



Kenilworth Union Church
Service of Worship
December 13, 2020
Third Sunday of Advent
9:30 a.m. Online

CONNECT TO WORSHIP at 9:30 a.m.

Prelude

What Child Is This

R. Vaughan Williams

Call to Worship

Opening Hymn

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

arr. Gerard Moultrie

1. Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
And with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly minded,
For with blessing in his hand.
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
Our full homage to demand.

2. King of kings, yet born of Mary,
As of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture,
In the body and the blood,
He will give to all the faithful
His own self for heavenly food.

3. Rank on rank the host of heaven
Spreads its vanguard on the way,
As the light of light descendeth
From the realms of endless day,
That the powers of hell may vanish
As the shadows clear away.

4. At his feet the six-winged seraph,
Cherubim, with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the presence,
As with ceaseless voice they cry,
"Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,
Lord most high!"

Advent Prayer and Candle Lighting

Ministry of Music

Night of Silence

Dan Kantor, arr. John Ferguson

Cold are the people, winter of life,
We tremble in shadows this cold endless night,
Frozen in the snow lie roses sleeping,
Flowers that will echo the sunrise,
Fire of hope is our only warmth,
Weary, its flame will be dying soon.

Voice in the distance, call in the night,
On wind you enfold us you speak of the light,
Gentle on the ear you whisper softly,
Rumors of a dawn so embracing,
Breathless love awaits darkened souls,
Soon will we know of the morning.

Spirit among us, shine like the star,
Your light that guides shepherds and kings from afar,
Shimmer in the sky so empty, lonely,
Rising in the warmth of your son's love,
Star unknowing of night and day,
Spirit we wait for your loving son.

During the third verse, congregation joins in singing 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.

Prayers of the People

Thanksgivings and Intercessions

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 trespasses,

As we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation,

**But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory,
forever. Amen.**

Tithes and Offerings

Announcements from the Life of the Church

Prayer of Dedication

First Gospel Lesson

Luke 2:8–14

Ministry of Music

The Wexford Carol

Charles Floyd and Yo-Yo Ma

Good people all this Christmastime,
Consider well and bear in mind
What our good God for us has done
In sending his beloved son.
With Mary holy we should pray
To God with love this Christmas day;
In Bethlehem upon that morn',
There was a blest Messiah born.
Near Bethlehem did shepherds keep
Their flocks of lambs and feeding sheep;
To whom God's angels did appear,
Which put the shepherds in great fear.
"Prepare and go," the angel said,
"To Bethlehem; be not afraid,
For there you'll find this happy morn'
A princely babe, sweet Jesus born."
With thankful heart and joyful mind,
The shepherds went, this babe to find.

And as God's angel had foretold,
 They did a Savior Christ behold.
 Within a manger he was laid,
 And by his side, the virgin maid
 Attending on the Lord of life,
 Who came on earth to end all strife.
 Good people all this Christmastime,
 Consider well and bear in mind
 What our good God for us has done
 In sending his beloved son.
 With Mary holy we should pray
 To God with love this Christmas day;
 In Bethlehem upon that morn',
 There was a blest Messiah born.

Second Gospel Lesson

Matthew 2:1–12

Sermon *Advent Practices for the Shortest Days and Darkest Nights, IV: Look to the Sky*

Closing Hymn *The First Nowell* #56

1. The first Nowell the angel did say
 Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
 In fields where they lay a keeping their sheep,
 On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
 Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
 Born is the king of Israel.
2. 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 continued both day and night.
 Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
 Born is the king of Israel.
3. And by the light of that same star,
 Three wise men came from country far;
 To see for a king was their intent,
 And to follow the star wherever it went.
 Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
 Born is the king of Israel.

Benediction

Postlude "Lift Up Your Heads" from *Messiah* G.F. Handel, arr. A. Guilmant

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Worship Notes

Scripture and Sermon *Advent Practices for the Shortest Days and Darkest Nights*

November 22	<i>Friendship</i>	Mary & Elizabeth	Luke 1:39–45
November 29	<i>Song</i>	Mary's Magnificat	Luke 1:46–55
December 6	<i>Sleep & Dreams</i>	Joseph's Dreams	Matthew 1:18–25
December 13	<i>Look to the Sky</i>	Shepherds & Magi	Luke 2:8–14 Matthew 2:1–12
December 20	<i>Wonder</i>	Mary's Ponderings	Luke 2:19
December 24	<i>Darkness</i>	Christ the Light	John 1:1–5, 14

The idea for this sermon series is from Jan Richardson's article "[This Luminous Darkness: Searching for Solace in Advent and Christmas](#)," in *The Advent Door*, December 17, 2015.

A Methodist minister, poet, and artist from Florida, the Reverend Richardson lost her husband Garrison Doles, 62, on the second day of Advent, 2013, after what was supposed to be routine surgery. These Advent meditations are part of her response to that devastating loss.

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PARTICIPANTS:

Adult Bell Choir

Alumni Choir

Alyssa Bennett, Hymn Soloist

Lisa Bond, Director of Music, Media Production

Candle Lighters, Michael, Marni, Megan, Hannah, and William Sheehan

Chancel Choir

William Evertsberg, Senior Minister, Preacher

Joel Fox, Audio and Video

Robert Hasty, Violinist

Miya Higashiyama, Soloist, Media Production

Susan Klotzbach, Organist

KUC Youth Choir

Katie Snipes Lancaster, Associate Minister, Liturgist

Russell Rolen, Cellist

Milestones: The congregation celebrates the birth of Mallory Grace LeFebvre and Corinne Danielle LeFebvre on September 22, daughters Ryan and Michelle LeFebvre, and granddaughters of Paul and Leslie LeFebvre.

The congregation celebrates the birth of Frederick (Freddie) David Hoffmann on November 23, son of Greg and Beth Hoffmann.

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Live Nativity Success: Take a minute to [watch the slide show here](#).

COVID-19 Updates: please click through to view the church's guidelines and check the calendar for the latest updates.

Wednesday Chat with Bill Evertsberg: Inspired by a wavy, blustery Lake Michigan, Bill reminds us of the gifts God has given us.

WORSHIP

Send Photographs of Your Pet to be Blessed: To be included in the Blessing of the Animals slideshow (Online Worship, Sunday, December 27) please send a picture of the pet you would like to be blessed by **this Tuesday, December 15**. [Please use the form to send a blessing picture](#) or [email picture and pet and owner names](#).

Registration for Next Sunday's Outdoor Worship: Meet in the Memorial Garden at 8:30 a.m.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Outdoor Worship Reservations Open Tomorrow at Noon: Attendance is limited to 100. Click here for more information and make a reservation for this service on Monday, December 14 at noon.

Sunday Online Worship at 9:30 a.m.

Mid-Day Prayer: Each week a new liturgy is offered [livestream](#) this week at 12:15 p.m. We meet for 15 minutes to read scriptures, hear a brief reflection. On Tuesday, December 15 we will pray for the following: Susi Swisher & Kenneth Arenberg, Jen Tashima, Paul Tashima, Andy & Catherine Tatlock, Daniel & Cammie Tavakoli, John & Tobey Taylor, Ronald & Fleur Testa, Paul & Susan Theiss, Tom & Laura Thilman, Carl & Marilyn Thoma, Carson & Tria Thomas, Fritz & Liz Thomas, Dick & Helen Thomas, Rich & Amy Thompson, Nancy Tierney, Mark & Brooke Timmerman, David & Andrea Tingué, Anne Tobey, John & Carolyn Tocks, Tony & Gail Todd, and Cory & Natalie Todd.

Quiet Christmas Worship: Please join us online at 7:30 p.m. this Thursday, December 17 for music by the Sheridan Singers, Lisa Bond, and college students Chris Scortino and Kate Revord, as well as readings, reflections, and prayers by members of the congregation.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Susan Klotzbach, organist, awakes the voice within us with [Wachet Auf](#) prelude from J.S. Bach and Jonathan Wilson, brings us joy with the popular Christmas Carol [O Little Town of Bethlehem](#).

OUTREACH

Day by Day Calendar: You may purchase and pick up your calendars and stands in the front lobby of the church from Monday–Friday between 8 a.m.–2:30 p.m. There will also be curbside purchase and pick-up on Sundays December 13, 20, and 27 from 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m. in front of the church on Kenilworth Avenue. Checks made out to Kenilworth Union Church only for curbside pick-up; \$10/calendar and \$10/stand.

YOUTH MINISTRY Follow [@kucyouth](#) instagram

[Cats for Waterford Nursing Home:](#) Two ways to support the residents during the Christmas season. IMPACT cannot go Caroling this year so they will fundraise to purchase Companion Pets and make packages and cards to deliver.

College Break Work Day: Volunteer at the [Greater Chicago Food Depository in Chicago](#) on Wednesday, December 16 from 1–4 p.m.

[College Break Winter Walks:](#) Saturday, December 19 at 1 p.m. with Katie Lancaster. Meet in front of church for walking and talking. COVID-19 safety guidelines will be followed, please register.

[College Reunion Candlelight Service:](#) Friday, December 18 at 5 p.m. in the Memorial Garden.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRY*

Sunday School During Advent: November 29–December 20 Children and Family Ministry will meet online at 9 a.m. for a 30 minute Family Advent Chapel.

Weekday Storytime: Join us online, Tuesdays and Thursdays, December 1–17 at 4 p.m. as we read a cozy Christmas story together to wind down the day. Contact [Greta Connor](#) or visit CONNECT for the online link.

[Still Shines the Star:](#) Children's Christmas Eve 11 a.m. [livestream](#) and available anytime after. Amy Castino, Greta Connor, Christine Hides and Katie Lancaster will lead a special Christmas Eve service for children. Join us for the Christmas story, songs, prayers, and a special star blessing.

[Search for the Light Outdoor Scavenger Hunt:](#) Enjoy searching for four boxes hidden at Kenilworth Union Church as you enjoy the Christmas lights.

**for more information on Children and Family Ministry Programs please contact [Greta Connor](#).*

RACIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

[Virtual Social Justice Committee Program:](#) On Monday, Dec. 14 at 7 p.m. Alicia Garza will discuss her new book, *The Purpose of Power: How We Come Together When We Fall Apart*. Those interested are required to register on the [FAN website](#).

GREEN TEAM

A fact from the Green Team: Partners for Environmental Progress estimates that Americans contribute 25% more volume to landfills between Thanksgiving and New Years Day—approximately one million extra tons per week. [Green Team website](#)

We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation.

If you would like to learn more, please contact The Reverend Dr. Jo Forrest or a Stephen Leader.

Care Guild Leader for December is Sallie Smith.

To let us know where help is needed, call Care Guild at (847)853-3534

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Fourth Sunday of Extended Advent

December 13, 2020

COVID-19 UPDATES

- Sun., Dec. 13 6 a.m. The Weary World Rejoices Daily Devotional—Online
8:30 a.m. Outdoor Worship—Memorial Garden
9 a.m. Family Advent Chapel—Online
9:25 a.m. Enter In to Worship—Prepare with Children & Family Ministry Video
9:30 a.m. Online Worship—Livestream
- Mon., Dec. 14 6 a.m. The Weary World Rejoices Daily Devotional—Online
noon Register for Christmas Eve Candlelight Outdoor Worship—Online
4 p.m. Katie Lancaster Virtual Office Hours—Online
7 p.m. Virtual Social Justice Program—Online
- Tues., Dec. 15 6 a.m. The Weary World Rejoices Daily Devotional—Online
12:15 p.m. Mid-Day Prayer—Livestream
4 p.m. Tuesday Storytime—Online
7 p.m. 21+ Theology on Tap—Online
- Wed., Dec. 16 6 a.m. The Weary World Rejoices Daily Devotional—Online
10 a.m. Men's Coffee—Online
10 a.m. College Break Work Day—Off Site
2 p.m. Knitting Ministry—Online
5 p.m. Junior High Youth Group Secret Santa—Online
6 p.m. Junior High Youth Group—Online
7 p.m. Wednesday Chat with Bill Evertsberg—Online
- Thur., Dec. 17 6 a.m. The Weary World Rejoices Daily Devotional—Online
4 p.m. Thursday Storytime—Online
7 p.m. Quiet Christmas—Online
- Fri., Dec. 18 6 a.m. The Weary World Rejoices Daily Devotional—Online
5 p.m. College Reunion Candlelight Worship—Memorial Garden
- Sat., Dec. 19 6 a.m. The Weary World Rejoices Daily Devotional—Online
1 p.m. College Reunion Winter Walk—Meet in front of Church