



*And on  
earth  
Peace.*

*Luke 2:14*

December 18, 2022 ♦ 10:00 am  
Park Ridge Community Church

# PARK RIDGE COMMUNITY CHURCH

And on Earth Peace: Unconventional Peace

DECEMBER 18, 2022

10:00 am

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## 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

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Our Peace-making God beckons us to come and worship.

**We gather to worship the God of peace.**

Our Loving Creator invites us to live lives of love.

**We offer our hearts to be reshaped by love.**

Our Hope-inspiring Savior points to signs of a new day dawning.

**In expected and unexpected ways, salvation appears.**

In this time of worship, may God attune our souls  
to the unconventional ways of peace emerging in the world.

**Let us look East, the time is near!**

### \*HYMN

*People, Look East*

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## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

### \*OPENING PRAYER

God, we know the story of Christmas comes alive as it intersects with our own stories. This morning we pray for the faith of Joseph. In the middle of making his own plans he recognized Your voice and presence in the form of an angel that came to him in a dream. Not only did he recognize You but he let go of his plans and obeyed Yours. You are still speaking. We are still planning. Open the eyes of our hearts and quiet our minds from time to time. We pause in silence, taking a break from our own plans to consent to Your plans, to create space and a readiness within us for Your voice and presence.

*Silent prayers are offered.*

Continue to give us grace to prepare a way for You in our hearts, our community and our world. Whether You speak or return when we are awake or asleep, come Lord Jesus, **Amen.**

### \*GLORIA

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

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## FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 7:10-16

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## MINISTRY OF MUSIC

## Magnificat

Pergolesi

I.  
Magnificat anima mea Dominum.  
Et exultavit spiritus meus in Deo salutari meo.  
Quia respexit humilitatem ancillae suae.  
Ecce enim ex hoc beatam me dicent omnes generationes.  
Quia fecit mihi magna potens est,  
et sanctum nomen ejus.

II.  
Et misericordia ejus,  
a progenie, in progenies timentibus eum.  
Fecit potentiam in brachio suo;  
dispersit superbos mente cordis sui.

III.  
Deposuit potentes de sede,  
et exaltavit humiles.  
Esurientes implevit bonis  
et divites dimisit inanes.

IV.  
Suscepit Israel, suscepit puerum suum,  
recordatus misericordiae suae.

V.  
Sicut locutus est ad patres nostros,  
Abraham et semini ejus in secula.  
Gloria Patri et Filio et Spiritui Sancto.

VI.  
Sicut erat in principio et nunc,  
et semper et in secula seculorum.  
Amen.

I.  
My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.  
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.

II.  
His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.  
He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

III.  
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;  
he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.

IV.  
He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy.

V.  
According to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.  
Glory to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

VI.  
As it was in the beginning,  
is now and ever shall be.  
Amen.

## 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.*

## \*PREACHING LESSON

Matthew 1:18-25

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

**Thanks be to God.**

## SERMON

"A Strange Way"

Rev. Carol Hill

## INVITATION TO OFFERING

## OFFERTORY

## \*DOXOLOGY

To the tune of *What Child is This?*

*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

God of love: ferocious love, fierce love, unending love, everlasting love, we are grateful for the ways your love has called us out of bleakness and into your marvelous light. We know of your renown, and we stand in awe of your work. In our own time revive it; in our own time make it known. Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel. Use these gifts to stir up your peace in this place. Amen.

## \*HYMN

*Watchman, Tell Us of the Night*

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## \*BENEDICTION

## CHORAL BENEDICTION

*Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

## POSTLUDE

\* INDICATES TO PLEASE RISE IN BODY OR IN SPIRIT

**BOLD** INDICATES TO SPEAK ALOUD IN ONE VOICE

### LEADING US IN WORSHIP DECEMBER 18, 2022 10:00 AM

Rev. Carol Hill, Senior Minister  
Pastor Mollie Foster, Associate Minister  
Rick Graham, Lector  
Tom & Lorel Brunet, Advent Readers

Sasha Gerritson, Director of Music Ministries  
Sue Douglass, organ  
Jane Kenas-Heller, piano  
Elizabeth Choi, violin  
Dave Belden, violin  
Naomi Hildner, viola  
Melissa Bach, cello  
Chancel Choir

## CREDITS:

Opening prayer written by Kasey Hitt, © 2013,

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>

# 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!



# CHURCH EVENTS

## SUNDAY DEC. 18

- 10:00 am** - Worship Service (Sanctuary)
- 11:00 am** - Loving Lunches (Parlor)
- 11:30 am** - Youth Group with Kindred Spirits (Jordan Hall)

## MONDAY DEC. 19

- 7:00 pm** - Troop 76 Caroling

## TUESDAY DEC. 20

- 12:00 pm** - Kindred Spirits (Jordan Hall)
- 6:30 pm** - Executive Committee Meeting (Library)
- 7:30 pm** - Board of Directors Meeting (Offsite)

## WEDNESDAY DEC. 21

- 1:00 pm** - Staff Christmas Party (Offsite)
- 7:00 pm** - Advent Bible Study (Ellinger Transept)

## THURSDAY DEC. 22

- 9:00 am** - Men's Breakfast (Library)

## FRIDAY DEC. 23

## SATURDAY DEC. 24

- 4:00 pm** - Christmas Eve Service
- 11:00 pm** - Christmas Eve Service

### Happy Birthday!

12/23 - Andrew Weber, Candace McGuffey &  
Emily Zoellner  
12/24 - Anne Zoellner & Tricia Williams



## 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](mailto:giving@parkridgecommunitychurch.org). Thank you!

### 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 conclude on December 21. Wednesday night Bible Study will resume on January 11th!

## 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! If you would like to volunteer, 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 depart the service following the Children's Message and meet in the Great Hall to discuss, "Is the NT more important than the OT?"

### YOUTH GROUP (6th-12th Grades)

Youth Group meets today from 11:30 am-1:00 pm in Jordan Hall for Christmas Bingo and Trivia with our friends from Kindred Spirits!

# 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 11TH:

- Last Sunday was a beautiful day of intergenerational time at the Advent Festival!
- We celebrate the joy of our children telling of Jesus' birth, and give thanks for the village surrounding our children, teaching them to sing, to pray, and these stories of our faith.
- 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 hold in prayer all those recovering from surgery and various procedures, especially Sam and Elsie.
- We pray for the Nelson family as they prepare to celebrate the life of Scott's aunt Nancy Nelson on 12/17.
- Angie Papassavas has asked for continued prayers for her and her mother as her mother faces medical challenges. Peace and wisdom for Angie as her caregiver.
- We hold in prayer the friends and family of Bob Beall who entered life in the resurrection 11/20. Bob was Liz Swanson's first cousin and the family will be gathering this Saturday to honor his life.
- We pray for Pastor Mollie and her family as they grieve the loss of her cousin Mitchell who entered life in the resurrection this morning.
- Please pray for Matt, Bill W's cousin, as he prepares for open heart surgery on 12/14.
- We hold Evan C. in our prayers as he has his 2nd hip surgery on 12/12.
- Lorel B. asks for prayers for her brother Mel, as the family meets with the doctors on 12/11, hoping for a positive diagnosis.
- Prayers for a beloved church family as they wrestle with life decisions for a young father and loved one.

## 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](mailto:sarah.mccarty@parkridgecommunitychurch.org)) or Dave Kapolnek ([kapodaveesbcglobal.net](mailto:kapodaveesbcglobal.net)). **Click here to sign-up today or scan the QR code below! Deadline to register is January 15th.**





# VOLUNTEER



## **PADS PROGRAM - December 19th, 2022**

Christian Outreach is partnering with JOURNEYS the Road Home to provide a meal at one of their church PADS sites, St. Mark Lutheran Church in Mount Prospect on Monday, December 19. We will be preparing a meal for 35 people and dropping the meal off at St. Mark. [Sign up here](#) or scan the QR code to help! [Click here](#) for more information on this organization and [here](#) for other volunteer opportunities.



## **LINCOLN PARK COMMUNITY SHELTER - January 5th, 2023**

Assistance is needed to help prepare food for Lincoln Park Community Shelter. Join the team on January 5th 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](mailto:lzoellner@ameritech.net).



## **LOVING LUNCHES - January 8th, 2023**

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. 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](mailto:paula.mack@parkridgecommunitychurch.org).



## **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.

**Park Ridge Community Church**  
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