

November 26 Sermon Notes

9 and 11:30 a.m. Worship Services

Preacher: Rev. Raymond Hylton

Scripture: Psalm 24 (*Old Testament*, pp. 507-508)

Title: The Discipline of Worship

Series: Soul Sculpting: Disciplines that shape the follower of Jesus

Big Idea: Worship is both an individual and a corporate act. That is to say, worship is both something we do when we gather and something we do as we go through the course of our lives. In the New Testament, worship speaks to how we act - or live our lives- in the presence of God. In its most basic sense, worship is the proper response of believers to God. Thus, true worship is restricted to those who have come into a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

Next Week - First Week of Advent

9 and 11:30 a.m. Worship Services

NEW SERIES! - Advent Series: Lessons from the Characters of Christmas

The season of Advent and Christmas gives the church space to ponder the people whose lives intersected the miracle of Messiah's birth. Even though our culture is removed from theirs by some 2,000 years, what lessons might the lives of these people teach us?

Preacher: Rev. Raymond Hylton

Scripture: Luke 1:26-38 (*New Testament*, p. 53)

Title: Mary: I am the servant of the Lord

Big Idea: Even though she does not fully grasp the message of the angel, Mary teaches the lesson of an active faith that readily submits to God's will.

Listen to Sunday Sermons on the FPCE website or via the "First Presbyterian Church of Evanston" iTunes podcast. Sermons are usually uploaded by Tuesday evenings.

First Presbyterian Evanston

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Highlights

Today is the beginning of our Advent Adult Education Series entitled "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus: Christian Faith in times of Crisis." Between services each Sunday during Advent, join us in the Dining Room for teachings and discussion on how we keep hope alive in times of extreme crisis. See the back of the bulletin and today's insert for a schedule of the teachings, scripture verses and session leaders.

Our next Wednesday Prayer Gathering will be held November 29 at 7 pm in the Parlor.

Our guest will be Tim Jones, executive director of Good News Partners. Please join us as we learn about and lift up this valuable local mission partner. A Wednesday Night Dinner will be served at 6 pm in the Dining Room. The menu, reprised by popular demand, is Cajun: chicken and andouille gumbo with corn and bacon maque choux. Cost is \$5 per person or \$12 for families of three or more. Reservations through the FPCE front desk are appreciated. All are welcome!

At both services on Sunday, December 10, join us for our special Lessons & Carols service. Hear again and afresh the story of Christ's Incarnation through an interweaving of nine short Bible readings, Christmas carols, and choral reflections, shared by the Chancel Choir, Pop-Up choir, and wonderful FPCE instrumentalists.

Altar Guild volunteers are needed for the preparation of the elements of the Lord's Supper for each of our Sunday communion services. If you are interested in serving this way, please contact Elda McGinty at emcginty@firstpresevanston.org for more information on this important behind-the-scenes role in the life of our church community.

Worth Noting

Book Club will meet on Tuesday, November 28 from 1:30-3 pm in the Parlor. We will be reading *The Alice Network* by Kate Quinn. All are welcome to take part!

First Presbyterian Church will host an overnight shelter again this winter. The dates are December 3-10 and January 14-28. You may sign up online at <http://www.firstpresevanston.org/events/event-registration/> or in the coming weeks during coffee hour. Please contact Charlene Parris via email at c.parris@comcast.net, for more information.

Thanks to all who have taken angels and are participating in this year's Angel Tree ministry. As a reminder, all Angel Tree gifts should be returned to the church no later than Sunday, December 3. Gifts can be dropped off at the front desk of the church office. For questions or more information, please contact John Powell at 847-869-5322.

December 3 at 12:30 pm (after the second service) is our "Christmas Around the World Potluck". Please sign up at the table in the Narthex after the 11:30 am service, or on SignUp-Genius at <https://tinyurl.com/yae6zro4> (you can find the link under Event Registration on the FPCE website, too) if you wish to help with setting up the tables, frying Filipino egg rolls, bringing a dish to share and/or cleaning up. For questions, email ginachang888@gmail.com.

Senior Varsity will meet on Thursday, December 7. Registration will begin at 10:30 am, the presentation at 11, and lunch served at noon (cost: \$5 for lunch). Please register by December 5 at the front desk by calling (847) 864-1472. All are welcome, especially seniors.

Thank you to everyone who participated in having their picture taken for inclusion in the new FPCE Church Directory. Thanks, as well, to all those who volunteered for one or more shifts during the 10 days of photography to welcome and register fellow congregants for the photo sessions. Your willingness to serve is appreciated!



Missions

cweinberg@firstpresevanston.org

Pray for Our

Mission Partners

Pray for our mission partner, Gideon Paramallam, serving on staff with International Fellowship of Evangelical Students (IFES) in Nigeria, from pages 54 and 55 of *52 Weeks of Prayer for Missions*. Pray that Gideon would have discernment and God's leading as he considers options for his Sabbatical time which will span between this November and next July. His Sabbatical is what called a Combination Sabbatical: Rest, Reflection and Study. Gideon will be with family especially in Nigeria for the beginning, and will later travel outside the country. Praise God for the support he has received and for the positive socio-political changes in Nigeria.

First Friends is a ministry centered on refugees that have come to the Chicago/Skokie/Evanston in the past year. Have an ongoing relationship with a refugee family along with others from First Presbyterian; or you can get involved with one-off events with our church and those families! All are welcome. Contact Sally Ivaska at sallyivaska1@gmail.com, or Caryl Weinberg at cweinberg@firstpresevanston.org.

As a sequel to their previous "Repurposed Art" project, The Institute for Therapy Through the Arts and FPCE Volunteers are embarking on another art adventure created by the Saturday guests at First Pres. The project, which is supported by the Institute for Therapy in the Arts, involves weaving with disposable plastic bags. Many colorful plastic bags will be needed for the final creation. Donations of the bags should be made in the box outside the church library. Those feeling led to support the team with your prayer or your presence are most welcome! Call Linda at 847-420-1289 for information about taking part.

Volunteers are needed Saturday, December 16, to accompany children who have a parent in prison to the holiday Zoo Lights display at Lincoln Park Zoo. Both drivers and riders are sought for this Prison Ministry Saturday Surprise. We will leave at 3 pm and return after 7 pm. If you wish to participate, please contact Peter Steffen at wpsteffen3@gmail.com or 312-961-4176.

<http://www.firstpresevanston.org/serve/in-the-world/>

Children and Families

kmuller@firstpresevanston.org

As part of our Christmas Pageant at First Pres, we are inviting all children in our Sunday School and Children's Worship classes to memorize Christmas carols and sing them along with our choir. We'd like to have the children who regularly attend worship with us on Sunday morning to have a special role in the Pageant! During the 4 pm worship service on Christmas Eve, there will be different times when our younger and older Sunday morning children are invited forward. All your child needs to do is memorize the carol(s), listen for the opportunity to come forward in the service, and then join us as we sing. For specific instructions on what words to memorize, please request a letter from your child's Sunday morning teacher or pick one up on the table outside the church library.

Join us on Sunday, December 10, as we decorate gingerbread houses at church! Bring your neighbors and friends for a fun project that people of all ages can work on together. We'll have a decorating open house from 2-4 pm in Roy Hall. There will be a small cost for each house kit, with scholarships available. For more information, contact Courtney Ivaska (courtney.b.ivaska@gmail.com).

Have any leftover Halloween candy that you'd like to donate? Children's Ministry is seeking donations of nut-free, unopened candy that can be used to decorate gingerbread houses this December. Please bring any candy to the box on the Children's Ministry table outside the church library.

New sign-ups have gone out for volunteer helpers in our childcare & Children's Worship on Sunday mornings. We ask every family who uses these rooms on a regular basis to help out once per quarter. If you don't have a child but are looking to serve, we'd love to get to know you & help you get involved! For more information contact Kristin Mueller.

<http://www.firstpresevanston.org/learn/children/>

Employment at FPCE

First Presbyterian Church of Evanston is looking to fill the position of Director of Youth Ministries (full-time). For the full job description and how to apply, please go to <http://www.firstpresevanston.org/about-us/employment>.

Youth and Families

lribeiro@firstpresevanston.org

The next youth band rehearsal will be held Thursday, November 30, in the Sanctuary. Band will meet at 4 pm weekly in preparation of the Christmas Pageant.

NUBS meets each Friday, from 7-9 pm, in the NUBS lounge. Students from grades 6-8 are invited. We will **not** have NUBS on Friday, November 24, due to building closure for the Thanksgiving holiday. Save December 15 for our NUBS Christmas Party.

PYGS meets from 4-6 pm each Sunday afternoon. Dinner is served and a \$5 donation is requested to cover costs. All high school students are welcome. Today we will be making Random Acts of Kindness Advent Calendars. Next week we'll be going to Lincoln Park Zoo to enjoy the Christmas Zoo Lights. Save December 17 for our PYGS Christmas Party.

Our next Service Saturday will be December 9. We will be helping to serve at Souper Saturday. Visit <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c094caeeaa2ca1fc1-service> to sign up. Every month on the second Saturday of the month we will be doing a different service project. Join our email list to get all the details.

Calling mentors and leaders: The youth ministry needs you! The youth ministry is seeking spiritually mature adults to invest in and guide our students. If you are interested in serving as a NUBS or PYGS leader, or confirmation mentor please reach out to Liz Ribeiro.

T-Shirts are for sale for \$15 at the front desk. First come first served.

Parent Small Group – A parent small group will be held on Sunday evenings from 4-6 pm during the high school PYGS youth group time. Focus of the scripture teaching will mirror the youth devotionals to help keep in step as a family. Please email leaders Alison Velasco alsvelasco@gmail.com and Susan Hood susan_hood@comcast.net to join. If you are interested in joining or leading a small group on Friday nights during the NUBS youth group please email Liz at lribeiro@firstpresevanston.org. Training for leaders will be provided by the small group ministry team.

More details about Youth events can be found in our weekly email. Text YOUTHGROUP to 42828 to subscribe!

<http://www.firstpresevanston.org/learn/students/>

Young Adults and Families

hcoates@firstpresevanston.org

Family Open Gym

Thursdays, 4-7 pm, Roy Hall

Open for parents and their children to come run around, shoot some baskets, play some games. No need to RSVP; just show up and have a great time!

<http://www.firstpresevanston.org/learn/adults/young-adults/>

Prayer in the Parlor

The Parlor on the second floor is open each Wednesday for prayer and meditation from 9 am to 9 pm. All are welcome to come and spend time in prayer and praise in the space set aside for a holy time with God.

2018 Stewardship Campaign Update

Our total pledges to date (11/13/2017) for the 2018 Stewardship Campaign are as follows:

Goal (2018 Budget): \$1,050,000
Funds pledged: \$906,962

Pledges: 182
Faith Commitments: 23
Total Giving Unit Commitments to date: 205
Last Year's Total Giving Unit Commitments: 292

Thank you for your support.

Pledge Cards are still available in the FPCE Lobby or online at <http://www.firstpresevanston.org/giving/giving-campaign/>.