

United Church of Christ

December 8, 2024 - Second Sunday of Advent



Children in preschool through 5th grade begin worship with their families and will be dismissed to Sunday School shortly. For parents who need a quiet, calm place to go with smaller children, the Nursery is available across from the main office. The audio of the service -- as well as activities for infants and toddlers -- are accessible, but the room is not staffed.

PRELUDE

And Heaven and Nature Sing

Matthew Prins

TIME OF SHARING & CONNECTING WITH THE COMMUNITY

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

GATHERING FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER

***GATHERING SONG** *It came Upon the Midnight Clear (NCH #131)*

*It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold;
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, great news of joy we bring."
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.*

*Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world:
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.*

*And you, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way, with painful steps and slow,
Look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing;
O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing!*

*For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophets bards foretold,
when with the ever-circling years comes round the age of gold;
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and the world send back the song which now the angels sing.*

***LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

Second Year Confirmation Class

Reader: Because of war, because of violence in our communities, because there is still so much unrest in our hearts, we desire peace. Because hatred is still so strong, because so many swords have not yet been remade into ploughshares, we light a candle of peace (*Light the candle of hope and the candle of peace*)

Congregation: May the light from this candle overwhelm the world. May the light from this candle say to all that God's peace is coming, on earth as it already is in heaven.

Reader: Friends, be not afraid, God's peace is at hand!

Children in preschool through 5th grade are now dismissed to Sunday School; a teacher will be on-hand to guide them to their class. Sunday School students should be picked up by a parent or other responsible adult at 11:30 a.m. at the Resource Room (on the lower level).

THE WORD OF GOD FOR THE PEOPLE OF GOD

through an anthem

More Carols of Christmas
Josiah Reade Ringers

arr. Linda Scholes

through scripture

Luke 1:68-79

“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them. He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his child David, as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us. Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors and has remembered his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness in his presence all our days.

And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins. Because of the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to shine upon those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

through a sermon

The Promise of Compassion

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

HYMN

In the Bleak Midwinter (NCH #128)

*In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.*

*Our God transcends all heaven, earth, and its domain;
heaven and earth shall flee away when Christ comes to reign;
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
the sovereign God almighty, Jesus Christ.*

*Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
cherubim and seraphim thronged the midnight air;
But his mother only, in her maiden bliss,
worshiped the beloved with a kiss.*

*What can I offer, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise one, I would do my part;
but what I can I offer: all my heart.*

INVITATION TO SHARE OUR GIFTS

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYER SONG

O Little Town of Bethlehem (NCH #133, vs. 4)

*O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels, the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!*

PASTORAL PRAYER & 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.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for
Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.*

SENT FORTH TO PROCLAIM GOD'S GRACE

*PARTING SONG

Hark the Herald Angels Sing (NCH #144)

*Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King:
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!" [refrain]*

Refrain:

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King"

*Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb:
veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel. [Refrain]*

*Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth. [Refrain]*

*ADVENT BLESSING

A Blessing for Open Arms

Kate Bowler

Blessed are you with open arms to welcome God this Advent,
willing to invite its promises into the center of your longing.

Blessed are you, even now in the waiting.
Open to receiving what is beautiful though clothed in such precarity.

Blessed are you, agreeing to stand still long enough
to let your eyes adjust to the darkness until the starlight begins to appear,
the dawning of God's promises.

In that gentle light, find a corner of your heart where hope can stay protected.
A place from which we can nurture a little gratitude, a little compassion, enough to go around.
Some for God and some for yourself.
And some for the next unsuspecting soul that wanders into your light

POSTLUDE

Postlude on Noel, Noel

arr. David Schwoebel

*As you are able, please stand in body or in spirit.

Please join us for the Congregational Meeting, immediately following the service.

NEWS AND NOTES

FIRST CHURCH OF LOMBARD
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Published Weekly

December 8, 2024

20 South Main Street
Lombard, Illinois 60148
No.1279

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held THIS Sunday, December 8th immediately after worship in the Sanctuary. Please plan on attending to hear about this past year's activities and review the budget for this coming year. Childcare will be provided.

HOLIDAY BAKE SALE FUNDRAISER FOR THE YOUTH!

Mark Your Calendars! Sunday, December 15 will be the Holiday Bake Sale hosted by FCL's Youth Community! Plan now to come after worship to buy a plate (or several!) and help fund the 2025 Youth Community Summer Mission Trip!

LAST CHANCE CRAFT SALE

The women's fellowship will be having their last chance Christmas Craft sale on Sunday, December 15th after worship. This is your chance to pick up some cute Christmas gifts and stocking stuffers while supporting the Women's Fellowship.

IN LIEU OF POINSETTIAS

In lieu of purchasing poinsettias this year, the Worship Team invites you to make a donation in memory or in honor of a loved one. The donations will be split between Community Table, which provides free meals to members of our community twice a month and the Outreach House, where we refer most community members seeking assistance.

Donations can be made by filling out the forms located in the Narthex or online [HERE](#). Under the fund, select "Miscellaneous" and write who the donation is in memory/honor of in the memo line. Please make your donation by December 17th so that we may include the list of names in the Christmas Eve bulletin.

RECOGNIZING OUR GREAT STAFF

We appreciate the way that our church staff serves our membership and the Christmas Season offers us a way to express our gratitude to them.

As in past years, the Church Council will be accepting contributions for a monetary gift that will be shared with all staff. Those contributions may be sent to the church, attention Church Council, or given to a member of the Council: Jason Cooper, Jeff Cook, Jon Walsh, Lisa White, Amy O'Callaghan, Eric Wilson, Garett George, Tony Oakson, Paul Meyer and Barb Sorgatz.

Donations will be accepted starting November 17th and it is hoped that all contributions will be received by December 15th for distribution prior to Christmas.

The Church Council wishes to thank everyone for their generous support and their wish for a safe Christmas season filled with love and happiness.

WEDNESDAY EVENING ADVENT STUDY: THE WEARY WORLD REJOICES

FCL's Annual Advent Study started Wednesday, December 4 at 7:00 p.m. Members of both First Church of Lombard and First UMC of Lombard will gather at in the North Conference Room at First Church of Lombard (220 S. Main St.) to discuss "The Weary World Rejoices" by Kate Bowler; a free companion devotional is available at <https://tinyurl.com/AdventDevo2024>.

Contact PastorJill@firstchurchoflombard.org with questions; Zoom links will be sent the first week of December.

LAST CHANCE - TOYS/GIFTS TO A GOOD HOME...

We (First Church of Lombard and Outreach House) are partnering with Love Christian Clearinghouse and Toy Express for the 12th year in a row to help families in need during our Christmas season. These toys/gifts are given to children throughout DuPage County who may not otherwise receive anything. Please consider donating toys or gifts for our Annual Toy Express Program. Simply bring the gifts to First Church, and drop them in the giant gift box, located in the narthex. Toys/gifts should be new, unwrapped, and age appropriate for children under 12 years old. You can donate these gifts through **December 8th**.

Love Christian Clearinghouse will collect the toys/gifts and deliver them to Toy Express in the name of First Church of Lombard/Outreach House.

If you have any questions, contact Lynda S. Wilson at church, 630-707-1868, or 630-512-8669, or lswilson@love-cc.org.

Thank you in advance, for your generous hearts!

COMMUNITY TABLE

Everyone is invited to Community Table this Wednesday, December 11th at 5:30 PM in Fellowship Hall. Come and enjoy a meal with your First Church friends and community members and celebrate the last CT of 2024.

SEND US YOUR CARDS AND PICTURES

Christmas is a great time for family and friends to connect and catch up! We would love to liven up our bulletin boards with Christmas cards and/or Christmas photos from our FCL friends and family! Please send or bring in your cards and/or photos to the church office so we can share them with everyone. We can't wait to see all your smiling faces!

PICK UP A DEVOTIONAL

"The Mess in the Messiah" is the intriguing title of the 2024 UCC Advent-Christmastide Devotional. Please help yourself to a copy on the tables in the foyer while they last.

BOOK DISCUSSION COMING WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15

The top vote-getter for the Beyond Word Book Discussion is in! All are invited to come discuss Tattoos on the Heart by Gregory Boyle at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 15 either in the North Conference Room or via Zoom. Copies of the book are available in the church office for a cost of \$12 each. Please contact vsutton@firstchurchoflombard.org for Zoom link, to arrange pick-up of the book if you can't stop by on a Sunday morning, or if copies are not available when you do!



IN OUR WIDER COMMUNITY

HOPE AFTER OVERDOSE SUPPORT GROUP

NAMI DuPage is offering a warm, supportive group for those grieving a loved one lost to overdose, offering hope and sense of community. The meetings are held the 1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6PM at Nami DuPage (room 120) located at 115 N. County Farm Road, Wheaton. Contact Jeri Shaw at jeri.shaw@me.com with any questions.

REFUGEE ASSISTANCE

Illinois Community for Displaced Immigrants (ICDI) is grateful for the donations received to assist refugees. Financial and material donations help immigrants living throughout the Chicago area.

At this moment, they are in need of the following items:

- ❖ Men's winter **washable** coats- S, M & L sizes.
- ❖ Children's winter hats & gloves – S & M sizes.
- ❖ Anything soccer.
- ❖ Cleaning supplies, especially laundry detergent.
- ❖ Gift cards for groceries.

You can bring them to First Church and place them in the blue bin in the Narthex, right outside of the Sanctuary doors.

As donations of clothing and other supplies continue to come in, ICDI is in need of volunteers to sort and organize donations. The shifts are Monday - Friday 9 am - 12 pm at Elmhurst Presbyterian Church - 367 Spring Rd, Elmhurst, IL 60126. Contact Jeri Shaw at jeri.shaw@me.com to volunteer.

TEEN PARENT CONNECTION HOLIDAY SHARING PROGRAM

This giving season, consider donating to Teen Parent Connection's Holiday Sharing Program. Through the support and generosity of our community, we are able to spread holiday joy by providing brand new toys and gifts to over 100 young families.

Scan this QR code for 2024 wish lists.



Volunteers for Sunday, December 8, 2024	Volunteers for Sunday, December 15, 2024
<u>Liturgist</u> Linda Bertani	<u>Liturgist</u> Tiffany Warmowski
<u>Ushers</u> Becky Kirsh Matt Kirsh	<u>Ushers</u> Dave Ivey Marianne McGuire
<u>Coffee Hour</u> Corinne Flemm Judy Kline Lynda Wilson	<u>Coffee Hour</u> Barb Sorgatz Tiffany & Steve Warmowski
<u>Sound</u> Charlie Peterson	<u>Sound</u> Andrew Eckhart
<u>Video Streaming</u> Eric Wilson	<u>Video Streaming</u> Eric Wilson

Church Office Hours

Tuesday & Thursday
8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Sunday
8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Monday & Wednesday
Available by appointment

Friday & Saturday
CLOSED

STAFF

Rev. Dr. Jill Terpstra - Senior Minister
Val Sutton - Director of Educational Ministries
Janette Rodriguez - Director of Music Ministries
Lawrence Underwood - Children and Youth Music Coordinator
Charlie Peterson - Porter
Bea Castillo - Administrative Secretary

Phone: 630-629-2630

www.FCOL.org