

# O Come, Let us Adore Him:

Singing our Way to Christmas



*The Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 20, 2020*

*Park Ridge Community Church Worshiping Online*

*[www.parkridgecommunitychurch.org](http://www.parkridgecommunitychurch.org)*

**WELCOME!**

*We hope worship today nurtures your heart and transforms your mind. At PRCC, we realize we need each other and commit to pray for each other. We reach out in love and compassion to a world in need, knowing we are a work in progress. No matter who you are, where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.*

**AN ADVENT WELCOME**

**LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH**

Chris Chandler, Kati Weber, and Dick Collentine

**PRELUDE**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Come! Let us Adore Him!

**But He is not yet here.**

Come! Bring hearts and hands and voices!

**We come to Behold the Christ-child, Emmanuel, God with us!**

But He is not yet here.

**In our waiting,**

**in our worshipping,**

**in our singing, and**

**in our praying,**

**We prepare the way of the Lord!**

**CAROL**

*What Child is This? (v. 1 & 3)*

**OPENING PRAYER**

As the end of Advent nears, as the days grow shorter and the winter solstice approaches in the Northern Hemisphere,  
as the trees stand bare and beautiful against the winter sky,  
reminding us that death comes before new life,  
we join our hearts and voices with Mary, as she sings:

**My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior...**

Mary's song echoes across the ages, O God,  
reminding us again and yet again that your call to us is continual,  
that your compassion for us is never-ending, that your love for us- for all of your beloved children in every place- is limitless.

**My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior...**

The mercy you show, Gracious God, is from generation to generation,  
and our hearts break with yours over lives lost needlessly in drive-by shootings,  
in senseless wars,  
in violent encounters between ethnic or tribal groups,  
over children starving in the Sudan, in northern Kenya, in Bangladesh, in countries whose names and locations we barely know.

**My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior...**

Help us to be mindful, Loving God, of the ways in which our daily choices as individuals, as nations, impact the rest of our sisters and brothers around this incredible planet.  
Open our hearts to the reality of climate change, impacted by our continued dependency on fossil fuels, and our self-centered unwillingness to reduce our demand or change our comfortable style of living. Open our eyes to the ongoing loss of living species, lest we consider our human selves superior to the other forms of life around us.

**My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior...**

O God our Sovereign, we know that you look with special compassion upon the poor,  
the needy,  
the lonely,  
the outcast,  
the refugee,  
the political prisoner,  
wherever they may be in this beleaguered world.  
Fill us with the knowledge that you expect us,  
the rich,  
the haves,  
to reflect that same compassion and caring, not only at Christmas but throughout the year.  
Keep us honest, Holy One, in our service and in our living, that our lives may be true reflections of the One  
whose name we claim and bear.

**My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior...**

As we confess our failures, Loving God, breathe into us  
the strength,  
the wisdom,  
the willingness  
to stand in solidarity with those working for freedom and justice and peace throughout the world.  
Help us to set aside our differences and unite our hearts and hands in the task of rebuilding a world in  
which there will be no more hunger,  
no more needless illness or death,  
no more denigration of another due to race or religion, gender or age or sexuality,  
but rather the celebration of our shared humanity as your created children.

**My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior...**

And as we go deep within our hearts in prayer,  
as we lift our voices and rededicate our lives,  
may we say with Mary,  
Here I am, the servant of the Lord; let it be according to your word.

**Amen and Amen.**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come to thee, O Israel!**

**THE STORY BEHIND THE CAROL**

Lyle Nicholson

**BELL RESPONSE**

*Away in a Manger*  
Bells on High

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**PASTORAL PRAYER & 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.*

**PREACHING LESSON**

Matthew 1:18-25  
This is the word of God for the People of God.  
Thanks be to God

**SERMON**

**Love Without End**

Rev. Carol Hill

**INVITATION TO OFFERING**

**MUSICAL REFLECTION**

*O Holy Night*  
Angie & Andrew Weber

**\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

O God, whose word is fruitless  
when the mighty are not put down,  
the humble remain humiliated,  
the hungry are not filled,  
and the rich are;  
make good your word,  
and begin with us.

Open our hearts and unblock our ears  
to hear the voices of the poor  
and share their struggle;  
Use these gifts to address the needs of your most vulnerable children.  
Use our lives to right the wrongs and share your abundance.  
Amen.

**CAROL**

*Gentle Mary Laid Her Child (v. 1 & 2)*

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*CHORAL BENEDICTION**

*Christ, We Do All Adore Thee*

DuBois

*\* INDICATES TO PLEASE RISE IN BODY AND SPIRIT, IF ABLE*

**BOLD INDICATES TO SPEAK ALOUD IN ONE VOICE, IF ABLE**

LEADING US IN WORSHIP – DECEMBER 20, 2020

Rev. Carol Hill, Senior Minister  
Pastor Mollie Foster, Associate Minister  
Liz Swanson, Director of Pastoral Services

Sasha Gerritson, Director of Music Ministries  
Angie & Andrew Weber, Musicians  
Sue Douglass, organist  
Karen Nelson, violin  
Elizabeth Coffman, violin  
Naomi Hildner, viola  
Melissa Bach, cello  
Bells on High, Sandy Bowen, director

All services, including a special Children's Christmas Eve service and our traditional Christmas Eve service will be recorded and streamed online. Copies of bulletins are available upon request.

[www.youtube.com/c/ParkRidgeCommunityChurchPRCC](http://www.youtube.com/c/ParkRidgeCommunityChurchPRCC)



# PRAYER REQUESTS

One of the gifts of community is that 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:

Heather Cannon, Erika Cornelisen, Kylie Figgins, Jon Forsythe, Edith E. Hurlburt, Tom Kapolnek, Candace Kidston, Walter and Christina Kotecki, Geri LeDuc, Lurana Nelson, Leo Netko, Dean Muenzer, Reggie Pantazi, Susan Ruth, Ann Stutts, Kathleen Weller, Joyce Wright, Bill Zoellner, Kate Zoellner.

## PRAYER REQUESTS FROM DECEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup>:

- Wishing Happy Birthdays to: Katie W. last week; Patrice D. on 12/14; Elaine Z. on 12/15; Char N. on 12/16, Jim S. on 12/17; and Barb P. on 12/18
- We celebrate the Christmas pageant and the joy of our children!
- We celebrate Caroline D's successful heart valve replacement on 12/4 and pray for her healing and recovery from this extensive procedure.
- We celebrate Al K's successful shoulder surgery on 12/8 and the care Jamie is providing.
- We celebrate that Norma and John S's granddaughter who had covid is recovering.
- We celebrate a virtual Stephen Ministry Christmas party and the ministry of our Stephen Leaders and Stephen Minister relationships.
- Phil N. was hospitalized and received a defibrillator and for cardiac issue. He is home now and doing well.

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

## DIY BIBLE STUDY

To accommodate a variety of schedules and our ever-changing realities, we will offer an all new form of Bible Study this year! DIY Bible Study will correspond with our preaching series. There will be a Study Guide available on our website <https://www.parkridgecommunitychurch.org/diybiblestudy> OR printed out for you (upon request).

## BIBLE STUDY WITH PASTOR CAROL

There will be no class on December 23 or 30. The DIY Bible Study will NOT have a video component during Advent in an effort to help simplify this often chaotic season. The Daily Devotion will replace the DIY Study Guide for Advent. A Weekly DIY video and study guide will return in January.

# STAYING CONNECTED

## ADVENT DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Our staff team has prepared a daily devotional to accompany the PRCC Advent worship series. This devotional may be viewed electronically from our website or you may request a printed copy. Each day has a scripture passage for reflection, a commentary or reflection on the passage, a simple action, prayer, and link to a different Christmas carol to listen to each day! We will print and deliver paper copies upon request.

## ADVENT COFFEE HOUR

Each Sunday during Advent, the congregation of PRCC is invited to join in a Zoom "coffee hour" from 9:30-10:00 am. During this time Pastor Carol and our staff will highlight a few important announcements, share updates on Joys and Concerns, and allow for time to see one another's smiling faces. Children are encouraged to attend! So, pour yourself some coffee or cider and log-in for a brief touchpoint during Advent.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/95163782426?pwd=c2kvM2xGR3pRMWs3MzNWU1lzUGNNUT09>

Meeting ID: 951 6378 2426

Passcode: 919348  
One tap mobile  
+13126266799,,95163782426# US (Chicago)

### WEDNESDAY ZOOM – CONNECT WITH PRCC

Join together online for a brief prayer, scripture verse, and check-in. Share a joke, fun fact, hardest thing to buy at the grocery store, update on a surgery, you name it! Let's stay CLOSELY CONNECTED while maintaining social DISTANCE! We meet via Zoom at noon on Wednesdays. All are welcome!

<https://zoom.us/j/91239346091?pwd=R3ZWSWdHWG85a1Q5b1AzbXl6OXpiZz09>

Meeting ID: 912 3934 6091 Passcode: 622858

***This week's readings*** - Isaiah 9:2-7; Luke 2:1-20

### KINDRED SPIRITS CAFÉ ON ZOOM

Join Liz at noon for lunch and conversation -

<https://zoom.us/j/92014175334?pwd=Njd2UXpkN0pMV0dSYTdScWhnankxdz09>

Meeting ID: 920 1417 5334 Passcode: 994443

December Schedule:

12/22 and 12/29 MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR – No Kindred Spirits Cafe

## STAYING INVOLVED

### YOGA OPPORTUNITIES

Cindy Klimmeck offers 4 types of yoga/meditation throughout the week: Chair Yoga on Tuesday morning at 10:15 am, Yoga Nidra on Thursday evening at 8:30 pm, and Mindfulness Meditation on Friday morning at 9 am.

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9671602932>

Meeting ID: 967 160 2932

personal ID is 227332

### SOCIAL JUSTICE YARD SIGNS – HALF OFF SALE!

We have a few yard signs left; they are now available for \$7.50! Signs are located in the Park Place Room, please contact the church Office if you would like to pick one up during office hours on Fridays.

## OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

### COAT DRIVE

***The Bridge Project*** provides monthly meals, toiletries and cold weather gear to residents of tent cities.

This winter they need:

- **gently used adult coats**
- **gloves**
- **hats**
- **blankets**

**Collection Information:** Please drop off donations in the designated box in the *Park Place Room* before/after Sunday services or during Church Office hours from 9:30 am - 12:00 noon Friday OR on **January 9th from 10 am until Noon** there will also be **curbside drop off** at the *Park Place Room* entrance.

### LINCOLN PARK SHELTER

Lincoln Park Community Services is open for volunteer meal assistance. We will not go in person to serve dinners, but can

deliver home cooked meals to the shelter. The number of residents at LPCS has decreased to accommodate social distancing, so we will prepare dinners for 25 people. Because the PRCC kitchen remains closed, we need volunteers to prepare, cook or bake various parts of a meal in their homes.

We need individuals, families or PRCC groups to prepare the following meal components to feed 25 people on these Thursday dates: January 7, February 4, and March 4, 2021.

salad

vegetable

starch

meat entree + small portion of a vegetarian option

dessert

We will coordinate volunteers through Sign Up Genius to ensure all meal components are accounted for on our assigned dates. Please visit <https://www.parkridgecommunitychurch.org/lincoln-park-shelter> to sign up.