

DECEMBER 19, 2021
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
11:00AM — SANCTUARY



“Light Pierces Through” - Lisle Gwinn Garrity
(acrylic and gold leaf on canvas)



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WEST WAYNE STREET

WELCOME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH!

We're so glad that you are here! If you would like to learn more about us, please fill out the information on the Get Connected card in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate. You are also more than welcome to contact any of our pastors over the phone or by email. God's peace to you today. — Rev. Dr. Anne Epling, Rev. Dr. Youngsoo An, Rev. Ann Pitman and Rev. Carrie Winebrenner

†*Those who are able, please stand*

Congregation responds in bold

GATHERING

PRELUDE *from* Messiah George Frideric Handel

No. 19. Recit: Then Shall the Eyes of the Blind

Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped.

Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb shall sing.

No. 20. Aria: He Shall Feed His Flock

He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: and he shall gather the lambs with his arm and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

Come unto him, all ye that labor, come unto him, that are heavy laden, and he will give you rest.

Take his yoke upon you, and learn of him; for he is meek and lowly of heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

Rachel Parker, Soprano & Cassandra Petrie, Mezzo-Soprano

TOLLING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

My soul magnifies the Lord;

my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

The Mighty One has done great things.

Holy is God's name!

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE — LOVE

Leader One: Today is the fourth Sunday of Advent — our preparations are almost complete for the coming of Jesus. We light candles each week to remind us that Jesus brings light into the dark places of the world. Today we are reminded that God so loved the world that a Child was given...Love incarnate.

Leader Two: We light the candle of hope to proclaim God's light is coming into the world.

Leader One: We light the candle of peace to proclaim that God's promises will be fulfilled in the birth of Jesus Christ, Prince of Peace.

Leader Two: We light the candle of joy to celebrate that God's saving power is coming into the world.

Leader One: We light the candle of love to proclaim that God's love is revealed in the Child born in Bethlehem.

†**HYMN NO. 123** It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

CAROL

†**CALL TO CONFESSION**

†**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God our Savior, we ask for your mercy.

Though we have heard Mary's song, we still seek security in pride and power and possessions.

Though we know your story, we resist the costs of following you.

We pass by those considered lowly in this world.

We turn away from hungry people who still wait to be filled.

Forgive us, we pray.

Help us to work for the justice you intend.

Make us messengers of the peace you bring.

As we wait for you, turn our apathy into acts of love and service.

We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. Amen.

†**ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

†**SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

†**RESPONSIVE HYMN NO. 141** On This Day Earth Shall Ring

PERSONENT HODIE

(Children are welcome to come forward for the "Time with Children" as we sing the responsive hymn.)

1. On this day earth shall ring with the song
2. On this day an - gels sing; with their song

chil - dren sing to the Lord, Christ our King, born on earth to save us;
earth shall ring, to prais - ing Christ, heav - en's King, born on earth to save us;

Refrain

him the Fa - ther gave us. Id - e - o - o - o, id - e - o -
peace and love he gave us.

o - o, id - e - o glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

HEARING THE WORD

TIME WITH CHILDREN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Micah 5:2-5a

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM Candle Carol

K. Lee Scott

Chancel Choir

Advent Candle, softly glowing; warmth and light diffusing 'round; symbol of our Savior's presence, love from heav'n to earth come down. Shedding glory, wondrous story of Christ Jesus' humble birth, he from starry realms of heaven deigned to visit us on earth. In this blessed, glorious season, time of beauty, joy, and peace, time of mercy, time of sharing, in our hearts your light increase. Kindle loving, kindle caring; pierce our gloomy selfish night. Lift our eyes on high to see you, Jesus Christ, true Light of light. Advent Candle, softly glowing. Shining, glimm'ring on our sight; symbol of our Savior's presence, Jesus Christ true Light of light.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 1:39-45

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“When the Impossible Happens”

Rev. Dr. Annie Epling

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

†HYMN NO. 124 Still, Still, Still

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Rev. Ann Pitman

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY In the Bleak Mid-winter

Harold Darke

Chancel Choir, Emily Bird, Soprano & Quinton Davis, Tenor

In the bleak mid-winter 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 mid-winter long ago.

Our God, heav'n cannot hold him nor earth sustain, heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign: in the bleak mid-winter a stable-place sufficed the Lord God Almighty — Jesus Christ.

Enough for him, whom Cherubim worship night and day, a breastful of milk and a mangerful of hay; enough for him, whom angels fall down before, the ox and ass and camel which adore.

What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb, if I were a Wise Man I would do my part, yet what I can I give him, give my heart.

†**DOXOLOGY HYMN NO. 127** Hark! The Herald Angels Sing WE'LL WALK IN THE LIGHT

1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing. Je - sus, the light of the world.
2. Joy - ful all you na - tions, rise.

Refrain

Glo - ry to the new - born King. — Je - sus, the light of the world. We'll
Join the tri - umph of the skies. —

walk in the light, beau - ti - ful light. Come where the dew - drops of mer - cy shine

bright. O, — shine all a - round us by day and by night. Je - sus, the light of the world.

†**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Thanks be to you, O God, maker of heaven and earth — giver of justice, lover of righteousness, hope of the afflicted and friend of the poor. Your faithfulness never fails. Take and use these gifts we offer to further your purpose in the world and to fulfill the promise of the world to come; through Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

SENDING

†**HYMN NO. 113** Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

†**BENEDICTION**

†**POSTLUDE** Fanfare on *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

Robert A. Hobby

SERVICE NOTES

Hymn 123: It Came Upon the Midnight Clear — Text: Edmund Hamilton Sears, 1849, alt. Music: Richard Storrs Willis, 1850. The “it” of the first line of this text by a Unitarian minister does not refer to the birth of Jesus, but to “that glorious song of old,” the angelic tidings of peace on earth. The restored third stanza laments how often the noise of human strife has obscured that message.

Hymn 124: Still, Still, Still — Text: Austrian carol; trans. George K. Evans, 1963. Music: Austrian carol; arr. Walter Ehret, 1963. The great virtue of this Austrian carol is its sheer simplicity, which is reinforced by the re-use of the first two lines as the last two. This narrow scope makes the text into the verbal equivalent of a close-up photograph or painting, so that the sleeping child seems very near.

Hymn 113: Angels We Have Heard on High — Text: French carol; trans. James Chadwick, 1860, alt. Music: French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes, 1937. This French carol probably dates from the 1700s, though it was not printed until the following century. Because it uses a vernacular language for the narrative stanzas and Latin for the refrain, it belongs to a special category called “macaronic” or mixed-language texts.

THE SESSION

Moderator: Rev. Dr. Anne B. Epling

Clergy: Rev. Dr. Youngsoo An

Treasurer: Steve Weissner

Clerk of Session: Luci Foltz

Assistant Clerk: Sally Swihart

<u>CLASS OF 2022</u>	<u>CLASS OF 2023</u>	<u>CLASS OF 2024</u>
Tim Byer Antoinette Lee Sondra Mergenthal Laurie Satter Tom Swihart	Nancy Bradtmiller Bob Doerr Carolyn Krebs YuCha Riley Mike Shim	Dick Florea Terri Lindvall Judy Mettler Heidi Schulenberg Jai Son Wyss

CHILDCARE

Childcare is available in Room 101 for age 5 and under.

ASSISTING WITH WORSHIP THIS MORNING

Greeters: Carolyn Krebs and Antoinette Lee

Ushers: Anne Barnett, Dave Beer, Charlotte Epling, Dan Serban and Jerry Winters

Director of Music Ministries & Organist: Brent Neuenschwander

Assistant Organist: Kathryn Miller

Singers: Rachel Parker, Soprano & Cassandra Petrie, Mezzo-Soprano

Chancel Choir

Advent Wreath Readers: Fran Page, Sandy Shearer and Jill Therrien

Thank you!

“Thank you to our Advent wreath liturgists. Each week, we have tried to lift up ministries that are the lifeblood of the church.

Lucas Satter, faithful Sunday School teacher, and his daughter, Clara, assisted in week two.

Last Sunday, Stephen Ministers, Bob Doerr and Rev. Ann Pitman assisted.

This week, Fran Page, Sandy Shearer and Jill Therrien, members of our Chancel Choir, are our liturgists. We appreciate your faithful service to First Pres.”

PASTORS

Rev. Dr. Anne Bain Epling (she/her) (ext. 107)
Pastor/Head of Staff
aepling@firstpresfortwayne.org

Rev. Dr. Youngsoo An (he/him) (ext. 105)
Associate Pastor/Korean Language Ministry
ysan@firstpresfortwayne.org

Rev. Ann Pitman (she/her) (ext. 106)
Parish Associate for Pastoral Care and
Interim Director of Smock Senior Ministries Ctr
apitman@firstpresfortwayne.org

Rev. Carrie Winebrenner (she/her) (ext. 112)
Resident Pastor
cwinebrenner@firstpresfortwayne.org

Prayer List or to Request Pastoral Care: If you or a loved one is hospitalized and would like to be added to the prayer list or are seeking pastoral care, please contact the church at 260-426-7421 x106. Please let us know if you would like a visit.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR DECEMBER 19, 2021

Thank you for joining us today. You are welcome to join us for two worship services on Christmas Eve, Friday, December 24, 2021 — one service is at 5:00pm and the second is at 10:00pm with a festival prelude at 9:30pm (see description below).

You are also welcome to come for worship on Sunday, December 26, 2021, at 11:00am for the English in-person service in the Sanctuary (or via Live Stream, Facebook, Website or YouTube); or for the 11:00am Korean in-person service in McMillen Chapel (or via website or YouTube). To use the “Hearing Loop” during the service, please switch your hearing aid or cochlear device to the “T”, T-Coil or telephone position. For questions, please call Bill Patterson at 260-609-9696.

CHRISTMAS AT FIRST PRES



Christmas Eve Services – Friday, December 24, 2021

5:00pm: *A shorter lessons & carols service for all ages.*

9:30pm: *A festival prelude with orchestra.*

10:00pm: *A service of lessons and carols.*

Both services will include candlelight and the singing of Silent Night. Livestream will only be offered for the 10:00pm service which begins with the prelude at 9:30pm.

The Epling’s Open House: Due to Allen County now being in the “red” zone for COVID, the Epling’s Open House, scheduled for Sunday, December 19, 2021, has been cancelled. Thank you for understanding.

Advent/Christmas Eve Service Music: The music of Christmas Eve is enhanced by members of the Fort Wayne Philharmonic made possible through generous donations. We look forward to hosting an orchestra at the 10:00pm service again as it was not possible last year. If you are giving in honor or memory of a loved one, please be sure to include that information with the donation. Please have your contribution in today to be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletin. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Christmas Poinsettias: Christmas poinsettias are made possible through monetary gifts given in loving memory of family and friends. Memorialized names, with the names of the donors, will appear with the Christmas Eve worship bulletin. To donate, make check payable to First Presbyterian Church, memo line: Chancel Guild – Christmas and mail to First Presbyterian Church, 300 W. Wayne St, Fort Wayne, IN 46802, or online at www.firstpresfortwayne.org. The due date is today.

Potluck Brunch: Join us for a festive potluck luncheon after the 11:00am service on Sunday, December 26, 2021, in McKay Hall. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to bring a favorite Christmas dish or pick up a dish from a store. We want to keep it simple! First Pres will provide the drinks. Come and celebrate Christmas with new and old friends.

COMMITTEE EVENTS

Nominating Committee: The Nominating Committee is accepting nominations for church officers. If you are a member interested in serving as a Deacon, Elder or member of next year's Nominating Committee or if you want to nominate another member for the same, please complete the Nomination Form that can be found on the table in front of the office or via the online Nomination Form in the E-News. Please prayerfully consider serving the church in one of these offices. The deadline for submissions has been extended to January 2, 2022. Contact Jiin Jung at jjung@firstpresfortwayne.org with any questions.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance: PDA has reached out to the Presbytery of Western Kentucky after a devastating tornado ripped through the area overnight, killing more than 74 people. Please join us in praying for the community as search and rescue is still underway at this time. To support our response, gifts can be designated to the church website or pew envelopes note "PDA Relief".

ARTS AT FIRST PRES

Glass by Hot Shop Valpo (Dave and Bryan Lee) and paintings by Maurice Papier: Come and see these ethereal, colorful glassworks and paintings! Gallery hours are Monday-Thursday, 9:00am-5:00pm and Fridays, 9:00am-12:00pm and during all theater performances. Enjoy!

Angel Collection: Come and enjoy a Christmas treat — Kathy Beatty's angel collection is in the McKay foyer display case.

SMOCK SENIOR MINISTRIES

FYI — the 3B walking and exercise class activities are taking a break. 3B will resume on Monday, January 10, 2022.

ON-LINE EVENTS

Table Talk 1 (Women's Book Study) — Wednesdays @ 10:00am via Zoom: Meeting ID: 241 730 827. Passcode: 2604267421. For more information, contact Marj Sapp at 260-413-2639 or Marcie Weissner at 260-312-5733. **FYI** – there will **not** be a Table Talk 1 study group on Wednesdays, December 22, 2021, December 29, 2021, or January 5, 2022.

Men's Bible Study (all men invited!) — Fridays @ 10:00am via Zoom: Join Meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/262564318?pwd=UldEa2ZVVmZjTk10YzV1b21adXJmZz09>. Meeting ID: 262 564 318. Passcode: 2604267421. Contact: Rev. Young Soo An at ysan@firstpresfortwayne.org. **FYI** – there will **not** be a Men's Bible Study on Friday, December 24, 2021.

Women's Bible Study — Fridays @ 1:00pm via Zoom: Join Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/904041033>. Call-in Number: 312-626-6799. Meeting ID: 904 041 033. Passcode: 2604267421. Contact: Rev. Ann Pitman, apitman@firstpresfortwayne.org. **FYI** – there will **not** be a Women's Bible Study on Friday, December 24, 2021

ADDITIONAL NOTES

New COVID Protocols (Effective Immediately): First Pres is implementing new COVID protocols which are: (1) Masks are required when in the building, including for staff and Day School teachers; (2) People are required to wear masks (vaccinated or not) on Sunday mornings until they get to their pew – at that time, they can remove their masks; and (3) Social distance will be kept in the sanctuary; people should only sit in a pew where the door is open. These protocols are in place until Sunday, January 16, 2022, and will be extended, if necessary. Thank you for your cooperation.

Wired Word Recess: Please note that Wired Word will **not** meet on Sunday, December 26, 2021, nor Sunday, January 2, 2022. Classes will resume on January 9, 2022.

Hospital Stays: With the increased concerns over patient's privacy, hospitals are very limited in what information they can release to churches. When you are admitted to the hospital, please ask someone to notify the church office so that our pastors can provide appropriate care.

Pledges and Offerings: We invite you to mail in pledges and offerings to First Presbyterian Church, 300 West Wayne Street, Fort Wayne, IN 46802 or go online and give at www.firstpresfortwayne.org, where you can also find updated information on our events. Thank you for your gifts!

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday, 9:00am — 5:00pm

Fridays, 9:00am — 12:00pm

Phone: 260-426-7421, *press 5 for the Staff Directory*

Visit our **website:** www.firstpresfortwayne.org

**Watch the livestream of our worship services each Sunday
by going to our Webpage or Facebook page.**

For sermons, go to the **Resources** link, select **Sermons**

Like us on **Facebook:** www.facebook.com/firstpresfortwayne

Follow us on **Instagram:** firstpres_ftw

To Submit both Announcements and E-news Material:

Email Jiin Jung, jjung@firstpresfortwayne.org

One License A-708176 for print, streaming and podcast.
Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal Online.

HERE IS WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FIRST PRES THIS WEEK!

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 9:00am — 5:00pm and Fridays, 9:00am — 12:00pm

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2021

10:00am The Wired Word, PR
 10:00am Chancel Choir Rehearsal, SB
 10:30am Childcare, Rm 101
 11:00am English Worship Service, SC
 11:00am Korean Worship Service, CH
 11:00am KLM Kids Worship Ministry, CL
 11:15am Sunday School, Rm 208
 12:00pm Rescue Mission Food Delivery, OS
 12:15pm Hospitality Time, MH/E
 12:15pm KLM Fellowship, FH

MONDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2021

3:00pm Faith, Fibers & Fellowship, Rm 302
 5:00pm Finance Committee, SR

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2021

6:00pm Longest Night Service, CH

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2021

No events.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2021

1:00pm Stephen Ministry Leader Team, SM/O
 6:30pm Chancel Choir/Orchestra Rehearsal, SB

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2021 — CHRISTMAS EVE!

5:00pm Christmas Eve Service, SC
 7:00pm KLM Christmas Party, PR
 9:30pm Festival Prelude with the Orchestra, SC
 10:00pm Lessons and Carols Service, SC

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2021 — CHRISTMAS DAY!

No events

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2021

10:30am Childcare, Rm 101
 11:00am English Worship Service, SC
 11:00am Korean Worship Service, CH
 11:00am KLM Kids Worship Ministry, CL
 12:15pm Potluck Brunch, MH

ROOM ABBREVIATIONS

CH	Chapel	MH/E	McKay Hall East	SDR	Small Dining Room
CL	Chapel Lounge	MH/W	McKay Hall West	SM/O	Stephen Ministry Office
CN	Chapel Narthex	MR	Music Room	SR	Session Room
CY	Courtyard	NP	North Parking Lot	TH	Theater
FH	Fellowship Hall	NX	Narthex	YL	Youth Lounge
FO	Front Office	NR	Nursery	ZM	Zoom
GL	Gallery	OS	Offsite		
KT	Kitchen	PR	Parlor		
MF	McKay Foyer	SB	Sanctuary Balcony		
MH	McKay Hall	SC	Sanctuary		

Please stop by the Church Office with any questions or to learn how to get connected to church events.