



9:00 AM WORSHIP

WELCOME

Judy Hockenberry

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

✦ “PREPARE THE WAY” “LET IT RISE”

Hall & Giglio

Holland Davis

✦ PASSING THE PEACE

One: The peace of Jesus Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us share the peace of Christ with one another.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ECCLESIASTES 1:1-11

MESSAGE

“The Light of Love”

Scripture: Luke 1:46-55

Alex Lang

SONG

“Love is Bigger Than Anything in its Way”

Clayton, Evans, Hewson, & Mullen Jr.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

TC Anderson

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

SHARING OUR GIFTS

“There is a Light”

Clayton, Evans, Hewson, & Mullen, Jr.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

✦ “FOREVER”

Chris Tomlin

✦ BENEDICTION

Alex Lang

✦ Please stand as you are able.

WELCOME, GUESTS!

Thank you for worshipping with us this morning.

Please sign the Friendship Pad, pass it along the pew, and introduce yourself to those around you after the service. Stop by the Welcome Center in the Narthex (lobby) to pick up information that will acquaint you with our church services and programs. You are also invited to join the conversation on Facebook, at facebook.com/firstpresah, and Twitter, at [@FirstPresAH](https://twitter.com/FirstPresAH). We look forward to connecting with you again.

CHILD CARE

Children of all ages are warmly welcomed and encouraged to participate in worship. Child care is available (infants through age four) in the Christian Education Wing (8:45 am – 11:45 am).

CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

From September through May, Sunday morning Christian education classes are held for all ages. These include classes for preschool, elementary, middle school, and high school students, as well as education and discussion groups for adults. To learn more, visit firstpresah.org or call the church office at 847-255-5900.

SPECIAL ASSISTANCE

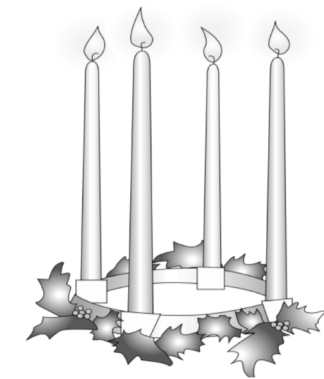
Large print bulletins, large print hymn packets, and hearing amplifiers are available from the ushers.

IMPORTANT WORSHIP REMINDERS

Please silence cell phones and refrain from taking photos or recording the worship service. Services are webcast live at firstpresah.org/media/live-stream. To download or listen to a podcast of today’s sermon (available soon), visit firstpresah.org/media/podcast. Past sermons and other educational broadcasts are available through the Media section of our website.

First Presbyterian Church of Arlington Heights

*A congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)
Organized in 1855*



“Let the light of love enlighten the whole world.
Let the power of love overpower all the evils.”
— Debasish Mridha

SERVICE FOR THE LORD’S DAY FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 23, 2018
9:00 & 10:30 AM

Choose love. Be the light. Change the world.

First Presbyterian Church of Arlington Heights
302 N. Dunton Avenue • Arlington Heights, IL 60004
847-255-5900 • firstpresah.org • mail@firstpresah.org



10:30 AM WORSHIP

GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

PRELUDE

“See, Amid the Winter’s Snow”
First Pres Brass and Organ
*The prelude is your invitation to quiet preparation
for the worship of Almighty God.*

arr. Lloyd Larson

WELCOME

Alex Lang

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

The Childs and Munz Families

✠HYMN 143

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

Regent Square

CALL TO CONFESSION

TC Anderson

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of love, in your mercy forgive us. Forgive us when we choose darkness over light. Forgive us when we deny the power of your love in this world. Forgive us when we push you away in the midst of our struggles and despair. Forgive us when we act in ways that deny your existence. Forgive us when we fall into the routine of life without seeking deeper meaning and connection. Forgive us when we feel insignificant and forget that we are beloved children. Forgive us and show us the way to the light of your love.

SILENT CONFESSION

...in Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

✠GLORIA PATRI (Hymn 581)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen, Amen.

✠PASSING THE PEACE

One: The peace of Jesus Christ be with you.
All: And also with you.
One: Let us share the peace of Christ with one another.

COMMUNITY LIFE

ANTHEM

“Holy Manger”
First Pres Children’s Choir; Nick Pulikowski, director

arr. John Horman

HEARING GOD’S WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

TC Anderson

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Ecclesiastes 1:1-11
(Pew Bible, p. 536) TC Anderson
The Word of the Lord/**Thanks be to God!**

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:46-55
(Pew Bible, p. 832) Alex Lang
The Word of the Lord/**Thanks be to God!**

ANTHEM

“Love Come Down at Christmas”
“Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love divine; Love was born at Christmas, Star and angels gave the sign. Worship we the Godhead, Love incarnate, Love divine; Worship we our Jesus: But where-with for sacred sign? Love shall be our token, Love be yours and love be mine, Love to God and all men, Love for plea and gift and sign.”
Chancel Choir

Crawford Thoburn

SERMON

“The Light of Love”

Alex Lang

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

✠AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (The Confession of 1967, 9.15)

God’s sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of our minds. Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness. But God reveals his love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinful people. The power of God’s love in Christ to transform the world discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of his love.

✠HYMN 110

“Love Has Come”

Bring a Torch

GIVING THANKS TO GOD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Judy Hockenberry

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.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

“This Christmastide”
“Green and silver, red and gold, and a story born of old. Truth and love and hope abide, this Christmastide. Holly, ivy, mistletoe, and the gently falling snow. Truth and love and hope abide, this Christmastide. From a simple ox’s stall came the greatest gift of all. Truth and love and hope abide, this Christmastide. Children sing of peace and joy at the birth of one small boy. Truth and love and hope abide, this Christmastide. Let the bells ring loud and clear, ring out now for all to hear. Truth and love and hope abide, this Christmastide. Trumpets sound and voices raise in an endless stream of praise. Truth and love and hope abide, this Christmastide. Green and silver, red and gold, and a story born of old: Peace and love and hope abide, this Christmastide.”
Chancel Choir

Donald Fraser

✠DOXOLOGY (Hymn 606)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

✠PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

GOING FORTH IN GOD’S NAME

✠HYMN 119

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Mendelssohn

✠BENEDICTION

Alex Lang

POSTLUDE

“Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella”
First Pres Brass and Organ

Chapman, arr. Carl

✠Please stand as you are able.

Preaching:

Alex Lang

Greeters:

(10:30 am) Don and Ruth Howard

Ushers:

(9:00 am) Jan Richardson
(10:30 am) Bob Harrald (head usher), Peter Bukowski, Karen Hughes, Frank Morrone

Flowers:

June Hemsey—In memory of Clayton, beloved husband, father, and grandfather

Pastors:

Alex Lang, Judy Hockenberry, TC Anderson

Director of Music and Worship:

Adam Hendrickson

Associate Director of Music and Organist:

Christopher Urban

Praise Band:

Compass (9:00 am service)

First Pres Brass:

Eric Allen & Colin Stanhope, trumpet; Joan Morrone, horn; Andy & Sam Sturgeon, trombone

WORSHIP NOTES