

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

WINNETKA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ADVENT



THIRD SUNDAY
DECEMBER 17, 2023

All the children of Abraham have great respect for the prophets of God. Ancient Jewish prophecies foretold of a coming Messiah who would usher in the reign of God. Early Christians saw in Jesus the fulfillment of these prophecies. Hundreds of years later, Mohammed was instructed to write down the story of Mary, the mother of Jesus, in the Qur'an. While Christians and Muslims differ in our beliefs about the nature of Jesus, we agree on the message of peace and love he shared with humanity ... a message much needed in our divided world today.

GATHERING

ORGAN PRELUDE

People, Look East

WELCOME

QUIET MEDITATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah 2:2, 5; Psalm 122:1

In the days to come
the mountain of the Lord's house
will be the highest of the mountains.

It will be lifted above the hills.

All the peoples and nations will stream to it, saying...

**“Come, let us go up to the Lord's mountain,
to the house of Jacob's God
so that he may teach us his ways
and we may walk in God's paths.”**

Come, house of Jacob,

let us walk by the Lord's light.

**We were glad when they said to us,
“Let us go to the house of the Lord!”**

HYMN 107 | STANDING

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

O God,
who speaks to us through messengers and prophets,
we light this candle today for Mary
whose courage and boldness brought Jesus to birth.
We too need courage
to do what you ask of us.

**Give us courage and boldness in this season of waiting.
Amen.**

WORD

CHORAL ANTHEM

We Wait for God

We wait for God,
holding our breath, holding our hearts.
We look for Christ in each face we pass.
We long for the Spirit of love to fill our hearts.
We wait for God.
We long for light in the darkest hour.
We yearn for warmth in the cold of night.
We dream of comfort in restless sleep. We wait for God.

MEDITATION

CHORAL ANTHEM

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.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Malachi 3:1

A messenger is foretold who will prepare the way for the Lord.

QUR'AN

Surah 3:38-41 (The Family of 'Imran)

Surah 19:12-15 (Mary)

Zechariah is promised a son who will confirm a Word from the Lord.

HYMN 109 | STANDING

Blest Be the God of Israel

Zechariah sings his song, praising God for fulfilling the prophecies of old.

GOSPEL

John 1:6-9, 19, 23

John the Baptist comes to testify to the light.

CHORAL ANTHEM

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.
Let all of creation with song rejoice.
Sing every nation with heart and voice.
Sharing the promise with joyful noise.
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!

HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 7:10-16

Isaiah foretells of a young woman whose son will be Emmanuel.

CAROL | STANDING

The Angel Gabriel From Heaven Came



1. The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,___ his
2. "How blest a-mong all wo - men you shall be,___ whom
3. Then gen - tle Ma - ry hum - bly bowed her head.___ "To



wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes___ as flame,___ "All
ev - 'ry age will praise con - tin - ual - ly. ___ Your
me be as it pleas - es God,"___ she said. ___ "My



hail," said he, "O low - ly maid - en Ma - ry." ___ Most
Son shall be Em-man - u - el, by seers fore - told" ___ Most
soul shall praise and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name." ___ Most



high-ly fa-vored la - dy. Glo - - ri - a! ___

QUR'AN

Surah 19:16 (Mary)
Surah 3:45-49 (The Family of 'Imran)

*The angels come to Mary with “news of a Word from (God),”
who will be sent as a messenger to Israel.*

SOLO

Christmas Lullaby
Shannon McMullen, soloist

GOSPEL

Luke 1:39-45

*Mary visits Elizabeth, the mother of John.
Elizabeth declares that Mary is “blessed among all women.”*

SOLO

Breath of Heaven
Kyra Kornfeld, soloist

QUR'AN

Surah 19:22-34 (Mary)

Jesus speaks as an infant testifying that he is “a servant of God.”

SOLO

Born is the Light of the World
Bryan Wlas, Daniel Rausch, Shannon McMullen, soloists

HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 9:2, 5-7

The prophet Isaiah rejoices that “a child is born to us” who is the Prince of Peace.

CHORAL ANTHEM

A Child is Born

For unto us a Child is born,
unto us a Son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder.
And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,
the Mighty God, the everlasting Father,
the Prince of Peace.
And this Child shall be peace.
Unto us a Child is born.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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



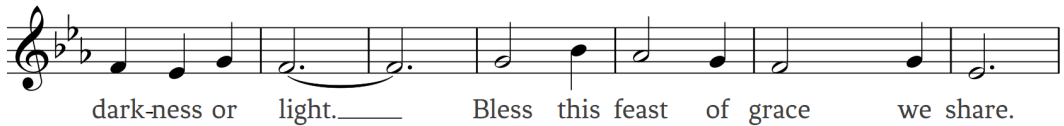
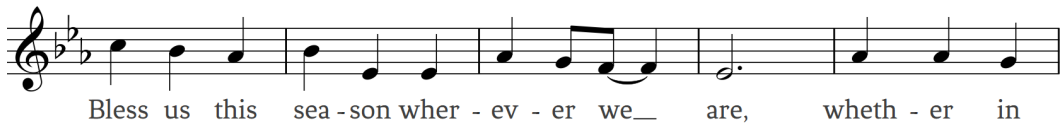
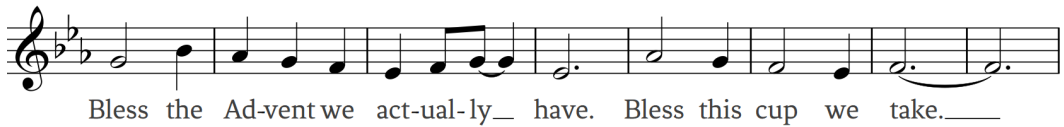
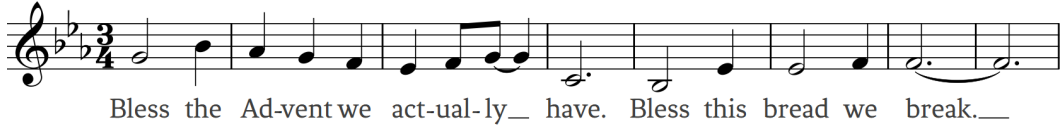
THANKSGIVING

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.

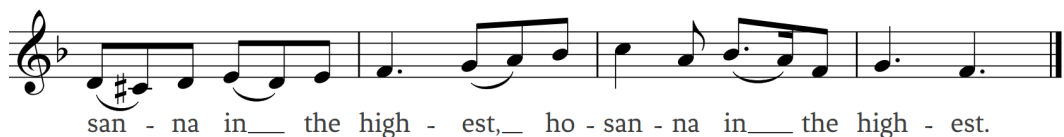
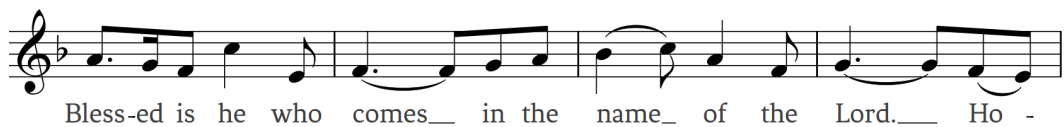
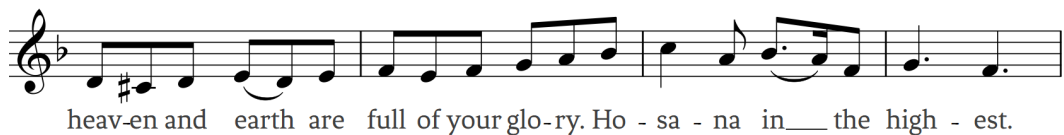
GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING | STANDING

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 82 | STANDING

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION | STANDING

ORGAN POSTLUDE

O Come, Divine Messiah

THANK YOU!

Thanks to everyone who baked and purchased goodies after worship last week! We were able to raise \$1800 as a result of your efforts. The proceeds will go to assist immigrants and refugees in our community.



Half the proceeds will go to the Ghulams, a family from Afghanistan, whom we are sponsoring and helping as a congregation.

The other half of the proceeds is being given to the Pilsen Food Bank located in the Pilsen neighborhood of Chicago. The food bank was established by the Figueroa Wu Family Foundation. This foundation is working for community wellness, targeting hunger, fighting racial and economic inequities, and providing an inviting space for learning and cultural engagement. The foundation was established in 2017 by

Evelyn Figueroa and Alex Wu to personally deliver over \$100,000 in supplies to Puerto Rico post-hurricane Maria. Evelyn founded the Pilsen Food Pantry in 2018 and Clothes Closet in 2020. Both are services that are open to all and have provided emergency supplies to over 28,000 households since their inception. Currently they are providing much needed services to refugees, mostly from Peru, arriving in the area. You can find our more about them at pilsenfoodpantry.com.



Sunday, Dec 24

CHRISTMAS EVE

10:00 AM - FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
WORSHIP

4PM AND 8PM - CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

POINSETTIA & GREENS DONATIONS - TODAY IS THE DEADLINE

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 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: _____



ADVENT

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!



EPIPHANY PAGEANT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31 @ 10AM

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.

NEXT SUNDAY @ 10AM

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 a simple Advent worship service at 10am that morning.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP: 4PM AND 8PM

Christmas Eve worship will be at 4pm and 8pm. Both services will have candle lighting and Holy Communion.

PETS AND CAROLS: DEC 31 @ 10AM

Continue the Christmas celebrations at our annual Pets and Carols service. Bring your pets to church as we surround them with Christmas carols and a blessing!

SERVING TODAY

Worship Leaders: Paul Gilmore, Geoff Duffy

Greeters: George and Martha Bermingham

Advent Wreath: Barbara Plochman,

Sajidah Kazmi

Lectors: Kendal Reis, Barbara Scott,

Liz Berwanger, Cindy Ritchell,

Sajidah Kazmi

Prayer Leader: Liz Berwanger

Communion Assistants: Cindy Ritchell,

George and Martha Bermingham,

Ania Cramer

Communion Elements:

Musicians: Choir, Warren Oja, Annie Liu,

Peter Marshall

Sound Technician: Kyle Fox

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The translations used today from *The Qur'an* are taken from the English translation by M.A.S. Abdel Haleem, published in 2004 by Oxford University Press.

WINNETKA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Greg Hartfield, Custodian | greg@winnpres.org

Rev. Phyllis Beattie, Parish Associate

