa Jane, and their parents, Clarence Thompson and Jane Luyties and Walter and Lauretta Irle;
Travers, Chao, Roux, and Sansone families in memory of Janny Quinn Travers;
Luke Waaler in honor of Jack and Virginia Waaler from their family.

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