

Anthem *Silent Night*

Upper Room Ringers; Libby Sternhagen, director

Franz Gruber; arr. Patricia Cota

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.

Proclamation of the Word *And the Shepherds Left the Manger, Praising and Glorifying God for All They Had Seen and Heard, For All that Had Been Told Them* Matt Matthews

\*Closing Hymn #122 and Lighting of Candles *Silent Night*

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright 'round yon virgin mother and child!  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight; glories stream from heaven afar,  
heavenly hosts sing "Alleluia: Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born!"

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light radiant beams from thy holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light; with the angels let us sing  
Alleluia to our King: Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born.

\*Benediction & Merry Christmas

\*Postlude

\*Please stand if able. Remain seated if need be.

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Thank you to the following who donated to decorate our Sanctuary (Westminster Hall) during this Christmas season: **Jim and Laurie Dey; Nancy Martin** in memory of Betty and Bob Eisner and in honor of Lisa and Vivian Schroeder; **Pat Mitchell** in memory of William R. Mitchell; **The Travers, Roux, Chao and Sansone families** in memory of Janny Quinn Travers.

Playing in tonight's **Bell Choir** are: **Viki Johnson, Carol Miles, Holly Nordheden** and **Andrew Schwenk** under the direction of **Libby Sternhagen**.

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*Wishing you a joyous and blessed Christmas.*

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# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN

December 24, 2023

Candlelight Service 8:00 PM



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!**

*“Joy to the world, the Lord is come...” With joy we greet you.*

*We are presently worshiping in Westminster Hall while our elevator is being replaced.*

*The presence of all who have come to celebrate Christmas adds to the joy of worshiping the Lord on this glorious night.*

*May the full meaning of Christmas be real to us all...now and always.*

## **Prelude**

## **Greeting & Announcements**

## **Lighting of the Advent Wreath/We light the Christ Candle**

The Bell Choir

**Sung Response: He came down that we may have life ... hallelujah forevermore.**

## **\*Call to Worship** (John Bell, The Iona Community)

Light looked down and saw darkness.

**“I will go there,” said Light.**

Peace looked down and saw war.

**“I will go there,” said Peace.**

Love looked down and saw hatred.

**“I will go there,” said Love.**

So he, The Lord of Light,

the Prince of Peace,

the King of Love,

came down

and crept in beside us.

**Joy to the world,**

The Lord is born.

## **\*Opening Hymns #121** *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

## **Call to Confession**

Because of such great mercy,

**God is ready to forgive all the ways we fail to live in faithfulness.**

Relying on that mercy,

**let us join in one voice as we confess our sin before God and one another.**

## **Prayer of Confession** (adapted, Martin Luther King, Jr.)

O Thou Eternal God, out of whose absolute power and infinite intelligence the whole universe has come into being, we humbly confess that we have not loved thee with our whole heart, soul, and mind, and we have not loved our neighbors as Christ loved us.

**Forgive us, O LORD.**

We have all too often lived by our own selfish impulses rather than by the life of sacrificial love as revealed by Christ.

**Forgive us, O LORD.**

We often give in order to receive.

**Forgive us, O LORD.**

We love our friends and hate our enemies.

**Forgive us, O LORD.**

We go the first mile but dare not travel the second.

**Forgive us, O LORD.**

And so, as we look within ourselves, we are confronted with the appalling fact that the history of our lives is the history of an eternal revolt against you. But thou, O God, have mercy upon us. Forgive us for what we could have been but failed to be. Give us the intelligence to know your will.

**Help us, LORD!**

Give us the courage to do your will.

**Help us, LORD!**

Give us the devotion to love thy will.

**Help us, LORD!**

In the name and spirit of Jesus we pray.

**Amen.**

## **Assurance of Pardon**

God's love is from everlasting to everlasting.

**Thanks be to God.**

Believe the Good News of God's love:

**In Jesus Christ, we are God's forgiven people.**

Believe the Gospel and be at peace.

**Alleluia! AMEN.**

## **\*Passing of the Peace**

**Offering of Gifts and Tithes** *We are invited to return God's tithes and give our offering.*

**Offertory** – Sora Shepard

**Prayer of Dedication**

**Anthem** *In the Bleak Midwinter* (text Christina Rossetti from a Gustav Holst tune)

Duet by Joe Grant & Matt Matthews

**Prayers of the People and** *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.**