



# First Presbyterian Church



## **Sunday Worship**

Third Sunday of Advent (Year B)

13 December 2020

9:30 a.m.

*First Presbyterian at Worship  
Seeking the Faith – Sharing the Spirit – Serving God's People*

## Everyone Is Welcome!



You are invited to join us on our journey of faith! We seek to serve God, to minister to our community, and to love one another. Help us in our quest to become an ever more inclusive church that welcomes all people from all backgrounds, abilities, and identities. Come along and experience the love of God, the grace of Christ, and the communion of the Holy Spirit.

Christian worship joyfully ascribes all praise and honor, glory and power to the triune God.

In worship the people of God acknowledge God present in the world and in their lives.

As they respond to God's claim and redemptive action in Jesus Christ, believers are transformed and renewed. In worship the faithful offer themselves to God and are equipped for God's service in the world. (*Book of Order*, Directory for Worship W 1.1001)

### **First Presbyterian Church of Carbondale Order of Worship for Sunday 12/13/20:**

#### Prayer in Preparation

We thank you, O God,  
for all those in Scripture who have pointed to Christ:  
for your prophets Elijah and Isaiah, for other prophets, and  
for John. We thank you, too,  
for those in our lives who have pointed us to Christ:  
pastors and teachers, strangers and friends.

Give us eyes to see him today among those who are oppressed, imprisoned,  
brokenhearted, or beaten down, and we will give our testimony, too:  
how Christ releases and sets free; how he turns ashes into garlands;  
how he repairs and builds up what was ruined.

We, too, will point others to Jesus,  
the Light of the world. **Amen.**



#### Ministry of the Church

One: We thank God for these opportunities for fellowship and service.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

## **Joys and Concerns**

One: We give thanks to God for these blessings.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

One: For all these people and all who are in need

**All: Please hold your people near, O God!**

**Prelude:** The First Noel (arr. Melody Bober)

*Saem Lee, pianist*

## **Gathering for Worship**

Leader: The Promised One of God brings good news to the oppressed  
and binds up the brokenhearted.

The Promised One of God comforts all who mourn  
and gives a mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

Rejoicing always, praying without ceasing,  
holding fast to what is good, we are witnesses to the light of Christ!

**All: Let us worship God!**

## **Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

Reader: God has given us the perfect gift — Jesus, Emmanuel — God with  
us. The angels brought good news of comfort and the promise that Jesus  
is coming to save us from our sins. With joy, we wait for the promise  
of Emmanuel — God with us.

*Light the first candle.*

Reader: As prophets predicted, we remember the stories and proclaim the  
ways Jesus comforts us and brings good news to our world.

*Light the second candle.*

Reader: We wait for the coming of the Christ-child who brings hope  
To a world in need and gladness to those with sad hearts.  
May we hear the words of the prophet to our generation.

*Light the third candle. (The pink one.)*

*Spoken or Sung (Tune: "Frere Jacques")*

Reader: God is with us (echo: God is with us),

What a gift! (echo: What a gift!).

Waiting and expecting (echo: Waiting and expecting),

Christmas joy (echo: Christmas joy).

**O come, O come, Emmanuel  
And ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**O come, thou Wisdom from on high  
Who orderest all things mightily  
To us the path of knowledge show;  
And teach us in her ways to go.**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

### **Call to Confession**

Leader: Old habits and new wrongs wear ruts  
through our lives and relationships.  
But God is able to restore us.  
Like water coursing through a desert,  
the waters of baptism flow through us,  
reminding us that we belong to God  
and are raised to new life.

### **Prayer of Confession**

Leader: Let us pray...

**All: Merciful God, you love justice;  
why, then, do we persist in wrongdoing and every form of evil?  
You have given us the gift of your Spirit;  
why, then, do we quench the Spirit among us?  
You have given us the words of the prophets  
and the Word himself;  
why, then, do we despise and ignore  
what we have heard from you?  
You have sent the light into the world;  
why, then, have we loved darkness rather than light?  
Forgive us. Restore us. Till and tend us as your garden  
until righteousness and praise spring up,  
for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

## **Assurance of Forgiveness**

Leader: In Jesus Christ, the Lord has done great things for us!  
Even if we have gone out in tears, God brings us home shouting for joy.  
Thanks be to God: we are forgiven!

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## **Giving of the Peace**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you all!

**All: And also with you!**

**Response:** #282    Glory to God Whose Goodness Shines on Me

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,  
And to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,  
And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be.    Amen. (2x)**

**Children's Sermon:** The Candle of Joy

## **Minute for Mission**

## **Prayer for Illumination**

Leader: Holy One,  
giver of life and light,  
as your word is read and proclaimed,  
illumine our hearts and minds,  
that by the power of the Holy Spirit, our lives may reflect God's glory. **Amen.**

## **Ministry of Music**

*Carlyn Zimmermann et al.*

## **New Testament Lesson:**

1 Thessalonians 5:12-28

Minister: <sup>12</sup>But we appeal to you, brothers and sisters, to respect those who labor among you, and have charge of you in the Lord and admonish you; <sup>13</sup>esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. <sup>14</sup>And we urge you, beloved, to admonish the idlers, encourage the faint hearted, help the weak, be patient with all of them. <sup>15</sup>See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all.



<sup>16</sup>Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup>pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup>give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. <sup>19</sup>Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup>Do not despise the words of prophets, <sup>21</sup>but test everything; hold fast to what is good; <sup>22</sup>abstain from every form of evil.

<sup>23</sup>May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup>The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this. <sup>25</sup>Beloved, pray for us. <sup>26</sup>Greet all the brothers and sisters with a holy kiss. <sup>27</sup>I solemnly command you by the Lord that this letter be read to all of them. <sup>28</sup>The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

Minister: The word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Proclamation of the Word:** Giving Thanks for Thankful Giving

**Affirmation of Faith:** The Apostles' Creed

Leader: Let us confess our faith together...

**All: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,  
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the  
Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was  
crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose  
again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right  
hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the  
quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion  
of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the  
life everlasting. Amen.**

**Hymn: #88 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

*vv. 3-4*

**O come, o come, thou Lord of might / Who to thy tribes on Sinai's height  
In ancient times didst give the law / In cloud and majesty and law.**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**O come, thou Root of Jesse, free  
Thine own from Satan's tyranny  
From depths of hell thy people save  
And give them victory o'er the grave.**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

## Minute for Stewardship

### Invitation to the Offering:

Leader: At this time of year, the abundance of some and the needs of so many stand in marked contrast. As we bring now our tithes and offerings, may Christ's heart rejoice and the needs of others be tended.

*Please, as you are financially able, continue to contribute to the life and ministry of the church through your gifts. Give online at <http://www.firstprescdale.org>, through direct deposit or by sending checks in the mail.*



### **\*Doxology: #606**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow**

**Praise God all creatures here below**

**Praise God above ye heavenly host**

**Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

### **Prayer of Dedication**

Leader: Gracious God, teach us to give thanks in all circumstances, for you are always with us.

Thank you for the privilege of sharing what we have with others, of giving ourselves away in love, and of receiving the gifts that others share with us.

With our whole being, spirit and soul and body, we rejoice in you. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer**

Minister: God inspires us to pray, hears our prayers, and answers our prayers.

**All: Alleluia! Amen!**

Minister: Let us pray...

#### *Silent Prayer*

Minister: Let us pray together the Lord's Prayer...

**All: Our Father in heaven,**

**Hallowed be your name,**

**Your kingdom come, your will be done,**

**on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
Now and forever. Amen.**

**Hymn:** #136 Go. Tell It on the Mountain

vv. 1-3

**Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere  
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!**

**While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.**

**The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.**

**Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,  
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.**

### **Charge and Blessing**

Minister: Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing.

Witness to the light of Christ so that all might believe through him.

Now may the God of peace call forth your complete dedication;

may the light of Christ shine upon you;

and the Holy Spirit fill you completely, now and forever.

**Postlude:** Hallelujah Joy! (arr. Mark Hayes)

**A Moment of Reflection:** "The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away." —*Pablo Picasso*

### ***Household Prayer: Morning***

Light of the world,  
you greet me this morning with new possibilities.  
Shine brightly, I pray,  
until I see into the dark places of this world,  
and into the dark places of my own life.



I want to follow you in paths of justice,  
speak up with you for liberty,  
and bend with you toward the brokenhearted,  
even the broken places within myself.  
I trade in my faint spirit for your mantle of praise— *I*  
and with my whole being  
I will rejoice in you. Amen.

### ***Household Prayer: Evening***

Restore me, O God, from the rush of the day.  
Let me dream this night of all the great things you have done.  
As the darkness comes and these little lights in my house glow,  
I give thanks for the greater Light no darkness  
can overcome.  
To anyone who mourns or sits in prison  
or fears danger this night, bring the peace that only you can give.  
You are faithful, and I know you will do this.  
In Christ. Amen.

**Worship Assistant:** Lisa Hollabaugh

Next Week: Sharon Wittke

### **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2020**

Wednesday Afternoon Bible Study at 3:30pm

### **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2020**

Advent Vespers Service via Zoom at 7:00pm

### **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2020**

Worship via Zoom at 9:30am. Sign in early for fellowship.  
Faith Dialogues begins 15 minutes after the service concludes

#### **Pastor Kerry's Office Hours**

**Monday** 9:00am - 12:00 noon

**Wednesday** 9:00 – 12:00 noon

*If you would like a call or a visit—or if you know someone who needs a visit—  
please let Kerry or one of the Deacons know.*

## **Announcements**

**Faith Dialogues** continues its series of Advent discussions: "Annunciations" produced by the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. No advanced reading needed. Just join us after fellowship time on Zoom.

Check the church **Facebook page** (First Presbyterian Church of Carbondale IL) for creative ideas regarding at home Advent wreath and decorations and post a photo of your wreath for all to enjoy.

This Sunday is **Stewardship Sunday**! Next week we collect the **Christmas Joy Offering**!

## **Joys and Concerns**

### **Pray for God's grace, mercy & help:**

- Covid19 Pandemic patients, including national and local leaders
- Social unrest and political polarization
- Those in the destructive path of natural disasters
- Those who are homeless, especially with the coming onset of winter

### **Ongoing Concerns:**

Each week we pray for one of the faith communities that participate in the Carbondale Interfaith Council. This week the council asks us to please pray for: **SIH Health Ministry**

The Mission/Ministry we are praying for this month is: **Worship**

### **Remember to pray for:**

- Our National Leaders
- Students, faculty, and staff at school
- Our nation in midst of violence
- Our world, in the midst of terrorism
- Refugees in Europe
- Resolution to the migrant dilemma
- Homeless, unemployed and those without adequate health care
- Missionaries in Africa and everywhere
- Service men and women

## LEADERSHIP

<b>Interim Pastor</b> Kerry Bean (618)-549-2148 ext 101 pastorkerry@firstprescdale.org	<b>Music Director</b> Carlyn Zimmermann (618) 549-2148 ext 106 carlyn@firstprescdale.org	<b>Administrative Assistant</b> Barbara Stewart (618) 549-2148 ext 100 office@firstprescdale.org
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## SESSION

[asksession@firstprescdale.org](mailto:asksession@firstprescdale.org)

<b>Faith Development</b> <a href="mailto:faith@firstprescdale.org">faith@firstprescdale.org</a> Jane Swanson (2021) Reona Daly (2022)	<b>Fellowship</b> <a href="mailto:fellowship@firstprescdale.org">fellowship@firstprescdale.org</a> Jonathan Brooks (2020) David Peters (2022)	<b>Membership</b> <a href="mailto:membership@firstprescdale.org">membership@firstprescdale.org</a> Sarah Merideth (2023) Lisa Hollabaugh (2022)
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<b>Clerk</b> <a href="mailto:clerk@firstprescdale.org">clerk@firstprescdale.org</a> David King		<b>Webmaster</b> <a href="mailto:webmaster@firstprescdale.org">webmaster@firstprescdale.org</a> Jane Swanson

## BOARD OF DEACONS

[askdeacons@firstprescdale.org](mailto:askdeacons@firstprescdale.org)

<b>Class of 2021</b> Phyllis Beck Carolyn Hooker Brenda Myers Mark O' Donoghue	<b>Class of 2022</b> Jill Hertzing Dori Jefferson	<b>Class of 2023</b> Diane Cash Marta Davis Pam Holt
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You are encouraged to speak with individual elders or deacons, or email Session, Session ministries or the Board of Deacons with announcements, suggestions, questions, or concerns. If, after a reasonable length of time, you do not receive a reply, please re-send your email to [asksession@firstprescdale.org](mailto:asksession@firstprescdale.org).