



CHRISTMAS EVE 2024

7:00 P.M. AND 10:00 P.M.
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
LIBERTYVILLE, ILLINOIS
847-362-2174

WWW.FIRSTPRESLIBERTYVILLE.ORG
A CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)

The Order of Worship

December 24, 2024 ~ Christmas Eve

Candlelight Worship

Seven and Ten o'clock p.m.

*The prelude is your invitation into quiet preparation for worship of the Christ child.
Please offer that gift of peaceful reverence for those seated around you.*

PRELUDE

North Shore String Quartet

PREPARATION IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

Our Scottish Presbyterian heritage honors the historic role of Beadle—an officer of the church with responsibility to secure and prepare the Holy Scriptures for worship. We honor that tradition on Christmas Eve.

OPENING SENTENCES AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Brian Paulson

Leader: ...Good news of a great joy!

**All: For unto us a child is born,
unto us a Son is given.**

◆ CAROLS IN PROCESSION

O Come All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant; O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!

Come and behold him, born the King of Angels!

O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultations; sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God, all glory in the highest!

O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king; let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ, while fields and floods, rocks, hills,
and plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.**

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

(7 p.m. The Stieber Family)
(10 p.m. The Devlin/Hosken Family)

CAROL

Still, Still, Still

STILL, STILL, STILL

**Still, still, still, he sleeps this night so chill! The virgin's tender arms enfolding,
warm and safe the child are holding. Still, still, still, he sleeps this night so chill.**

CHRISTMAS PRAYER 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.**

ANTHEM

O Little Town of Bethlehem

arr. Dan Forrest

Chancel Choir—David H. Edelfelt, conductor; Gloria Song, piano; North Shore String Quartet;
Kaethe Durham, oboe (7pm); Kristen Townander, flute (10pm)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

7 p.m. - Rev. Amy Heinrich

THE PROMISE

Psalm 96

◆ CAROL

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

W ZLOBIE LEZY

Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the babe is Lord of all! Christ the babe is Lord of all!

Flocks were sleeping; shepherds keeping vigil til the morning new
saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of the gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing greet the morrow:
Christ the babe was born for you! Christ the babe was born for you!

THE PROPHECY

Isaiah 9:2-7

ANTHEM

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

arr. L. Farnell

Men's Quintet: Martin Frey, Michael Kollasch, John Shahagian(7pm), Guy Stehley, Joel Shepherd,
Kirk Townander(10pm) - Gloria Song, director

THE FULFILLMENT

Luke 2:1-14

◆ CAROL

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

MUELLER

Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
you, who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:
come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king!

Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing; yonder shines the infant light:
come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king!

Sages, leave your contemplations; brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations; you have seen his natal star:
come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king!

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One:
come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king!

SERMON

Good News for All

The Rev. Dr. Brian R. Paulson

◆ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH IN SONG

Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song? *(Refrain)*
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn king. *(Refrain)*
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

THE OFFERING

Invitation to Discipleship

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

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.**

The Christmas Joy Offering has been a Presbyterian tradition for almost 70 years. Fifty percent goes to the Board of Pensions Financial Assistance Programs. Fifty percent is given to help with operating costs of eight racial/ethnic minority schools and colleges. Christmas Joy Offering envelopes are available for this special gift. Any undesignated offerings will be used for ongoing ministries and missions of FPC Libertyville.

Offertory Anthem

A Christmas Lullaby

arr. Mark Hayes

Chancel Choir, North Shore String Quartet, Gloria Song, piano

Prayer of Dedication

LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS CANDLES

John 1

CAROL

Silent Night, Holy Night!

STILLE NACHT

(When the candle bearer lifts the light, please raise your candle.)

**Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
'round yon virgin mother and child! Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing "Alleluia:
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born!"**

**Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord at thy birth.**

**Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing Alleluia to our King:
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born.**

BEARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

"...and a little child shall lead them"

Isaiah 11:6

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

North Shore String Quartet

♦ *Stand as you are able.*

Ministers:

The Rev. Dr. Brian R. Paulson
The Rev. Amy Heinrich
The Rev. Nicole Chapman-Farley
Alex Barnes, M.Div.

North Shore String Quartet:

Pamela Lutter-Yeo & Cathy Schmidt, violin
Christine Due, viola
Richard Yeo, cello

Beadle:

7 p.m. Elder Tony Cacich
10 p.m. Elder Gary Holland

Cross Bearer:

7 p.m. Rosie Sahagian
10 p.m. Declan Hosken

Candle Bearer:

7 p.m. Hannah Stieber
10 p.m. Emma Hosken

Department Head of Music and organist: Gloria Song

The offering we invite in each worship service is grounded in the belief that Christian life is an offering of one's self to God. As those who have been claimed and set free by Christ's grace, we respond with gratitude, offering him our lives, our spiritual gifts, and our material goods. [*Book of Order*, W-3.0411]

Giving: Tonight's general offering will go to the needs of the local church. You may also give by texting Firstpreslib to 73256 or going online to www.firstpreslibertyville.org.

Year-End Giving: If you contemplate year-end financial gifts, please remember First Pres, as your gifts help us sustain our ministries and resource our efforts to be God's hands and feet. If you have not yet done so, please prayerfully consider pledging a commitment to First Pres for the coming year.

Cover Art: Allan Rohan Crite's Holy Family in Repose" is one example of the way his deep faith was expressed in local scenes. Some of his works are at The National Center for Afro-American Artists in his native Boston.