

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
WINNETKA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ADVENT



FIRST SUNDAY
DECEMBER 3, 2023

GATHERING

PIANO PRELUDE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

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

We gather at the beginning of Advent to wait for the Promised One.
We look up to the darkness of the heavens,
and we see the first faint glimmer of the sunrise creeping over the horizon.
The day is not yet upon us, but its dawning is announced.
Come, let us worship God.

HYMN | STANDING

Now the Heavens Start to Whisper



1. Now the hea - vens start to whis - per, as the veil is
2. Heav - y clouds that block the moon-light now be - gin to
3. Christ, e - ter - nal sun of jus - tice, Christ, the rose of



grow - ing thin. Earth from slum - ber wakes to lis - ten
drift a - way. Dia - mond bril-liance through the dark-ness
wis - dom's seed, come to bless with fire and fra-grance



to the stir - ring, faint with - in: Seed of prom - ise, dee - ply
shines the hope of com - ing day. Christ, the morn - ing star of
hours of yearn - ing, hurt, and need. In the lone - ly, in the



plant - ed. child to spring from Jes - se's stem! Like the soil be -
splen - dor, gleams with - in a world grown dim. Heav - en's em - ber
strang - er, in the out - cast, hid from view: child who comes to



neath the frost - line, hearts grow soft to wel - come him.
fans to full - ness; hearts grow warm to wel - come him.
grace the man - ger, teach our hearts to wel - come you.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Redeeming God,
we confess that waiting is difficult
when the world around us is on edge.
We are impatient with each other,
waiting for someone else to make a difference.
We are impatient with you,
waiting for a sign that things will improve.
Forgive us.
Turn our hearts to you again and again this season,
and show us how to wait and act in hope.

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

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.

WORD

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

O God,
proclaimed from of old,
we light this candle for the prophets
who foretold your reign of peace.
We long for the days when wars will cease,
and peace will dawn.

Give us peace and hope in this season of waiting. Amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 64:1-9

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

PSALM

Psalm 80

The cantor sings the refrain once, then all repeat.

Shep - herd of Is - rael, hear___ our cry;
shep - herd of Is - rael, hear___ our cry!

O Shepherd of Israel, hear us; shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might; O Lord, come to our help. (refrain)
God of hosts, turn again, we implore. Look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted. (refrain)

May your hand be on those you have chosen, on those you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again.
Give us life; we shall call on your name. (refrain)

GOSPEL

Mark 13:24-37

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

SERMON

Really
Rev. Phyllis Beattie

HYMN 357 | STANDING

The Days Are Surely Coming

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of hope...
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

BIRTHDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS

THANKSGIVING

CENTSABILITY OFFERING / 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



Bless the Ad-vent we act-ual-ly__ have. Bless this bread we break.__



Bless the Ad-vent we act-ual-ly__ have. Bless this cup we take.__



Bless us this sea-son wher - ev - er we__ are, wheth - er in



dark-ness or light.__ Bless this feast of grace we share.



Come, O God, and make all things right.

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.

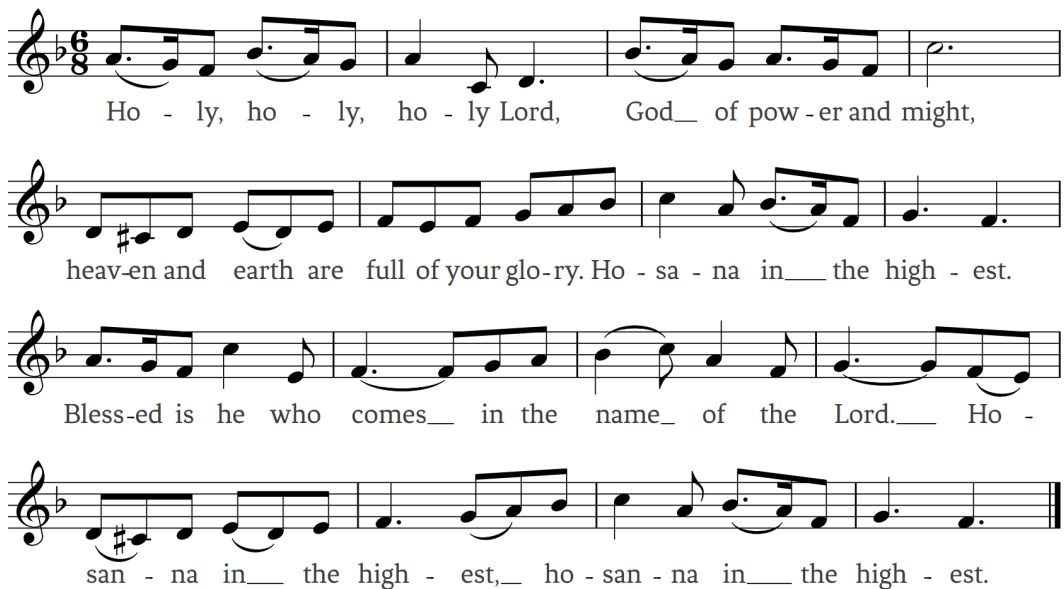
GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING | STANDING

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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - sa - na in the high - est.
Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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 the Creator and 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 92 | STANDING

While We Are Waiting, Come

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION | STANDING

POSTLUDE

POINSETTIA AND GREENS DONATIONS

Help decorate the sanctuary 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

CHRISTMAS *Tree* TRIMMING

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT, DEC 10

Grab some coffee and help trim the Christmas tree after worship

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 special morning of worship with Advent and Christmas music

CHRISTMAS



CHRISTMAS *EVE* *Worship*

SUNDAY, DEC 24

FAMILY COMMUNION SERVICE @ 4PM

Designed especially for the young at heart.

CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE @ 8PM

An intimate service of candlelight, Holy Communion, and music



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THE ADVENT SEASON

The church's liturgical year begins with the First Sunday of Advent. Advent is a time of preparation and joyful waiting for the coming of the Lord. 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.

TODAY: ADVENT FESTIVAL

Our annual WPC Advent Festival is in the atrium immediately following worship today.

DEC 10: 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.

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.

SERVING TODAY

Worship Leaders: Phyllis Beattie, Geoff Duffy

Greeters: Charlie Reis, Nancy Holly

Advent Wreath: The Bell-Warren family:

Suzanne Bell, Josh Warren, Nick and Zach

Lectors: Kathy Fink, Sherri Lewis

Prayer Leader: Kathy Fink

Ushers: Brady and Connor Ray

Bread and Cup: Annabelle and Emma Witt

Communion Assistants: Kendall Reis,

Mike Ray, Emily Marshall,

Christina Swartz

Musicians: Choir, Annie Liu

Sound Technician: Kyle Fox

WINNETKA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Rev. Phyllis Beattie, Parish Associate

