

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.

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

Offertory/Anthem *What Child Is This?*

Hal Hopson

◆**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 8, 2024

2nd 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/Announcements

Threshold Moment

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Paty, Juliana, Olivia, Victoria & Moses

#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**

The day of the Lord brings grace and blessing.

We come to this day with hearts prepared for praising.

The day of the Lord brings judgment and pardon.

We come to this day with souls set on praying.

The day of the Lord brings wisdom and light.

We come to this day with minds eager to listen for God's will.

In our praising, praying, listening, and responding,

we come to worship God.

◆**Hymn of Praise #106** *Prepare the Way, O Zion*

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

Prayer of Confession

You call us home to live with you, Comfort of the lost, but we are too busy right now to listen. We flock to the stores run by temptation and seduction, seeking the best prices. We rush to judge everyone around us, but ask you to be more patient with our repeated errors. We feast at the table piled high with broken promises and drink from the cup of fading dreams.

Yet you continue to cry out to us, Broken Heart, speaking to us of your love. Forgiveness is the gift for every moment, not just one day; hope is our constant companion as we journey with Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, who is your Messenger of mercy. *Silence is kept.*

Assurance of Pardon

At the beginning, at the end, and in every time between,
the good news speaks to us of God's tender mercy and love for us.

God comes!

**Not to punish, but to gift us with peace,
not to judge, but to save us.**

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 *Baruch 5:1-5*

Second Reading *Philippians 1:3-11*

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")

Message *Musical Chairs, First Pres Style*

Beth Wagner

◆**Hymn for Reflection #82** *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*

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,

This Week

Sunday, December 8

- 9:00 AM Worship/Westminster Hall
- 10:10 AM Second Sunday Brunch/Centennial Hall

Monday, December 9

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

Tuesday, December 10

- 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
- 4:30 PM Mission Team/Parlor & Zoom
- 5:00 PM DREAAM Mentoring Program/Centennial Hall
- 6:00 PM DREAAM Dance/Gym

Wednesday, December 11

- 9:15 AM ELL Classes In-Person/CE Building & Café
- 9:30 AM Nurture/Parlor & Zoom
- 2:00 PM DREAAM After School Program/CE Building
- 3:30 PM DREAAM Youth Club/Centennial Hall
- 7:30 PM Together on Tuesdays/Zoom

Thursday, December 12

- 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
- 4:30 PM Finance/Parlor & Zoom
- 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
- 7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal/Choir Room

Friday, December 13 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

Saturday, December 14

- 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.

●**Tanya Deckert** is our liturgist this morning. If you would like to serve, contact **Carol Miles**.

●Join us for **2nd Sunday Brunch** this morning immediately following worship in Centennial Hall. Brunch is free as is the fellowship.

●**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.

●The **DREAAM middle school youth and staff will again join us on our campus** for fun activities, a Bible study, and to share a meal on December 11 from 3:30-5 PM. For more information, contact **Peter Yau** pmyau@illinois.edu (217-621-0448) to help in the kitchen, or **Holly Nordheden** hnordheden@gmail.com (217-621-3450) to serve as table partners we need to greet our guests and facilitate conversation with prepared questions during our shared meal.

●**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.

●**Music Sunday, December 15, 9 AM** *A Service of Lessons and Carols*. The music staff invites you to a beautiful, reflective service that weaves together scripture, poetry, and carols to tell the timeless Christmas story in a fresh way. Come and experience the wonder of Christmas as we journey through the story of Christ's birth with love, joy, and community.

●**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.

●**DREAAM** is adding a **sewing class** to the after school program. If you are willing to donate or loan your sewing machine, please email DREAAM at info@dreameam.org or call 217.373.4848. Pick up service will be provided.

●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.