

## December 3 Sermon Notes - First Week of Advent - Communion Sunday

9 and 11:30 a.m. Worship Services

Preacher: Rev. Raymond Hylton

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

Title: Mary - "I am the servant of the Lord"

### 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?

**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.

## Next Week - Second Week of Advent

9 and 11:30 a.m. Worship Services

### Lessons & Carols

Join us for our annual musical walk through the Scriptures as we prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus Christ!

**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

1427 Chicago Avenue  
Evanston, IL 60201  
847-864-1472

[www.firstpresevanston.org](http://www.firstpresevanston.org)

## Highlights

Our offering, today, is designated for the Deacons' Fund, which supports our outreach efforts in the local community. These gifts are intended to be above and beyond the regular general fund commitments. Please prayerfully consider your giving.

Today at 12:30 pm (after the second service) is our "Christmas Around the World Pot-luck" in Roy Hall. Come join us to fellowship and taste all the wonderful variety of cultures we have here at FPCE!

Senior Varsity will meet on Thursday, December 7, in the Dining Room. The topic is **Christmas Around the World**. Allen Kakooza, one of our members, will speak on Christmas in Uganda. 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.

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.

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 cost of \$10 for each house kit, with scholarships available. For more information, contact Courtney Ivaska ([courtney.b.ivaska@gmail.com](mailto:courtney.b.ivaska@gmail.com)) or register on the First Pres website.

## Worth Noting

We offer our heartfelt sympathy and prayers to the Powell family, for the passing of Judith Hutchinson, the mother of John Powell, who passed away on November 29. A private graveside service is being planned.

First Presbyterian Church will host an overnight shelter again this winter. The dates are December 3-10 and January 14-28. We are still in need of volunteers for both weeks. 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](mailto:c.parris@comcast.net), for more information.

For those who got their photos taken for the church directory and did not order a package, your free 8x10 photo is available to be picked up at the front desk.

Mark your calendars for New Year's Eve and "First Night Evanston," when all of Evanston comes to First Presbyterian to celebrate the new year. Details to come.

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](mailto:emcginty@firstpresevanston.org) for more information on this important behind-the-scenes role in the life of our church community.

Book Club will meet again on January 9, 2018, from 1:30-3 pm in the Parlor. We will be reading *News of the World* by Paulette Jiles. According to the Amazon.com summary, "In the aftermath of the Civil War, an aging itinerant news reader agrees to transport a young captive of the Kiowa back to her people in this exquisitely rendered, morally complex, multilayered novel of historical fiction from the author of *Enemy Women* that explores the boundaries of family, responsibility, honor, and trust." All are welcome!



First Pres at a Glance

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN EVANSTON

December 3, 2017

## Missions

cweinberg@firstpresevanston.org

### Pray for Our

#### Mission Partners

Pray for our mission partner, the Akrofi Christaller Institute of Theology, Mission and Culture, from pages 56 and 57 of *52 Weeks of Prayer for Missions*. The institute was established by the Presbyterian Church of Ghana to serve the wider Christian community in Ghana and Africa. Pray for their faculty staff, current and prospective students, and for God's provision.

**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.

**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.

<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.

**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, December 7, 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. 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. This week we'll be going to Lincoln Park Zoo to enjoy the Christmas Zoo Lights. Save December 17 for our PYGS Christmas Party at the Hood Family home.

**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](mailto:alsvelasco@gmail.com) and Susan Hood [susan\\_hood@comcast.net](mailto: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](mailto: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 (11/27/2017) for the 2018 Stewardship Campaign are as follows:

**Goal** (2018 Budget): \$1,050,000  
**Funds pledged:** \$988,162

**Pledges:** 190  
**Faith Commitments:** 23  
**Total Giving Unit Commitments to date:** 213  
**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/>.