

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

WINNETKA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 11, 2022

GATHERING

*We gather together joyfully during this season of waiting.
May our greetings and visiting be signs of Christ's presence with us.*

PRELUDE

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear / The Angel Gabriel

WELCOME

QUIET MEDITATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

The time of Christ's birth is coming!

We are waiting.

The time of Christ's birth is coming!

We are watching.

The time of Christ's birth is coming!

We are preparing.

As the time of Christ's birth gets closer ...

We will be ready.

GATHERING SONG

Comfort, My People

The cantor will sing the song first; then the congregation sings together.

Com-fort, my peo-ple calm all your fear; the day of sal-
va-tion is quick-ly draw-ing near. The One you long to—
see will soon set you free. O— come, Lord
Je - sus come. O— come, Lord Je - sus come.

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

As we light this Advent wreath,
may its flame be a symbol of hope;
its warmth a symbol of God's love;
and may it inspire us
to live simple and generously,
following the examples of John the Baptist
and Jesus, the Light of the World.
Amen.

OPENING SONG 106 | STANDING

Prepare the Way, O Zion

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Almighty God,
we have not always followed your path.**

Silence

**From all the diversions we have been on,
bring us back to you.**

**Almighty God,
we have often lost focus on our Advent journey.**

Silence

**From all the distractions from the real meaning of Christmas,
bring us back to you.**

**Bring us back, O God,
to your ways of loving and giving and receiving.
With open hearts,
we come before you,
knowing that you will bless and forgive.
Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God heals us when we are wounded,
frees us when we are bound,
reassures us when we wobble;
and when we lose our way,
God shows us love through Jesus Christ,
who forgives all our sins.

Thanks be to God!

SUNG RESPONSE

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!

WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 11:2-11

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHORAL RESPONSE

Who Comes to Save

Who comes to save?

What shall cause the desert to sing?

What shall cause the wilderness to blossom?

What will bring fresh rivers to the drylands?

The glory of the Lord, and the majesty of God, who comes to save.

What will bring our weakness to strength?

What shall give our fearful hearts new courage?

Be strong, do not fear, your God will come to save.

He comes with hope.

He comes with peace.

He comes with joy and love.

O come, O come, Emmanuel!

Children (K-6) are dismissed for Sunday School following the scripture readings.

They may be picked up from class at 11:00am.

SERMON

A Surprising Question

Rev. Paul Gilmore

SONG OF RESPONSE | 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.__

MOMENT OF THE CHURCH: STRATEGIC PLANNING

Ward Wilson

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

AnnMarie Hardin (Theo & Willem)

Audra Marks (Rex)

Nancy Person

Scott Sognefest & Kate Kilgora (Connor)

Van & Kate Van Vlack (Alexandra, Philip, Penelope)

Josh & Suzanne Warren (Nick & Zack)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of the promise... **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.

TABLE

SONG | STANDING

What Feast of Love

(Sung to the tune of "What Child Is This")

What feast of love is offered here,
what banquet come from heaven?
What food of everlasting life,
what gracious gift is given?
This, this is Christ the king,
the bread come down from heaven.
O taste and see and sing!
How sweet the manna given!

What wine of love is offered here,
what crimson drink from heaven?
What stream of everlasting life,
what precious drink is given?

This, this is Christ the king,
the sweetest wine from heaven.
O taste and see and sing!
The Son of God is given!

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE | STANDING

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 reign,
your servants to prepare the way of the Lord,
and your Son, Jesus, 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:



Ho ly, ho-ly, ho - ly Lord God of_ Hosts, Heav'n and earth are
full of your glo - ry: Glo-ry be to you,_ O Lord, most high.

Holy are you, and holy is your child, Jesus Christ,
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

*Please come forward by the center aisle to receive communion from the elders and
deacons. Once you have received, please return by the side aisles.*

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

COMMUNION SONG

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

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.

O come, O Wisdom from on high,
who ordered all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show
and teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O Branch of Jesse's stem,
unto your own and rescue them!
From depths of hell your people save,
and give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O Bright and Morning Star,
and bring us comfort from afar!
Dispel the shadows of the night
and turn our darkness into light.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

SOLO

Love Is Christmas
Kyra Kornfeld, soloist

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

CLOSING SONG 92 | STANDING

While We Are Waiting, Come

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 TODAY 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: _____

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Information about weekly Bible studies and small groups can be found in your weekly email or at winnpres.org. Sign up at winnpres.org to receive our weekly email.



OFFERING

You can financially support the ministry of WPC in one of the following ways:

- Scan this QR code.
- Place your offering in the collection box.
- Give online at winnpres.org/give-online.

SERVING TODAY

Worship Leaders: Paul Gilmore, Geoff Duffy
Greeters: Barbara Scott, Nancy Holly
Lector: Kathy Fink
Prayer Leader: Liz Berwanger
Musicians: Bryan Wlas, Kelsey Goodwin, Kyra Kornfeld, Daniel Rausch, Annie Liu

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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

Greg Hartfield, Custodian | greg@winnpres.org

Jeri Gordon, Office Coordinator | jeri@winnpres.org

Rev. Phyllis Beattie, Parish Associate



THE ADVENT SEASON

Advent is a time of preparation and waiting. We celebrate Christ's first coming as a child in a manger; we prepare our hearts for Christ's coming into our lives this season; and we look forward with hope to Christ's coming at the end of time. There are many opportunities to prepare, wait, and celebrate!

TODAY: BAKE SALE

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

TODAY: TREE DECORATING

Grab a couple ornaments and help us decorate the Christmas Tree in the atrium following worship today.

DEC 18: ADVENT MUSIC SUNDAY

Join us for a wonderful morning of Advent music by our choir, musicians, and Sunday School children.

POINSETTIA & GREENS OFFERINGS

If you would like to make a donation for poinsettias and Christmas greens to decorate the CLC for Christmas worship, you may do so online at winnpres.org. Donations may be made online or with a check.

SING IN THE ADVENT CHOIR!

All singers are invited to join our Advent Choir next Sunday. Rehearsal will be at 8:30am that morning in the sanctuary.

THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP: 4PM/8PM

Carols, Holy Communion, and candlelight at both services. Our 4pm service is especially for children and all those who are young at heart.

CHRISTMAS DAY

There will be **NO WORSHIP SERVICE AT THE CHURCH** on Christmas Day. Everyone is invited to join us for breakfast and a brief worship service at the Jonquil Hotel.

CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST @ THE JONQUIL

Join us as we continue our tradition of sharing the gift of Christmas joy with the residents of Good News Partners' Jonquil Hotel (1600 West Jonquil Terrace, Chicago). Please see your weekly email or the website for all the details. RSVP and sign up to bring food through the email or website. There is also a sign-up on the coffee hour table. Contact Nancy Holly for information.

JANUARY 1: CAROLS AND PETS

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!

JANUARY 8: EPIPHANY PAGEANT

Celebrate the arrival of the Magi with the annual children's Epiphany pageant. Come hear the Christmas story re-told by our Sunday School children like you've never heard it before.