

Celebrating the birth of the Messiah



*For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his
shoulders and he is named: Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

Isaiah 9:6

Christmas Eve

11:00 pm

PARK RIDGE COMMUNITY CHURCH

CHRISTMAS EVE

DECEMBER 24, 2019

11:00 PM

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

PRELUDE

And the Glory of the Lord from **Messiah**

Handel

*FOLLOWING THE STAR

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; Those who lived in a land of deep darkness - on them light has shined. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; Authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, Wise men from the east came to Jerusalem asking, "Where is the child who has been born King of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising and have come to pay him homage."

Please rise as we worship the Messiah

They set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary, his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage.

We gather, following a star, ready to worship the Messiah, born in a manger.

O Come, All Ye Faithful!

*CAROL

O Come, All Ye Faithful

41/42

*PRAYER OF FULFILLMENT

Holy One, on this night, we gather – to stand with shepherds, amazed at your glory; to sing with angels, rejoicing in your work; to wait with Joseph, trusting in your promise; to sit with Mary, cradling your love. May the good news of this night inspire us to tell the world of our great joy: for unto us is born a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord. Glory and praise to you forever! Amen.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

For Unto Us a Child is Born from **Messiah**

Handel

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Psalm 96

*CAROL

Once in Royal David's City

49

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 2:1-20

SERMON

More Than a Song

Pastor Carol Hill

PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS

Pastor Mollie Foster

OFFERTORY

The First Noel

arr. Manor

*RESPONSE (*Sung*)

tune: O Little Town of Bethlehem

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given.

So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven.

No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,

where meek souls will receive Him still the dear Christ enters in.

***SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST'S LOVE**

We conclude our service by sharing the light of Christ's love. Each person receives a candle from an usher. The Pastors will light their candles from the Christ candle as we sing, and that light will be passed through the sanctuary. Unlit candles should tilt to receive the flame, while the lit candles remain vertical. When your candle is lit, please light the candle of the person next to you. At the close of worship, please return candles to the receptacles near the exits.

We celebrate that Jesus, the Light of the World, has come. Jesus overcomes the darkness and despair with light, love, joy, and peace! His presence can be seen in the soft glow of each face this night.

***CAROLS**

*The First Nowell
Away In A Manger
Silent Night, Holy Night*

see next page

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

Joy to the World

**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 24, 2019 – 11:00 PM

Pastor Carol Hill, Senior Minister
Pastor Mollie Foster, Associate Minister
Liz Swanson, Director of Pastoral Services
Lyle Nicholson, Lector

Sasha Gerritson, Director of Music Ministries
Sue Douglass, Organist
Karen Nelson, violin
David Belden, violin
Naomi Hildner, viola
Victoria Mayne, cello
Jackie Tilles, flute
Mark Holihan, guitar

HELP US CELEBRATE YOUR PRESCENCE TONIGHT!

All participants are invited to complete our welcome card included in the bulletin and place it in the offering plate. Any prayer concerns or specific information requests will be relayed and responded to. We are so glad you chose to worship with us this holy night.

The First Nowell

The first nowell the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay.
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell, born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star shining in the East beyond them far.
And to the earth it gave great light and so it continues both day and night.
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell, born is the King of Israel.

The star drew nigh to the northwest, O'er Bethlehem it took its rest.
And there it did both stop and stay, right o'er the place where Jesus lay.
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell, born is the King of Israel.

Away In A Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with Thee there.

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.

Silent night, holy night, shepherds' quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven a-far, heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light;
Radiant beams from thy holy face with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King:
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!

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.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ!
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

ITEMS OF NOTE

WELCOME GUESTS!

We are glad you are joining us in worship today. If you are interested in more information about our worship, programs, service, and fellowship please visit our website at www.parkridgecommunitychurch.org, call the Church Office (847) 823-3164, or speak with an Usher or Pastor.

PLEASE SEE AN USHER for seat cushions, larger font bulletins, and/or hearing assistance devices for use during worship. *Thank you to our December ushers: Barbara Madro, Gretchen Kapolnek, Dave Kapolnek, Marty McHugh, and Chris Browning.*

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

NURSERY CARE 8:30-11:15 am each Sunday. Infants to age 5.

NEXT SUNDAY We will celebrate one service on December 29th at 10:00 am with Communion, Happy New Year!

NEXT SERMON SERIES

Our Sermon Series in January will take us on a journey to consider the ways that this new decade could be used to shine God's light. Launching off of some of what made the 1920s remarkable, we will consider how God might make the 2020s similarly remarkable as we work for justice, kindness, and hope. Innovation, Identity, Equality Movements, and Art were reactions and responses to what had been. How could God lead us into intentionally and deliberately creating a more just society, where we faithfully live into God's kingdom. That kingdom should be beautiful and soulful like jazz, full of equality for all people, and be forward-looking with innovations and exploration. Get ready for a fun, challenging, and thoughtful start to the new year and new decade!



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

The following donors have contributed toward the beautiful poinsettias gracing our sanctuary this Christmas season:

In Memory

- Mark Holihan in memory of Phyllis Holihan and Doris Blash.
- Judy and Ron Matzen in memory of Barbara and Louis Chalaux

In Celebration

- Mark Holihan in celebration of his grandchildren: Murphy, Felix, Morgan, and Clare.

Additional Donations

- Men's Breakfast



OTHER INFORMATION

CHURCH OFFICE CHRISTMAS HOURS

We will be closed December 24th – 26th and December 31st – January 1st.

UPCOMING EVENTS

NEW MEMBER INFO SESSION – January 13th!

Our next Newcomer Informational Meeting will take place on **Monday, Jan. 13 at 7 pm in the church parlor**. Come if you are interested in learning more about PRCC! Childcare can be provided. We will be offering a chance for new members to join our church family on Sunday, Jan. 26th. Contact Pastor Carol, the church office or Sara Born (sara.born@hotmail.com) for more information.

CIRCLE 2's 12th NGHT BRUNCH

Join us in the Great Hall after worship January 12th for a delicious start to the new year! You'll find many breakfast casseroles, breads, ham, fruit, cereal, and fellowship. Look for advance ticket sales Sunday Dec. 29 & Jan. 5, or at the door. \$6 adult & \$4 child. Hope to see you there! Questions? Grace: gcurtis1968@gmail.com or Teri tbiedke@netzero.net

JAZZ IN JANUARY

Starting January 5, tickets will be available for Jazz in January 2020. Join us for an evening of timeless jazz classics in the Great Hall of Park Ridge Community Church on January 24th and 25th. The evening will feature an outstanding band, led by PRCC's own Kent Wehman, playing tunes by artists ranging from Duke Ellington to Dave Brubeck to Bill Withers. Snacks, desserts, and drinks - including a signature Jazz in January cocktail - will be available for purchase. Jazz in January has a great history of combining a fun evening of incredible live music with raising funds for important church missions. This year, proceeds will help to support our church's overall mission and PRCC's youth mission trip in conjunction with Living Water International. The Water Well project will provide a sustainable clean water source to a community in Honduras. Proceeds from Jazz in January will be used to fund the well itself, as well as to offset travel costs for the volunteers.

Ways to Give

- *Come out and enjoy the evening.
- *Take part in the 50/50 raffle offered each night.
- *Sponsor the Event

We are searching for sponsors of the event to be recognized in event advertisements and inside the event program. Sponsorships range from \$50 to \$400. If you or your business would like to support our event please contact Dan Smith for further information.

2020 WOMEN'S RETREAT

Living Water Retreat for Women of All ages - February 7th - 9th

Cenacle Retreat & Conference Center (513 W. Fullerton Chicago) Women of all ages are welcome! You do not need to be a member of PRCC so invite your friends. Come for a weekend of renewal and refreshment to explore how water brings life to us physically & spiritually. Rev. Anna Voinovich will lead the retreat. **Registration Forms are available at the Front Office or on the main bulletin Board.**



CONTACT US:

Call 847.823.3164

Website: www.parkridgecommunitychurch.org

office@parkridgecommunitychurch.org

LIKE us on Facebook!

STAFF & CONGREGATION LEADERSHIP:

Rev. Carol Hill, Senior Minister

Pastor Mollie Foster, Associate Minister

Teri Biedke, Director of Children Ministries

Sasha Gerritson, Director of Music Ministries

Thom Goodwin, Vice-Chair of the Congregation

Shelley O'Brien, Director of Children Ministries

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