



And on
earth
Peace.

Luke 2:14

December 11, 2022 ♦ 10:00 am
Park Ridge Community Church

PARK RIDGE COMMUNITY CHURCH

And on Earth Peace: Fearless Joy

DECEMBER 11, 2022

10:00 am

WELCOME!

We welcome you to worship today. Park Ridge Community Church affirms that all people are made in the image of God and are worthy of God's love and grace. We commit to the ongoing work of being a church journeying together to deepen our understanding of the nature of God's love and to fulfill our responsibility to embody the Christ Spirit in the world. No matter who you are or where you are on this journey, you are welcome and loved.

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Love Has Come

Mazzatenta

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Our souls magnify the Lord. Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior!

We come today with eager hope, awaiting God's new revelation.

The mighty One has done great things! God's mercy covers generations.

We come today with ready peace, trusting with anticipation.

The One who lifted up the lowly and filled the hungry, dwells with us.

We come today with fervent joy, we worship with great expectation.

*HYMN

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

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LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

*OPENING PRAYER

Jesus, when in prison John the Baptist needed to hear from You, needed to ask if You were the Expected One.

All of us ask that at some point, especially during difficult times.

This may be one of those times for many of us this morning.

Are we to trust You or someone else? Are You really our Expected One?

We listen to Your reply to John as though it is offered to us, to our own questioning of You:

You say, Here's what I've done...

Blind people now see;

Lame people are now walking;

Those with skin diseases are now healed;

The deaf now hear;

The dead are now living;

And Good News is being shared now with the poor.

As we consider Your reply to John's question, we allow ourselves to respond to You in the stillness of this silence.

Silent prayers are offered.

Continue to give us grace to prepare a way for You in our hearts, our community, and our world. Come Lord Jesus, **Amen.**

*GLORIA

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

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PASSING THE PEACE

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 35:1-10

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Light of Hope, Light of Peace

Davis

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, which 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.

THE CHRISTMAS STORY

Isaiah:

Hear ye, Hear ye! The Lord himself will give you a sign.

The young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and name him Emmanuel.

And the Glory of the Lord shall be revealed. For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Almighty God, the Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Narrator:

In the sixth month the Lord sent the Angel Gabriel to a town in Galilee, called Nazareth. Gabriel sought out a young woman named Mary, who was engaged to Joseph, of the house of David.

The Angel Gabriel came to her and said:

Gabriel:

Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.

Narrator:

Mary was startled by his words and wondered what sort of greeting this might be. The Angel said to her:

Gabriel:

Fear not, Mary, the Lord is with you. You will bear a son, and name him Jesus, Emmanuel. He will be called "the Son of the Most High", and His kingdom will have no end.

Mary:

How can this be?

Gabriel:

The child to be born will be holy; and he will be called "Messiah, Son of God". For nothing is impossible with God.

Mary:

Here I am, Lord. I am yours, Lord.

Narrator:

And the angel departed.

(Congregation joins in singing)

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

*Come, Thou long expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free.
From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in Thee.*

King Herod:

Where is my scribe?

Narrator:

The Roman soldier helped deliver King Herod to the front, so his scribe could read the decree from Emperor Augustus, which said:

Scribe:

All the world should be registered!

Narrator:

Joseph came from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David, called Bethlehem.
He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged.
While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child.

Joseph:

Is there room? Is there room? Is there room? Please, kind sir, is there room?

Innkeeper:

There is no room at the Inn, but you may take shelter in the stable.

Narrator:

Mary gave birth to her firstborn son, wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger.

Gabriel, and 3 Magi:

*Once in Royal David's City stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby, in a manger for his bed.
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ, her little child.*

Narrator:

And there were shepherds abiding in the fields, keeping watch over their flocks by night.
Then the angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone all around them,
and they were terrified. And the angel said to them,

Gabriel:

Fear not; for behold —I bring you glad tidings of great joy, which shall be for all people:
For unto you is born this day, in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ, the Lord.
You will find him wrapped in bands of cloth and laying in a manger.

Narrator:

And suddenly... there was with the angel, a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying:

Gabriel:

"Gloria in excelsis Deo"

All characters sing:

"Gloria in excelsis Deo!"

Narrator:

Glory to God in the Highest and peace to His people on Earth!

Sunday School Music

*Away in a Manger
Go Tell It on the Mountain*

Narrator:

When the angels left them, the shepherds said to one another,

Lead Shepherd:

Let us go to Bethlehem and see what has happened.

Narrator:

So they went with haste and found Mary, Joseph, and the baby Jesus in the manger.

(Congregation joins in singing)

Silent Night

*Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright. Round yon virgin mother and child,
Holy Infant so tender and mild. Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace!*

Narrator:

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem, three Kings from the East came to Jerusalem, asking:

Magi 1:

Where is the child who was born a King?

Magi 2:

We have followed the star.

Magi 3:

And have come to pay him tribute.

Kings Trio:

*We three kings of Orient are, bearing gifts we traverse afar.
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.
O star of wonder, star of might. Star with royal beauty bright.
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!*

Camel Driver:

They set out; following the star, until it stopped over the place where the baby Jesus lay sleeping.

Narrator:

When they saw the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. Entering the house, they saw the baby Jesus with his mother, Mary; and they knelt down to pay him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Isaiah:

And the Word became flesh and lived among us. We have seen his glory, full of grace and truth. For unto us a child is born, for unto us a son is given; and all authority will rest upon his shoulders; and his name shall be called:

“Wonderful Counselor, Almighty God, the Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

(Congregation joins in singing)

Joy to the World

*Joy to the World, the Lord is come. Let Earth receive her King! Let every heart prepare Him room
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing and heaven and heaven and nature sing!*

Children will return to the Sunday school wing to return costumes.

Parents may pick them up following worship.

***PREACHING LESSON**

Matthew 11:2-11

This is the word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Peace-filled Fear”

Pastor Mollie Foster

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

In the Bleak Midwinter

arr. Ingram

***DOXOLOGY**

To the tune of *What Child is This?*

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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.

This, this, is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing

Haste, haste, to bring him laud, the babe, the Son of Mary.

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Prince of Peace, we experience joy through the story of your promises being fulfilled. The joy of our children ripples through our hearts and into our lives. May this joy be shared with those who are suffering. Bless these offerings that they might fulfill your promises and share your peace this day. Amen.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

* INDICATES TO PLEASE RISE IN BODY OR IN SPIRIT

BOLD INDICATES TO SPEAK ALOUD IN ONE VOICE

LEADING US IN WORSHIP DECEMBER 11, 2022 10:00 AM

Rev. Carol Hill, Senior Minister
Pastor Mollie Foster, Associate Minister
Siri Nelson, Lector
Sheila Blackburn & Family, Advent Readers

Sasha Gerritson, Director of Music Ministries
Bells on High, Sandy Bowen, Director
Sue Douglass, organ
Junior Choir

CREDITS:

Advent Wreath liturgy written by Rev. Dr. Derek Weber, Director of Preaching Ministries, served churches in Indiana and Arkansas and the British Methodist Church. © 2022 Discipleship Ministries. All Rights Reserved

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/advent-candle-lighting-liturgy-2022>

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT CAST

Narrators

Emily Laginess
Owen Smith
Aiden Chacko
Bria Sanderson

Isaiah

Lucas Young

Gabriel

Rae Hill

Baby Jesus

Zoe Belle Blocker

Mary

Leah Born

Joseph

Bennett Smith

Innkeeper

Eliza Hinton

King Herod

Ella McCarty

Scribe

Jillian Blackburn

Townspeople

Noah Laginess
Chloe Sanderson
George Newman

Star Carrier

Emmit Tone

Wiseones

John Weber
Josh Jarvis
Rachel Born

Camel Driver

Nicholas Laginess

Angels

Maggie Weir
Caroline Young
Harper Tone
Amalia Hogle
Emma Hollingsworth
Lily Weber

Lead Angel

Layla Chacko

Lambs

Jack Tone
Cruz Lofgreen-Almaguer
Isaac Blocker

Shepherds

Henry Born
Deuce Hill

Lead Shepherd

Liam Krizman

Dressing Room Helper

Emma Krizman

A HUGE thank you to our adult helpers, Angie and Andrew Weber, Sue Douglass, and Ann Swindell for their hard work and dedication to our Christmas Pageant!

CHURCH EVENTS

SUNDAY DEC. 11

- 10:00 am - Worship Service (Sanctuary)
- 11:00 am - Loving Lunches (Parlor)
- 11:00 am - Knitting Knights Sale (Jordan Hall)
- 11:30 am - Youth Group Christmas Party (Parlor/Great Hall)

MONDAY DEC. 12

- 12:00 pm - Stephen Leaders Meeting (Library)
- 6:00 pm - Finance Meeting (Library)

TUESDAY DEC. 13

- 12:00 pm - Kindred Spirits (Jordan Hall)
- 4:00 pm - Jr. Choir (Choir Room)
- 5:00 pm - Middle School Choir (Choir Room)
- 6:00 pm - Stephen Ministry Christmas Party (Jordan Hall)

WEDNESDAY DEC. 14

- 10:00 am - Staff Meeting
- 3:00 pm - Youth Christmas Cookie Baking (Kitchen)
- 7:00 pm - Advent Bible Study (Ellinger Transept)
- 7:00 pm - Action Ridge (Jordan Hall)

THURSDAY DEC. 15

- 9:00 am - Men's Breakfast (Library)
- 7:30 pm - Chancel Choir (Sanctuary)

FRIDAY DEC. 16

- 6:00 pm - Junior Youth Late Night (Great Hall)

Happy Birthday!
12/13 - Michael Maher
12/16 - Elaine Zabawski & Char Neumann
12/17 - Jim Solomon



ITEMS OF NOTE

WELCOME GUESTS! We are glad you are joining us in worship today. Please fill out a postcard found in the pew baskets or in the narthex to share your information with us!

COFFEE HOUR is held in Jordan Hall immediately following the 10 am service. Thank you to the PRCC Outreach and Choir for hosting coffee hour this month.

PLEASE SEE AN USHER...for seat cushions and/or hearing assistance devices for use during worship.

Thank you to our December ushers: Barb Madro, Marty McHugh, Chris Browning, Gretchen Kapolnek, Dave Kapolnek, Jim Sindt, Ace Steele, Dave Figgins, and Joe Figgins.

ALTAR FLOWERS We've got a brand new sign-up sheet for all Sundays in 2023 just outside the office! If you're interested in purchasing flowers to dedicate, you can sign up on the sheet and the office will contact you closer to that Sunday. Flowers are \$40!

RESTROOMS are located on the lower level at each end of the church.

SUNDAY SCHOOL is offered for children and youth from Pre-K through 12th grade during the 10:00 am service! Pre-K-4th grade gather in the Sunday School Wing, 5th grade in the Library, and 6-12th grade in the Great Hall! On the 1st Sunday of each month, 6-12th graders will remain in worship for Holy Communion. The Nursery is available for all those under 3 years of age located on the lower level.

GIVING

ONLINE DONATIONS can be made via PayPal or Zelle, our email is giving@parkridgecommunitychurch.org. Thank you!

STAFF CHRISTMAS GIFT

As we reflect on the many reasons for which we have to be thankful, the Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) asks you to consider the ways in which we can show our gratitude towards our many staff members. During these fall and winter months leading us to the celebration of Christ's birth on Christmas, our staff dedicates countless hours to the additional services and events to support our church family and the wider community. These past few years have presented many obstacles for ministry; however, our staff has risen to each challenge and found ways to creatively serve and minister to our PRCC family.

Just as the year end provides us with the opportunity to show our appreciation for mail carriers, teachers, day care providers, and hairdressers, we ask that you consider showing your gratitude for our staff through a holiday donation. Donations can be made through PayPal, Zelle, or check indicating the message Staff Holiday Gift. **The deadline for a contribution will be December 15th.** The SPRC committee will gather contributions and distribute them to staff as the year end approaches. Thank you for thoughtfully considering a gift to show our staff your sincere gratitude for their ministry.

A "THANK YOU" LOVE OFFERING FOR LIZ

Our beloved Director of Pastoral Care, Liz Swanson, will be retiring from her PRCC staff role at the end of the year. We are collecting a love offering for Liz to show our appreciation for all she has done for PRCC. If you would like to make a contribution you can do so through Zelle or by check. Please make sure to write "Thank You Liz" in the memo line.

ADULT EDUCATION

ADVENT STUDY: GOD IS IN THE MANGER - Wednesdays, 7:00 pm

For the four weeks of Advent, our Wednesday evening Bible Study will consider Dietrich Bonhoeffer's *God is in the Manger* as we seek to deepen our understanding and awareness of what the birth of Christ means. This Bible Study will meet December 14 and December 21.

PRAYER REQUESTS

One of the gifts of community is that we hold one another in prayer. Each week, we share our joys and sorrows with one another so that we might feel the support of community. No one is alone. God is with us, and we are supporting one another.

WE PRAY FOR THOSE IN OUR CONGREGATION AND OUR LOVED ONES:

Laura Beaudoine, Heather Cannon, Jon Forsythe, Edith E. Hurlburt, Tom Kapolnek, Candace Kidston, Walter and Christina Kotecki, Geri LeDuc, Tracy McKenzie, Dean Muenzer, Lurana Nelson, Leo Netko, Brian Stevens, Ann Stutts, Kathleen Weller, Joyce Wright, Kate Zoellner, & Bernice Zabawski.

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR DECEMBER 4TH:

- We celebrate the baptism of James on December 4th!
- We celebrate the Spirit of Christmas gathering and all the ways our church ministries provide connection and support to one another in what can be a challenging time of year for many folks.
- Beth P. gives thanks for the prayers as she underwent surgery for breast cancer, and asks for continued prayers as the radiation and treatment journey begins.
- As more of those we know and love are coming down with Covid or the flu, we pray for mild symptoms and quick healing.
- We pray for Eugene's mom Elsie, who had a fall this week and is healing from the subsequent surgery on her broken leg.
- We had an online prayer request submitted through our website for a marriage that is seeming to fall apart. Prayers for this couple as they navigate broken trust.
- We hold the LeDuc family in our prayers, as Geri LeDuc, mom of Linda, grandma to Darcy, entered life in the resurrection on Sunday, November 27.
- We hold the family and loved ones of David Belden, whose father entered life in the resurrection this week.
- Charlie asks us to hold in our prayers all those who are grieving the loss of Jerry, Charlie's sister-in-law's father. Jerry entered in life in the resurrection on 12/2.
- Sharon asks us to hold her friend Marion in prayers as she recovers from a stroke and is working hard in rehab.
- Please pray for Sam O., nephew of Lois & Joe Zitoli, for a successful surgery on 12/5.
- Jason asks for prayers for his dad Doug who is in declining health and for Jason's mother as she cares for him.
- Reese McGuffey asks for prayers for her grandma's house to sell and prayers for this church and her family.
- We hold in prayer the Scott Nelson family as they grieve the loss of his aunt who entered life in the resurrection 11/29.

YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER SIGN UP

A very special THANK YOU to all of the families who have helped in Sunday School already! We have loved having so many new faces in Sunday School! We are still in need of more volunteers for some upcoming Sundays. You can sign up [here](#).

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL (Pre-K-5th Grades)

Children depart the service during the Children's Message and gather in the Sunday School Wing. Children rotate rooms by grade level and engage in scripture lessons, crafts, stories, and music! *5th graders gather in the Library.

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL (6th-12th Grades)

Youth will remain in worship today for the Christmas Pageant!

JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP! (4th & 5th Grades)

Junior Youth Group provides monthly gatherings for 4th and 5th graders! Our next gathering will be this Friday, Dec. 16 for a "Christmas Late Night" from 6 pm-12 am! There will be carol karaoke, games, snacks, and more!

YOUTH GROUP (6th-12th Grades)

Youth Group will help assemble lunches for Loving Lunches in the Parlor from 11:30-12:00. We will then gather in the Great Hall from 12:00-1:30 for our Christmas Party to include lunch, games, and a White Elephant Exchange!

VOLUNTEER



LOVING LUNCHESES - TODAY at 11:00 am!

Come join in serving PRCC's newest Outreach Partner, Loving Lunches. Each month PRCC will assist Loving Lunches by preparing and assembling 300+ lunches which will be delivered to those experiencing homelessness in the Chicagoland area. After today, our next date to serve is January 8th. If you would like to volunteer, sign up by clicking [here](#), scanning the QR code, or by contacting Paula Mack at paula.mack@parkridgecommunitychurch.org.



LINCOLN PARK COMMUNITY SHELTER - January 5th, 2023

Assistance is needed to help prepare food for Lincoln Park Community Shelter. Join the team on December 1st for meal prep at 11:30 am in the church kitchen. If you would like to volunteer, you can do so by [clicking here](#), scanning the QR code, or by contacting Luan Zoellner at lzoellner@ameritech.net.



SUNDAY SUPPER - January 22nd, 2023

PRCC works with the Park Ridge Ministerial Association to prepare meals 3-4 times a year for those having difficulty providing enough food for their families. Sunday Suppers are hosted at Park Ridge Presbyterian Church. Meals are prepped at PRCC and served at the host site. The demand has increased for Sunday Suppers so we will prepare and serve food for 100 guests. [Click here](#) to sign up to volunteer today! Thank you for considering to help provide meals for local families in need.



NIGHT MINISTRY - Boots Needed!

The Night Ministry is in need of 50-75 pairs of **new or gently used boots** (preferably made of water resistant materials for better warmth and durability, such as leather/pleather), in these sizes:

Men - 10-12, plus a few 13 or 14, including half sizes and wide widths

Women - 8-11, including half sizes and wide widths

We will make two deliveries, December 11 and January 8th.



THE BRIDGE PROJECT

Donations of gently used men's, women's and children's coats, hats and mittens as well as blankets are being collected starting 12/1/22 to 1/29/23. All donations will be given to the Bridge Project for distribution to the homeless. A collection box will be in the Park Place room. As always your generosity is so greatly appreciated.

A Celebration of the Ministry & Retirement of Liz Swanson



Sunday
January 8, 2023
11:00am in Jordan Hall

A lunch featuring Liz's favorite foods, a memorable presentation, and more!

Please consider contributing to a love offering for Liz, which will be presented at this celebration!

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND...

PRCC DINNER GROUPS!

Join others in PRCC's congregation for evenings of small group fellowship! Groups of 6-8 people will be assigned and will then determine the best dates and times for their group to gather. You can opt to join a "dine in" group and meet at group members' homes or a "dine out" group and meet at restaurants. The goal is to have each group meet at least three times between Feb. and Nov. of 2023, but you can adjust to whatever works best for your group members. These groups are designed for adults only. If you have any questions, please reach out to Sarah McCarty (sarah.mccarty@parkridgecommunitychurch.org) or Dave Kapolnek (kapodave@sbcglobal.net). **Click here** to sign-up today or **scan the QR code below!** Deadline to register is January 15th.



Park Ridge Community Church
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