

December 23, 2018





11:00 a.m.


*Where faith is nurtured, curiosity is encouraged,
diversity is welcomed, and all are loved.*

*****Those who are able, please stand***

 **Prelude** "Noel" setting by Louis Claude Daquin

 **Welcome & Announcements** Rev. Dr. Sue Collier
Please sign the Friendship Pad and pass it to others in your row, return it to the center aisle, and tear off the sheet and place it in the offering plate.

 **Call to Worship**
*All: 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."*

 **Lighting the Advent Candle** Loehr Family
One: God of our future, we open ourselves to hear your call today – the call to keep hope alive no matter the troubles we face. Help us to never lose hope and to offer hope to all around us – making our lives, our families, our communities, and our world a brighter place.
All: Fill us with your peace and light, make the world so calm and bright.

 ****Hymn #88** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" VENI EMMANUEL
(verses 1,2 & 5-7)

 **Call to Reconciliation** Kris Brammer

 **Silent Prayer**

Mission Statement:

First Presbyterian Church is a living ministry of the Risen Christ in the heart of Lincoln.

We praise God through worship

We strengthen faith through study

We live our beliefs through mission

We nurture a diverse community



Prayer of Confession

O come to us, Emmanuel, and free us from the tyranny of the world.

We hope for a world where peace, justice, and mercy reign, and yet honesty requires us to admit that at times, we contribute to the state of the world as it is.

Forgive us for turning a blind eye to the needs and injustice around us.

Forgive us for putting our own comfort first, when we are able to do more.

Forgive us for being used to the world as it is, and not daring to dream or imagine or hope for more.

So come, Emmanuel, open our eyes, help us to see how we can be a part of your work in this world, and awaken in us the powerful promise of real peace.

Amen.



Assurance of Forgiveness

One: God does not remember our sins, but does remember the promises which have been made to us. God does not shame us, but lifts us to new life. Friends, hear and believe the good news: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God!



**The Peace



**Song of Joy #121

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” v. 1

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!

Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by.

Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;

the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.



Children’s Time

Kris Brammer



Prayer for Illumination



First Scripture Reading

Isaiah 9:2a, 6

(OT—Blue Bible pg.109, Red Bible pg. 116)

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!



Second Scripture Reading

Matthew 2:1-12

(NT—Blue Bible pg. 86, Red Bible pg. 91)



Sermon

Fear can’t stand in the face of Hope

Rev. Dr. Sue Coller



*Hymn (insert)

“Watchman, Tell Us of the Night”

ST. GEORGE’S WINDSOR



Prayers of the People & The 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.



Minute for Mission

Christmas Joy Offering

Nancy Field



The Offering

*Please place the top sheet of the friendship pad in the offering plate
Text MissionPossible to 73256 to give by text*



Offertory

*"He Comes to Us as One Unknown"
Chancel Choir*

arr. John Ferguson

*He comes to us as one unknown, a breath unseen, unheard;
As though within a heart of stone, or shriveled seed in darkness sown,
A pulse of being stirred.*

*He comes when souls in silence lie and thoughts of day depart;
Half-seen upon the inward eye, a falling star across the sky of night within the heart.*

*He comes to us in sound of seas, the ocean's fume and foam;
Yet small and still upon the breeze, a wind that stirs the tops of trees,
A voice to call us home.*

*He comes in love as once he came by flesh and blood and birth in love;
To bear within our mortal frame a life, a death, a saving Name,
For every child of earth.*

*He comes in truth when faith is grown; believed, obeyed, adored;
The Christ in all the Scriptures shown, as yet unseen, but not unknown,
Our Savior, and our Lord.*



Hymn of Dedication #314

"Christ, Be Our Light" vs. 5

*Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come.*

*Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts,
Shine through the darkness
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.*



Prayer of Dedication



Hymn #102

“Savior of the Nations, Come”

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND



Charge & Benediction

All: The Salt of the Earth

One: You are...

All: The Light of the World

One: You are ...

All: The People of God

One: And God goes with you.



Choral Response

“We Need a Silent Night in Here”

We need a silent night in here.

We need your presence to come near.

Give us the hope we seek

and the peace we need.

We need a silent night in here.



Postlude

“O, Come, O, Come. Emmanuel”

setting by Charles W. Ore

(You are invited to remain seated for the Postlude or exit quietly)

The flowers this morning are given to the Glory of God

Greeters:

Pam Carrier

Ushers:

Jerry Philippi, Karl Tilinghast, Deb Buchholz,
Sona Buchholz and Connie Philippi.

Sunday Morning Drivers:

Pam Boyle, Nancy Field, Lynne Hughes,
Nancy Janike, Betty Tenhulzen

TV/Editing Crew:

Linda Brodzik, Jim DeFrain, Debbie DeFrain, Steve Hill
Shannon Janike, Paul Jasa, Tyler Knoche, Paul Smith

TV/Editing Crew Youth Volunteers:

Olivia Diedrichsen, Owen Hill

Pastor/Head of Staff:

Rev. Dr. Sue Coller

Pastor of Sudanese Ministry:

Rev. Jock Tut Peleak

Director of Music:

Dr. Brian Pfofner

Director of Christian Education:

Kris Brammer

Organist:

Dr. Charles W. Ore