

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
WINNETKA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ADVENT



SECOND SUNDAY
DECEMBER 10, 2023

GATHERING

ORGAN PRELUDE

Trumpet Prelude on *Wachet Auf*

“Wake, awake, for night is flying,” the watchmen on the heights are crying.
“Awake, Jerusalem, arise!”

WELCOME

QUIET MEDITATION

CHORAL INTROIT

O Come, Emmanuel

O come, Emmanuel, we wait for you
to fill our spirits and our hopes anew,
to see your face when morning breaks,
and with your love our hearts will awake.
Rejoice, rejoice! Ring joyful bells, for he will come, Emmanuel.

CALL TO WORSHIP

On this Second Sunday of Advent
we hear the voice of the prophets
proclaiming the coming of the long awaited One.
We let go of that which holds us back,
and we straighten our paths and clear the way for Christ.
As we continue to watch and pray,
let us worship God.

HYMN 106 | STANDING

Prepare the Way, O Zion

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God,
forgive us for the times
when we build mountains
or create valleys
that stop others from experiencing
the justice, freedom, and equality of your reign.
Forgive us for not displaying comfort or tenderness
towards those who are hurting.
In your gentle mercy,
give us a glimpse of your glory,
so that we may encounter the One whose name is peace.

Silence is kept for personal confession.

Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Though the nights are long, the sun still rises;
though the mornings are dark, the birds still sing;
though the world isn't ready, Christ still comes;
though we don't listen or prepare or deserve,
God still loves and forgives and renews us.
Thanks be to God!

CHORAL RESPONSE

Prepare the Way

Prepare the way of the Lord.
Make straight in the desert a royal way;
gather the people to sing and pray;
lift up your voices with joyful praise.
Prepare the way of the Lord.
Let all of creation with song rejoice.
Sing every nation with heart and voice.
Sharing the promise with joyful noise.
Prepare the way of the Lord.
Keep awake, be ready, dawn will soon be here.
Light will shine upon us, grace will dry each tear.
Hope, peace, and love will fall from heaven above!
Joy will come with morning.
Prepare, the time is near!

WORD

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

O God,
heralded in desert places,
we light this candle for John the Baptist,
who made straight the way for the coming of your Son.
We too wait for you.
We too look for you.
Keep us looking and seeking in this season of waiting.
Amen.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 40:1-11

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 85

The cantor sings the refrain once, then all repeat.



Let us see your kind-ness, O Lord, grant us your sal-va-tion, O God.

God, how I long for the peace you proclaim,
your salvation and glory near to all who revere your name. (refrain)

Kindness and truth shall meet, justice and peace shall kiss;
truth shall spring up from the earth and justice look down from heaven. (refrain)

You, yourself, will give these gifts; our land shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall walk before you, and salvation along your way. (refrain)

GOSPEL

Mark 1:1-8

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Tender Strength”
Rev. Paul Gilmore

HYMN | STANDING

Prepare the Way! The Prophet Called



1. "Pre - pare the way!" the proph - et called; a mes - sen - ger__ will
2. "Pre - pare the way!" cried John to all be - side__ the Jor - dan
3. Pre - pare the way__ in us, O God, to greet__ that glo - rious



come__ to re - af - firm__ God's cov - e - nant and
stream__ All flesh will see__ God's sav - ing work, the
day__ when right - eous - ness__ and peace will reign, and



lead the peo - ple home.____ The truth will shine_ like
 pro - phets' an - cient dream.____ The val - leys and_ the
 death will pass_ a - way.____ The ri - sen one_ will



pur - est fire in that_ a - wait - ed hour.____ Come,
 moun - tain-tops will make_ a lev - el place.____ Come,
 come a - gain, de - scend - ing from_ a - bove.____ Come,



Je - sus Christ! You are the way; re - new us with your pow'r.____
 Je - sus Christ! You are the way; re - store us with your grace.____
 Je - sus Christ! You are the way; re - deem us with your love.____

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of love...

hear our prayer.

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.

SHARING THE PEACE | STANDING

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Peace, Salaam, Shalom

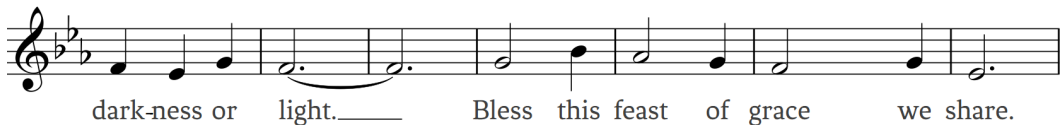
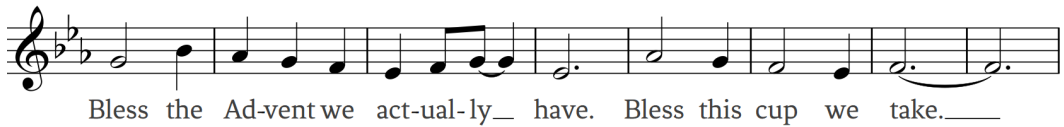
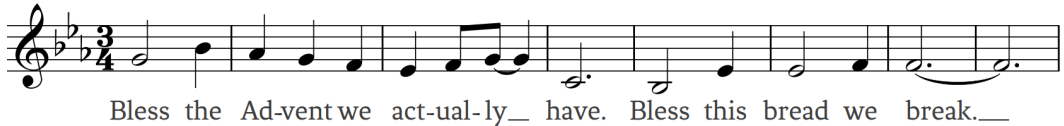
THANKSGIVING

OFFERING

*After the offering is gathered, all stand and sing
as the bread and juice are brought to the table.*

SONG | STANDING

Bless This Advent



INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE | STANDING

If in the depths of your spirit you are crying out,
“Come thou long expected Jesus”
this table has been set for you.
For those who sing,
“born to set your people free,”
there is a place for you at this table.

If your heart aches to be released from fear and sin,
the bread of heaven and the cup of salvation are for you.
And for those who find their rest in Christ Jesus,
this feast is prepared for you.

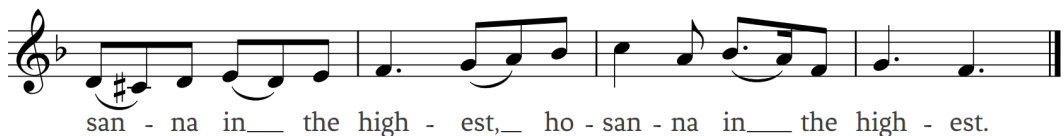
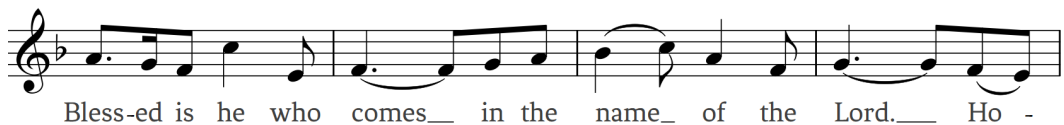
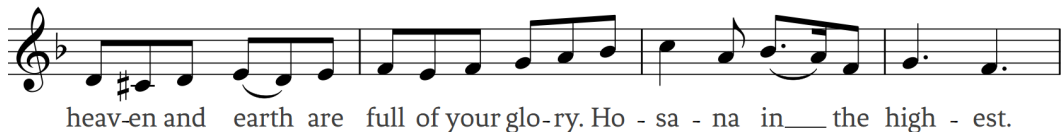
GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING | STANDING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is a right, good, and joyful thing
always and everywhere to give thanks to you, O God,
for sending your prophets to announce your coming,
your servants to prepare the way,
and your Son to bring light to our darkness.
You draw us to yourself with the promise of salvation,
and every promise you make, in your goodness, you fulfill.
And so, with angels and archangels,
we praise your name and join in their unending hymn:



Holy are you, O God,
and holy is your Son, Jesus,
whose coming we await with hope and anticipation,
and for whose life, death, and resurrection
we give thanks beyond measure.
May this meal we share be a sign that our redemption is near.
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
May they be for us a communion in the body and blood of Christ,
that we may be the body of Christ
to a world sitting in darkness and gloom.

**Come Lord Jesus,
with your Father and your Spirit, to the church,
and receive our praises, now and forever. Amen.**

The congregation is seated.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION

All are welcome at the Lord's Table.

Please come forward by the center aisle to receive communion.

*Once you have received, please return by the side aisles,
placing your cups in the baskets provided.*

The bread of life ...**Thanks be to God or Amen.**

The cup of salvation ...**Thanks be to God or Amen.**

COMMUNION SONG

Maranatha

Maranatha is a Greek wording which means, "Come, O Lord." (Revelation 22:20)



Come, O Lord, and set us_ free. Ma - ra - na - tha._____



1. Des - sert and dry land will grow green in praise;
 2. Strength - en the hearts of the fear - ful and weak;
 3. We have been wait - ing and long - ing for light;
 4. Give us a star in the sky day and night;



clay will re - joice with full bloom._____
 be strong; fear not, God is near._____
 watch - ing for signs of the Lord._____
 sign of your pro - mise to save._____



Show - ers of flow - ers giv'n birth in dead earth;
 Com - ing in pow - er and loos - ing our bonds;
 Prom - ised of Ag - es, Mes - si - ah to come,
 O - ver the moun - tains we fol - low its light



co - lours that ech - o God's song.
 set - ting the cap - tives free.
 hear us, we beg you: "Come, save!"
 hop - ing for sign of your life.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God our hope,
we give you thanks for this foretaste
of the justice, righteousness, and peace
of your promised new creation.
Strengthen us with this heavenly food
as we await the coming in glory
of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

SENDING

HYMN 79 | STANDING

Light Dawns on a Weary World

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION | STANDING

POSTLUDE

POINSETTIA AND GREENS DONATIONS

Help decorate our worship space for Christmas Eve and the whole Christmas season by making a donation toward the poinsettias and greens. Any donation is appreciated. **Please return this form no later than Dec 17** along with your check made out to Winnetka Presbyterian Church. Indicate in the check memo field that it is for “Christmas flowers.”

You can also donate online at winnpres.org

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

In thanksgiving for: _____

Name: _____ Amount: _____

ADVENT



ADVENT BAKE SALE

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT, DEC 10

The bakers of WPC will be selling delicious holiday goodies

ADVENT MUSIC SUNDAY

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, DECEMBER 17 @ 10AM

A wonderful morning of Advent music by our WPC musicians.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24 @ 10AM

A simple worship service to celebrate the final Sunday of Advent



CHRISTMAS



CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

FAMILY COMMUNION SERVICE @ 4PM

Designed especially for the young at heart.

CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE @ 8PM

An intimate service of candlelight, Holy Communion, and music



PETS AND CAROLS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31 @ 10AM

Four legs, two legs, or no legs, everyone's welcome at our Children and Pets Carol Service, a fun-filled carol service for all the family. No pet too big, no child too small!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Information about everything that is going on at WPC can be found in your weekly email.

Sign up at winnpres.org to receive our email.



OFFERING

- Scan this QR code.
- Place your offering in the offering plate.
- Give online at

winnpres.org/give-online.

TODAY: BAKE SALE

Beautiful holiday plates of homemade cookies made by the bakers of WPC, wrapped in love...make the perfect gifts.

DEC 17: ADVENT MUSIC SUNDAY

Join us for a wonderful morning of Advent music by our WPC musicians. This year, we will be hearing selections from both the Bible and the Qur'an about the annunciation and birth of Jesus, the Prophet of Peace.

DECEMBER 24 WORSHIP

10AM - FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 4 AND 8PM - CHRISTMAS EVE

The morning of December 24 is the Fourth Sunday of Advent ... the fourth week of Advent lasts only 24 hours this year! We will

have Advent worship at 10am that morning. Christmas Eve worship will be at 4pm and 8pm. Both services will have candle lighting and Holy Communion.

SERVING TODAY

Worship Leaders: Paul Gilmore, Geoff Duffy

Greeters: Andy and Susan Langan,

Nancy Holly

Advent Wreath: Marj Steiner, Judy McKee

Lectors: Andy Langan, Scott Martin

Prayer Leader: Sherri Lewis

Communion Assistants: David Holly,

Nancy Holly, Carrie Waterston

Communion Elements: The Waterston

Family

Musicians: Choir, Warren Oja, Annie Liu

Sound Technician: Kyle Fox

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WINNETKA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1255 Willow Road | Winnetka, IL 60093 | 847-446-7777 | office@winnpres.org | www.winnpres.org

Rev. Paul Gilmore, Pastor | paul@winnpres.org

Geoff Duffy, Director of Music, Associate Director of Worship | geoff@winnpres.org

Nancy Holly, Director of Children's Ministry, Youth Coordinator | nancy@winnpres.org

Madeline Weston, Director of Office Management Ministries | office@winnpres.org

Greg Hartfield, Custodian | greg@winnpres.org

Rev. Phyllis Beattie, Parish Associate

