
FOCUS

Prayer Before Worship

“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel”
(which means “God with us”).

Matthew 1:23

OPENING PRAISE

Greeting

Opening Praise **Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus***

(Words and Music: Charles Wesley and Rowland Hugh Prichard; arr. Fernando Ortega)

Prepare The Way, O Zion*

(Words and Music: Frans Mikael Franzen and Charles P. Price, Arr. Elda McGinty)

Prayer of Confession

God our Maker, we confess that we are not ready to meet you.

You send your Spirit to release us, yet we remain captivated by sin.

You stand among us in Christ Jesus, yet we claim we do not know you.

Forgive us, God of grace. Make us holy; make us whole.

**Keep us safe and sound until the day of your coming;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

(People offer their own private silent prayers to the Lord)

Declaration of Forgiveness

As we hear the ancient prophecies of the coming of the Messiah, we long for the day when death will be swallowed up and every tear will be wiped away. As we wait expectantly for Christ’s promised return, we live in the assurance of God’s gracious forgiveness.

Come Thou Fount, Come Thou King*

(Words and Music: Thomas Miller, Robert Robinson, and John Wyeth)

Lighting of the Third Candle of Advent: Joy

CONNECT

Welcome & Announcements

Offering

Musical Offering - Handbells

**Change Ring Prelude on ‘Divinum Mysterium’
Of the Father’s Love Begotten**

(Fred Gramann, based on a 13th century Plainsong)

Passing of the Peace

ENCOUNTER

Scripture Lesson

Matthew 1:18-25, 2:13-15

(New Testament, p. 1, 2)

Message

Joseph: Radical Obedience

Big Idea: The word decide, or decision, means to cut off or to kill. Making a decision leads one into making a choice that closes off other options. Joseph had to make a decision between socially acceptable norms (quietly divorcing his pregnant betrothed) and radically obeying God’s will and risking shame from his culture.

RESPONSE

Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

All who are truly sorry for their sins, who sincerely believe in the Lord Jesus as their Savior, and who desire to live in obedience to Him, are invited to take communion.

(Please indicate to the servers if you wish to be served in the pew. All are invited to take a piece of bread, dip it in the cup, and receive the elements, with the response, “Thanks be to God!” We are pleased to offer gluten-free communion bread, located in the clear plastic cups at each station.)

Communion Song

Show Us Christ

(Words and Music: Bob Kauflin and Doug Plank)

Prayer After Communion

Affirmation of Faith - Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.27

The one sufficient revelation of God

is Jesus Christ,

the Word of God incarnate,

to whom the Holy Spirit

bears unique and authoritative witness

through the Holy Scriptures,

which are received and obeyed

as the word of God written.

Blessing

** Please stand as you are able*

***Assistive listening devices are available in the back of the sanctuary.*

Please return receivers at the end of the service.

Welcome We’re glad you are here!

We ask everyone to complete and return this tear-off slip to the offering basket every week.

December 17, 2017 - 11:30 a.m.

Your Name

Family members’ names/ages

Street Address, City, State, Zip

Phone: Cell Home

Email address

Send me the weekly E-newsletter

Single

Married

Have children at home

Junior/High School student

College student

First time visitor

Occasional attendee

Regular attendee/member

I’m interested in:

Knowing Jesus better

I need prayer or support

Joining a Small Group

Joining the Welcome Team

Worship Music Team/Choir

Sound/AV/Video Team

Becoming a Member

I need a Stephen Minister

Counseling at The Counseling Center

Communion at home suggested for

_____ (name)

Please Pray for: (This is shared with
pastors & confidential prayer team.)

Please silence all cell phones and electronic devices

Welcome Visitors!

Please visit the Welcome Table in the back of the sanctuary after the service and join us for refreshments in Roy Hall on the 2nd floor. Please sign this tear-off panel with your contact information filled in on the other side and deposit in the offering plate.

Children are welcome in worship!

Parents may use the lounge in the back of the sanctuary to participate in the service via a TV monitor. Worship journals and children's bulletins are available from the ushers, who are also available to direct you to our other facilities.

Prayer Requests

Our prayer companions are available at the front of the sanctuary after each service to pray with you. You may also include your prayer requests on the weekly tear-off tab (on the other side of this bulletin) and deposit it in the offering. Our staff prays weekly for the needs of the congregation.

Worship Service Leaders

Rev. Dr. Ray Hylton, Senior Pastor, Prayer of Confession & Assurance, Prayers of the People

Rev. Henry Coates, Designated Associate Pastor, Welcome, Sermon

Joel McGinty, Scripture Reader

Student Abe Pennant with Mentor

Steve Takushi, Advent Candle Lighters and Readers

Pam Pettibone, Handbell Choir Director

Matt McLeod, Bill Bolsen, Jack Harriff,

Doug Hood, Carol Surma, Hannah

McConnell, Marge Stromberg, Lisa

Fisher, Noah McLeod, Peg Forbes,

Steve Smith, Anne Van Heukelem, Kay Sugiura, Chancel Bells

Elda McGinty, Dir. of Music & Worship, Piano/Worship Leader

Daniel Allen, Worship Leader; **Elizabeth**

Ferguson, Piano/Worship Leader; **Fred**

Bryant, Guitar; **Scott Henrie**, Bass;

Kon Savoy, Drums; **Tina Laughlin**, Percussion

Neal Ostrovsky, A/V Coordinator

Lynn Ostick, A/V Volunteer

Prayer Companions:

Joel McGinty and Kim Klamm

Sunday Worship at First Presbyterian Evanston

9 a.m. Blended Service

Children are welcome in worship!**

Options for Families:

Infants/Toddlers – Crib Room

Ages 2-4 – Blue Room

Ages 4-8 – Children's Worship in the Choir Room following Children's Moment.

Children return to sanctuary during final hymn.

** Worship journals & children's bulletins are available in the back of the Sanctuary.

Changing tables & quiet space is available in the women's lounge (back corner of the Sanctuary).

Fellowship Time (Roy Hall, 2nd Floor) (10:10 am)

A time to connect with new and old friends over coffee, tea and cookies.

Sunday Education 10:30 - 11:15 am

Children's and Youth Christian Foundations Classes

Infants & Toddlers - Crib Room

Ages 2 & 3 - Yellow Room

Pre-K - Blue Room

Kindergarten - Orange Room

Grades 1 & 2 - Rm. 21 (lower level)

Grades 3 & 4 - Rm. 33 (lower level)

Grades 5 & 6 - 3rd Floor (East)

Sunday School Grades 7 & 8 -

NUBS Lounge, 3rd Floor

High School Sunday School Grades

9-12 - PYGS Lounge, Basement

Confirmation - Main Floor Choir Room

Adult Discipleship Learning

Advent Adult Sunday School (Dining Room) – "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus: Christian Faith in times of Crisis."

Advent is a time of hopeful expectation for the coming of the Savior. Yet how do we keep hope alive in times of extreme crisis? Join Drs. William Myatt and Robert Hogg with Pastor Henry Coates as together we explore historical and contemporary crises and the response of Christians in times when hope was hard to keep.

TODAY: Christianity and the Crisis of Poverty - Philippians 4:6

11:30 a.m. Contemporary Service

Children are welcome in worship!**

Options for Families:

Children 4 and under – Crib Room

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Changing tables & quiet space is available in the women's lounge (back corner of the Sanctuary).

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WELCOME TO

Sunday Worship

December 17, 2017, 11:30 am - Contemporary



Third Sunday of Advent - Joseph: Radical Obedience

Our Mission:

KNOWING CHRIST

FOLLOWING CHRIST

SERVING CHRIST



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN EVANSTON