



WORSHIP

Sanctuary

December 22, 2024—Fourth Sunday in Advent

*You must realize that something is happening to you, that life has not forgotten you,
that it holds you in its hand and will not let you fall. ~ Rainer Maria Rilke*

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

It came Upon the Midnight Clear
Kaethe Durham, oboe, Gloria Song, piano

Ernie and Becky Brock

WELCOME

Rev. Brian Paulson

❖ ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

The Kowal Family

Leader: Today is the fourth and final Sunday of Advent and our waiting is almost complete.

People: We have been frenzied by the worlds outside and inside us.

Leader: The time is nearing for peace to envelop us and to energize us to seek peace for others.

People: We pray for a sense of settled wholeness for all, including ourselves.

Leader: This day we light the candles of hope, of love, of joy, and of peace, in prayer for a peace that is not perfect until all know the peace of rest and wholeness and healing to which Jesus guides us.

People: The Prince of Peace has come and is coming for the sake of the world.

All: Thanks be to God.

❖ HYMN #140

Once in Royal David's City

IRBY

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Amy Heinrich

Eternal God,
in whom we live and move and have our being,
whose face is hidden from us by our sins,
and whose mercy we forget in the blindness of our hearts:
Cleanse us from all our offenses,
and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires,
that with reverent and humble hearts
we may draw near to you,
confessing our faults,
confiding in your grace,
and finding in you our refuge and strength;
through Jesus Christ your Son.

(Silence for personal confession.)

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

❖ GLORIA PATRI *(Glory to God)*

Hymnal #581

❖ PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Jamie Nicholson

FIRST READING OF HOLY SCRIPTURE *Micah 5:2-5a*

ANTHEM

Peace Came to Earth

K. Lee Scott

Chancel Choir—David H. Edelfelt, director; Gloria Song, piano; Kendra Gohr, euphonium

SECOND READING OF HOLY SCRIPTURE *Luke 1:46b-55*

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

❖ HYMN #101 *No Wind at the Window* COLUMCILLE

SERMON *To Say Yes* Dr. Paulson

THE RESPONSE

❖ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH—from the Nicene Creed

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

TABLE TALK

SESSION REPORT Elder Liz White

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

Leader: Lift up your hearts.
People: **We lift them to the Lord.**
Leader: We give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

OFFERING *We Empty Hearts, We Wait* Lee Dangler
Chancel Choir; Gloria Song, piano

*With empty hearts the world awaits the Promised One from heav’n above.
O Come! O come! The one who floods our empty hearts with endless peace and lasting love.
O come, Immanuel into this broken world. Come free us as God once did, His captive people, Israel.
For we are captive to our sins and long to be set free. Come, O come Immanuel. Live in our hearts eternally.
With empty hearts the world awaits the One who comes to make things new.
O come! O come! Our empty hearts will overflow with joy and hope; with life anew.*

❖ PRAISE GOD—HYMN #608 (*The Doxology*) PRAISE GOD

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, DEDICATION, AND 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.

THE SENDING

❖ HYMN #129 *Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming* ES IST EIN’ ROS’

❖ **THE CHARGE AND BLESSING**

POSTLUDE

Cherry Tree Carol
Kaethe Durham, oboe; Gloria Song, piano

Ernie and Becky Brock

❖ *Please stand in body or in spirit, as you are comfortable.*

Community Notes

Learn more in our online *Parish Life* newsletter at www.firstpreslibertyville.org

The flowers today in the sanctuary are placed to the glory of God by the Frazier family in memory of Charlotte A. Frazier whose heavenly birthday is on Christmas Day; and in the chapel by Dave and Beth Semmelman in celebration of the birth of grandson, Eli Hugo Semmelman Baseman on November 27, 2024.

Sunday, Dec. 22

10:00 AM Worship (Sanctuary & Chapel)
11:00 AM Social Hour (Social Hall)
11:15 AM Trinity Choir (Choir Room)
3:00 PM Orchestra Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Monday, Dec. 23

6:30 PM Vesper Bells

Tuesday, Dec. 24*

Christmas Eve

4:00 PM Family Service (Sanctuary)
7:00 PM Candlelight Service (Sanctuary)
10:00 PM Candlelight Service (Sanctuary)

Wednesday, Dec. 25

Christmas Day

Office is closed

Thursday, December 26

Office is closed

Sunday, December 29

10:00 AM Worship (Sanctuary))
11:00 AM Social Hour (Social Hall)

*Church office closes at noon on Dec. 24 & Dec. 31.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Christmas Eve Services (Dec. 24)
David Edelfelt Concert (Jan. 3)
All Church Game Night & Chili Cook-Off (Jan. 5)
JHF WinterXtreme Retreat (Jan.10-12)
Inquirers Class (Jan. 17 & 18)
Third Grade Bible Presentation & Luncheon (Jan. 19)
Open Mic Coffeehouse (Jan. 26)
SHF Stronghold Retreat (Jan. 29-31)

Christmas Eve Worship on Dec. 24: Join us for Christmas Eve Worship in the Sanctuary. Our Family Service will be at 4 PM, followed by traditional Candlelight Services at 7 and 10 PM.

Year End Giving: As we near the end of the year, we encourage you to review your 2024 Pledge Commitment and ensure it is fulfilled. We extend our sincere thanks to those who have already completed their pledge.

Per Capita Payments: The church pays a fixed sum per person to support the General Assembly, Synod, and Presbytery. We were recently notified that the amount is being increased for 2025, which you'll see reflected on your statement as \$38 per church member. Thank you for your support.

Job Openings: We are currently seeking a Chapel Music Director and an Office Manager/Executive Assistant to the Pastor. Full job descriptions are available at www.firstpreslibertyville.org.

David Edelfelt Concert on Jan. 3: Looking for a fun, sophisticated and inspiring way to start 2025? Join David Edelfelt on Friday, Jan. 3 at 7:30 PM in the chapel for an eclectic evening of music celebrating the joy of new starts!

Game Night & Chili Cook-Off on Jan. 5: Join us on Jan. 5 from 4:30-6:30 PM in Fellowship Hall for an all ages game night and chili competition dinner. We'll have board games for all ages and you are invited to bring your favorite, too! Dinner will be served at 5:45 PM. All chili chefs interested in entering the competition should contact Rev. Nicole at nchapman-farley@boxp.net by December 22. We're offering four competition categories: traditional *with* beans, traditional *without* beans, hot, and non-traditional.

Inquirers Class on Jan. 17 & 18: If you've been worshipping with us and are thinking of becoming a member of First Pres Libertyville, we invite you to attend our Inquirers Class to discover more about our church and how we are joined together by God's love. We hold Inquirers Classes on an as needed basis, generally two to three times per year. Our next class will be held Friday, Jan. 17 from 6:45 -8:45 PM and Saturday, Jan. 18 from 9:00-11:30 AM. Give us a call at 847-362-2174, fill out the Interest Form online, or email us at office@boxp.net.

Open Mic Coffee House on Jan. 26 from 4-5:30 PM: Come for fellowship, fun, and to share your talents with our youth group and congregation! We will be taking a free-will offering that will go towards SHF's summer retreat to Montreat and JHF's summer retreat to Quest.