



How does a weary world rejoice?



Advent 4 December 21, 2025
We sing stories of hope

PARK RIDGE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Advent 4 - We Sing Stories of Hope
8:30 am & 10:00 am

December 21, 2025

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

Greensleeves

traditional English folk song

*CALL TO WORSHIP

How does a weary world rejoice?

We sing songs of hope. We allow hope to change us, to strengthen us.

We tell the stories of what could be. We listen for God's word.

We resist the temptation to give up or give in. We remember Mary's song.

We gather for worship. We hope. We hope. Against all odds, we hope.

Friends, this is the day that the Lord is still making. Let us worship holy God.

*HYMN

Watchman, Tell Us of the Night

20

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Gregory Sarlo and Danny Brewer

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, more days than not, hope feels like the rain. We try to hold onto it with cupped hands, but eventually, it slips right on through. Forgive us for holding hope so loosely. Forgive us for allowing the realities of today to define tomorrow. We know that this world needs people of hope, so today we pray: turn us into those people. Teach us how to sing Mary's song of hope for the world. With open hearts we pray.

Silent Prayers are Offered

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Body of Christ, no matter how many times we let hope slip through our fingers, we still belong to God. So hear and repeat these words after me:

I am God's beloved. **I am God's beloved.**

I am forgiven. **I am forgiven.**

I am blessed and sent to serve. **I am blessed and sent to serve.**

This is the good news of the Gospel. This is a hope we can rely on.

Thanks be to God for God's unending love. Amen.

ADVENT RESPONSE

Star Child, v. 4

Insert

FIRST LESSON

Luke 1:46-55

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (10 am)

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.

MUSICAL RESPONSE (8:30 am)

Savior Of the Nations, Come

MINISTRY OF MUSIC (10 am)

Still, Still, Still
And Every Stone Shall Cry
Star Carol
The Star Shone Bright
Song of Mary
The Snow Lay on the Ground

arr. Luboff
Chilcott
Rutter
Williams
Friedell
arr. Sowerby

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

*PREACHING LESSON

Luke 1:67-80

This is the Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Songs of Hope

Rev. Carol Hill

AN ADVENT AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe that hope can change the world. We believe that God uses ordinary people, like an unwed teenage mother, for extraordinary good. And we believe that each of these ordinary people can make a difference. We know that grief, fear, and suffering abound. We know that suffering quells joy and makes it harder to hope. But we choose hope anyway. In the face of hardship, we hope together. We hope with God. We hope for a better world. This is our song. We believe; help our unbelief. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

OFFERTORY

Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming

German carol

*ADVENT DOXOLOGY

Angels From the Realms of Glory

22

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son, Evermore your voices raising to the Eternal Three in One: Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ, the newborn King!

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God of the weary world, thank you for bringing us good news of joy, hope, and peace. As we respond with our gifts, help us envision the possibilities you have imagined. May our gifts resound with hope and joy, songs of praise in themselves. We pray in the name of Emmanuel, our source of hope. Amen.

*HYMN

Sleepers, Wake! V. 1 & 2

17

*BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENDICTATION

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

POSTLUDE

Minuet from Christmas Suite for Strings

A. Rowley

* INDICATES TO PLEASE RISE IN BODY OR IN SPIRIT

INDICATES TO SPEAK ALOUD IN ONE VOICE

In the event of an emergency, please follow the direction of the ushers.

Leading Us in Worship:

Rev. Carol Hill, Senior Minister
Rev. Mollie Foster, Associate Minister
Sarah McCarty and Jenny Sanderson, Lectors
Gregory Sarlo and Danny Brewer, Advent Wreath Lighters

Jane Kenas-Heller, Accompanist
Angie & Andrew Weber, Musicians
Sue Douglass, Organist
Karen Nelson, Violin
Dave Belden, Violin
Naomi Hildner, Viola
Melissa Bach, Cello

CREDITS: Today's prayers and liturgy is written by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

PLEASE SEE AN USHER...for seat cushions and/or hearing assistance devices for use during worship. Thank you to our December Ushers: Barbra Madro (CAPTAIN), Ace Steele, Dave Figgins, Dave Kapolnek, Gretchen Kapolnek, Christopher Browning, Marylyn & Dick Collentine, and Mike Proue.

Star-Child

4. Spared child, spoiled child, hav - ing, want - ing more,
wise child, faith child, know - ing joy in store,
Refrain
This year, this year, let the day ar - rive when
Christ-mas comes for ev - ery-one, ev - ery-one a - live!

WORDS: Shirley Erena Murray (Matt. 2:1-12)
MUSIC: Carlton R. Young

STAR CHILD
45.45 with Refrain

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!

Please email office@parkridgecommunitychurch.org if you have any questions.

ALTAR FLOWERS Flowers are \$60 to sponsor! You can sign up to sponsor flowers on the sign-up sheet on the office bulletin board. The 2026 Flower chart is here! Sign up today!

RESTROOMS are located on the lower level at each end of the church. All-gender/family restrooms are located at the bottom of the stairs at the back of the sanctuary.

ONLINE DONATIONS can be made via Zelle (our Zelle email is giving@parkridgecommunitychurch.org), or via our new online giving platform! You can text "GIVE" to (847)-908-9088 or scan the QR code to make a donation!



UPCOMING IN WORSHIP

Blue Christmas: A Service for the Weary TONIGHT at 7:30 pm, Crego Chapel

Gather in the Chapel this evening at 7:30 pm for a service of prayers, candlelight and music as we acknowledge that this season is not all jolly. We come with prayers on our hearts even as we hear the good news of God with us. Nursery care is provided.

Christmas Eve: A Service of Candlelight, Carols, and a Christmas Message 4 pm and 11pm

On Wednesday, December 24, we will gather at 4 and 11 pm for our traditional services, which will both include excellent music, candlelight and a Christmas message. The 4 pm service will also include a special message for the children.

December 28 Lessons and Carols at 10 am Only one service at 10 am on Sunday, December 28 that will feature a baptism, lessons, and all our favorite Christmas carols!

January 4 Epiphany Sunday Join us for one service at 10 am in the sanctuary as we celebrate the arrival of the magic to the manger.

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES

Nursery (0-5 years old) Our nursery is open from 8:30 am to 11:15 am for children up to 5 years old. It's a safe and welcoming space located downstairs, just next to Jordan Hall.

PK-5th Grades Youth will remain in worship today for the Cantata.

6th-12th Grades: Youth will remain in worship today for the Cantata.

High School & College Holy Chow TODAY, 11:45 am-1 pm We will gather in the Butler Place Entry and walk Uptown for a meal together with meaningful discussion with Pastor Mollie! No money needed!

Wacky Wednesday (6th-8th Grades) Wacky Wednesday will resume on January 7th!

Youth Choir meets on Wednesdays from 3:30-4:45 pm. No Youth Choir until January 7th!

ADULT MINISTRY

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY - 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm in Ellinger Transept

Wednesday Night Bible Study will resume on January 7th with a new study "The Bible and the Transgender Experience. Books are \$10 from the Church Office.

MEN'S BREAKFAST - Thursdays at 9:00 am

Calling Men of all ages! Join us for coffee and pastries at 9 AM every Thursday in the Church Library. We chat about the latest news, check in with each other about life, and enjoy the absence of an agenda! All are welcome! Join us on Zoom!

FAITHFUL FIRST SUNDAYS, Sunday, January 4 at 9:30 am

Is the idea of praying in front of others daunting? Do you ever feel like you just don't know what to say? Join the Stephen Ministers for Faithful First Sundays, a monthly gathering to explore different approaches to prayer. We meet on the first Sunday of each month from 9:30-9:50 am in the Ellinger Transept (off the sanctuary, opposite the chapel). January - Topic: "Meditation- Finding the Quiet Place."

OUTREACH

WINTER COLLECTION Let's help our new neighbors stay warm this winter! All are invited to join in by providing mens boots, warm socks, hats, gloves, and scarves for the Night Ministry. Donations can be dropped off in the Butler Place collection bin through December!

SUNDAY NIGHT SUPPER - January 4th

We are enlisting help for volunteers to prepare and cook a healthy meal for 75 people in the PRCC Kitchen and serve it at Park Ridge United Methodist Church.

We need 4 cooks and 12 servers for our next assigned date on January 4, 2026. Sign up with the QR Code!



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 the 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 Beaudion, Tom Berry, Evan Curtis, Amber Douglass, Wylie Douglass, Jon Forsythe, Ginny Feurer, Kym Giera, Christine Kotecki, Michelle Leach, Joey M., Michael McDonough, Tracy McKenzie, Kappy Muenzer, Pete Muenzer, Sandra, Brian Stevens, Kathleen Weller, Joyce Wright, and Bernice Zabawski.

PRAYER REQUESTS FROM December 14th:

- We give thanks for our children and the joy they bring!
- We pray for a loved one who has just been diagnosed with cancer.
- We pray for Diane M. as she prepares for eye surgery.
- We give thanks that Kym's surgery went smoothly this week and pray for an uncomplicated recovery.
- Kathy B. requests prayers for her brother, Tom, as he discerns the best path forward with a difficult health diagnosis.
- The Blackburns ask for prayer for Cousin Pete, who is experiencing heart failure.
- We pray for Pastor Mollie's dad, Mike, as he prepares for a heart procedure on Tuesday.
- Pete M. asks our prayers for Viola S., Victor M, and Joan M.
- Jim M. asks for prayer for his cousins Rosemary and Kevin K.
- Julie S. asks for prayers for Aunt Alberta undergoing surgery on an infected hip.
- Dan S. asks for prayers for the loved ones of long-time family friend, Kate McNeil, who entered Life in the Resurrection unexpectedly on Dec. 10. We pray especially for Kate's husband, Rob, and their six children.
- We pray for the Lumley family as they mourn the loss of Brittany, a friend of Jaclyn W., who leaves behind an 8 year old daughter, Charlotte.
- We hold Dorothy L. and her family in our prayers as they mourn the loss of her sister-in-law, Darlene, who entered Life in the Resurrection yesterday, Dec. 13.
- We hold the Mack family in our prayers as they mourn the loss of Bob's younger brother, Tommy, who entered Life in the Resurrection on Dec. 7, after battling sarcoma for the past eight years. Your prayers for the whole family are appreciated, but especially for Tommy's wife, Barb, their kids, Lauren and Brandon, and Bob and Tommy's mom, Gerry.
- We pray for Marty M. as he entered hospice care this week.



The poster features a blue and purple background with a starburst in the top left and a silhouette of the Virgin Mary holding the infant Jesus in the center. On the left, there is a circular logo with hands clasped in prayer. On the right, there is a stylized logo that reads 'Light of the World' in a cursive font, with a rainbow-like arc below it.

Candlelight Christmas Eve
Wednesday, December 24th
Candlelight, Carols,
and a Christmas Message
4:00 pm
11:00 pm

Light of the World
Your savior is born today
in David's city.
He is Christ the Lord.
Luke 2:11

PARK RIDGE COMMUNITY CHURCH
ANNUAL FUNDRAISER



CARNIVAL

FEBRUARY 28, 2026

A NIGHT OF CASINO GAMES, DINNER, COCKTAILS,
LIVE MUSIC, AND AMAZING AUCTION ITEMS--
CARNIVAL STYLE!

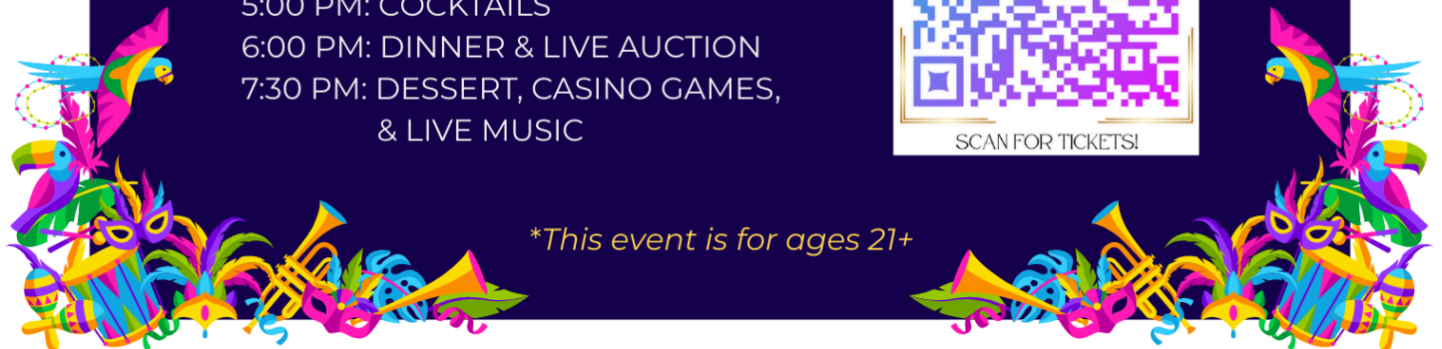
\$100 PER TICKET
\$750 A TABLE OF EIGHT
\$50 AFTER DINNER TICKET

5:00 PM: COCKTAILS
6:00 PM: DINNER & LIVE AUCTION
7:30 PM: DESSERT, CASINO GAMES,
& LIVE MUSIC



SCAN FOR TICKETS!

**This event is for ages 21+*



CHURCH EVENTS

SUNDAY, December 21

8:30 am - Worship Service (Chapel)

10:00 am - Worship Service (Sanctuary)

11:45 am - High School & College Holy Chow (Uptown)

7:30 pm - Blue Christmas: A Service for the Weary (Chapel)

MONDAY, December 22

7:00 pm - Yoga (Great Hall)

TUESDAY, December 23

10:15 am - Chair Yoga (Great Hall)

12:00 pm - Staff Christmas Lunch (offsite)

WEDNESDAY, December 24

4:00 pm - Christmas Eve Service (Sanctuary)

11:00 pm - Christmas Eve Service (Sanctuary)

SUNDAY, December 28

10:00 am - ONE SERVICE: Lessons and Carols (Sanctuary)

**THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED DEC 24 THRU JAN 1.
Staff will be working remotely.**

*Happy
Birthday*

12/23 Candace McGuffey

12/23 Andrew Weber

12/24 Tricia Williams

12/25 Kathy Erlandson

12/25 Hillary Larson

12/27 Riley Hogle

12/27 Eli and Kiera Kallen