



And on  
earth  
*Peace.*

*Luke 2:14*

December 4, 2022 ♦ 10:00 am  
Park Ridge Community Church

# PARK RIDGE COMMUNITY CHURCH

And on Earth Peace: Change is Coming

DECEMBER 4, 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

Largo from *Concerto in D*

Vivaldi

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

A shoot soon comes from Jesse's stump, and a branch shall spring from roots.

**Rejoice! Rejoice! All God's children. Let all the people give God praise.**

A leader soon comes who will lift the poor with righteousness around his waist.

**Rejoice! Rejoice! All God's children. Let all the people give God praise.**

A child soon comes from an innocent place, with wisdom and might he'll lead the way.

**Rejoice! Rejoice! All God's children. Let all the people give God praise.**

### \*HYMN

*Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

2

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

### \*OPENING PRAYER

God, we are a people who are surrounded by noise outside of us and filled with noise inside of us. The clutter within builds up and buries the way to our hearts. You've given us a gift to clear a way, to unburden ourselves, and that's confession. We come to You as people came to John the Baptist to confess—  
In the silence we allow the memories and the words to rise up so that we may speak them to You. Here's what we've been carrying around, the harm we've done knowingly or unknowingly to ourselves and others, here's what has crowded out Your Voice of Love...

Forgive us. Forgive us.

Just admitting them lifts a burden. Just speaking them to You allows our hearts to be bathed and cleansed, preparing a way to hear Your invitation to repentance. May we not only confess but turn away again and again from the thoughts and actions which create the burdens and clutter. Give us grace to continuously 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!*

23

### PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

### FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 11:1-10

### MINISTRY OF MUSIC

*The Call*

Vaughan Williams

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### PASTORAL PRAYER

**\*PREACHING LESSON**

Matthew 3:1-12

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

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

“Preparing the Way for Peace”

Rev. Carol Hill

**INVITATION TO OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY**

*Who Would Send a Baby?*

arr. Carter

**\*DOXOLOGY**

To the tune of *What Child is This?*

53

***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**

**We dedicate these gifts that have been shared for the fortification of the beloved community. Let these gifts do justice in the world. Let them be a signal to the people that there is a God who saves, heals, and sets free. Amen.**

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

...And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

...And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER (sung)**

***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.***

**RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP**

**PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING**

**\*HYMN**

*Prepare the Way*

13

**\*BENEDICTION**

**CHORAL BENEDICTION**

*Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

**POSTLUDE**

*Allegro from Concerto in D*

Vivaldi

\* INDICATES TO PLEASE RISE IN BODY OR IN SPIRIT

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

LEADING US IN WORSHIP DECEMBER 4, 2022 10:00 AM

Rev. Carol Hill, Senior Minister  
Pastor Mollie Foster, Associate Minister  
Grace Curtis, Lector  
Sue Douglass, Sara Born, Leah Born, Advent Readers

Sasha Gerritson, Director of Music Ministries  
Sue Douglass, organ  
Dr. Brian Torosian, guitar  
Lorenzo Formose, baritone  
Chancel Choir

CREDITS:

Call to Worship written by Rev. Mia M. McClain is the Senior Pastor of Riverside Baptist Church in Washington D.C., *Inspired by Isaiah 11:1-10 and Romans 15:4-13*

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>

Prayer of Thanksgiving by Rev. Mia M. McClain is the Senior Pastor of Riverside Baptist Church in Washington D.C.



# CHURCH EVENTS

## SUNDAY DEC. 04

- 8:30 am - Worship Service (Chapel)
- 10:00 am - Worship Service (Sanctuary)
- 5:00 pm - Advent Festival (Jordan Hall)

## MONDAY DEC. 05

- 12:00 pm - Stephen Leaders Meeting (Library)
- 7:30 pm - Trustees Meeting (Library)

## TUESDAY DEC. 06

- 12:00 pm - Kindred Spirits (Jordan Hall)
- 4:00 pm - Jr. Choir (Choir Room)
- 5:00 pm - Middle School Choir (Choir Room)
- 7:00 pm - Youth Committee (Library)

## WEDNESDAY DEC. 07

- 10:00 am - Staff Meeting
- 5:00 pm - Spirit of Christmas (Country Club)
- 6:30 pm - Children's Ministry Meeting (Library)
- 7:00 pm - Fly Fishermen Group (Jordan Hall)

## THURSDAY DEC. 08

- 9:00 am - Men's Breakfast (Library)
- 6:15 pm - Bells on High (Sanctuary)
- 7:30 pm - Christian Outreach Meeting (Library)
- 7:30 pm - Chancel Choir (Choir Room)

## FRIDAY DEC. 09

## SATURDAY DEC. 08

- 10:00 am - Pageant Practice (Sanctuary)

### Happy Birthday!

TODAY! 12/4 - Sue Laurie, Jill Wendorf,  
Susan Douglass, & Kayleigh Plach  
12/6 - Beth Parsch  
12/7 - Keith Reboletti & Quinn Riley  
12/10 - George Skoog



## 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 Outreach Committee, Bells on High, and the Chancel 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** this morning are in celebration of Nate Jarvis' 15th birthday!

**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!

### 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 15<sup>th</sup>.** 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 November 30, 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, Tracy McKenzie, Dean Muenzer, Lurana Nelson, Leo Netko, Brian Stevens, Ann Stutts, Kathleen Weller, Joyce Wright, Kate Zoellner, & Bernice Zabawski.

## PRAYER REQUESTS FOR NOVEMBER 27TH:

- We celebrate the incredible weekend last week, when we prepared 160 Loving lunches, served a hot meal through Sunday Night Suppers, and had a blast at the Wall of Sound concert, raising over \$1,000 to support our church ministries!
- We celebrate time to travel and be with loved ones. On 11/27 Pastor Mollie remained with her family in Kansas and Sasha was with her family out East. We pray for safe travels to our staff and all our loved ones as they make their way back home.
- We also pray for safety in travel as Janet's family makes their way to the Philippines.
- Robin K. is grateful for all the prayers and well wishes during the healing of her broken arm and knee replacement.
- Grace C. offers prayers of thanks for the love & support of our church family during Eveans battle with cancer - she is eternally grateful!
- Deep thanks to God and our church family for the lavish love & care poured out to Katie & Keith during their challenging time.
- Jimmy and Peter M. ask for prayers for their friend Michael, who is going through physical and emotional challenges.
- We continue to pray for those recovering from surgery including Robin K., Nancy F. and Katie R.
- Elaine Z asks us to pray for Jane and Tony to recover from the shock of a rather traumatic move out of a life-long home full of memories.
- Please pray for Marty, G, Luan's friend as he continues to receive chemo that requires hospitalization.
- We hold Julie's father Frank in our prayers as his health becomes more fragile.
- Lorenzo asks us to hold his friend Sara in our prayers as she enters hospice care.
- Two loved ones for whom we have been praying have entered hospice care: Geri L, mother of Linda, Grandmother of Darcy, and long-time member of PRCC; as well as Tom K, brother of Dave K, brother in law to Gretchen. We pray for both Geri and Tom in this holy space, as well as for their loved ones who surround them in this journey.
- Rich asks us to hold the family of Reuben Lewy in our prayers as they grieve his loss. May his memory be a blessing to those who knew him.
- We hold in our prayers the friends and family of Lois Matthews who entered life in the resurrection 11/21. Lois was Mary J's aunt for whom we were praying.

# 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](#).

## YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL (6th-12th Grades)

Youth will remain in worship to participate in Holy Communion.

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

Junior Youth Group provides monthly gatherings for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders! Our next gathering will be on Dec. 16 for a "Christmas Late Night" from 6 pm-12 am! There will be caroling, games, snacks, and more!

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

Youth and families are invited to participate in the Advent Festival this evening!

## ADVENT FESTIVAL: DECEMBER 4TH

Save the Date for our Advent Festival: Peace on Earth where we will have the chance to explore our roots from various countries and cultures. We will celebrate Advent together with food and fellowship on December 4th from 5:00-7:00 PM.

## 2022 CHRISTMAS PAGEANT: DECEMBER 11TH

Our beloved Christmas Pageant will take place during the 10 am worship service on December 11th. Children who are infants through high school are invited to participate by singing or speaking, and each will wear an amazing costume handmade by Ann Swindell! There is room for everyone to participate in this wonderful and beloved pageant. You can register your child(ren) to participate in the pageant at this [link](#)

# VOLUNTEER



## LOVING LUNCHES - December 11th

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 December 11th. 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).



## 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).



## SUNDAY SUPPER - January 22nd

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.



## GIVING TREE- Provide Gifts for Those in Need!

This Advent season, the Outreach Team is excited to be partnering with *Kids Above All* to provide gifts for kids in need and boots for our refuge family through *Exodus!* Ornaments with needed gifts will be placed on the Christmas Tree in the Park Place room beginning November 27th. Simply take the ornament or paper from the boot with the gifts you would like to provide and bring to the Park Place room by December 10th!



## 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  
100 Courtland Avenue ♦ Park Ridge, Illinois 60068  
(847) 823-3164 [www.parkridgecommunitychurch.org](http://www.parkridgecommunitychurch.org)