

Home for Christmas  
...a thrill of Hope



*Christ*

# PARK RIDGE COMMUNITY CHURCH

CHRISTMAS EVE

DECEMBER 24, 2021

11:00 PM

## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

### PRELUDE

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

We count it in mere hours now.  
Soon the first pains of labor will be felt.

**Soon the Light will shine in the darkness,  
soon the baby will be born.**

Soon God will once again break into our lives,  
**coming in a way that is expected yet unusual,  
challenging our expectations  
and calling us to see life differently.**

God of birth, God of light,  
in this time of song and prayer and silence,  
**reawaken in us the awe of Christmas.**

As we hear again the story of a young woman and a surprising visitor,  
**remind us that we are called to respond to you in unexpected ways.**

And when we leave this place,  
**may we be willing to sing praises  
for the birth that we prepare to celebrate.**

We celebrate that God has chosen to make His home here with us.  
**We are home with our God!**

#### \*CAROL

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

*O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, o come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem.  
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels. O come let us adore Him.  
O come let us adore Him. O come let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!*

*Sing, choir of angels, sing in exultation! Sing, all ye citizens of Heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest. O come let us adore Him.  
O come let us adore Him. O come let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!*

#### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH AND CANDLES

Isaiah 9:2-7

This night, this night is a night to remember. A night when home broke in on us. A night when we were not forgotten or alone or abandoned. This night. This night is the night when here and there became one, when past and future combined in a breathless present. This is a night when we are home, in ourselves, in this family, in the God who loved us enough to walk beside us.

We gather in the night to proclaim the light. We shrug off despair and embrace hope. We set aside conflict and choose peace. We push away despair by claiming joy. We overcome hate by rising into love. Because this night we know, even in the shadows of our doubts, we know that we are loved. That's what it means to be home.

We light these candles, hoping to become the light, hoping to radiate light by how we live. We light these candles to create a space called home in this place, in our place, in inner places. We light these candles to declare that unto us a Savior is born, who is Christ the Lord. Welcomed home by angels singing and shepherds kneeling. Welcomed home by those like us who have worshiped for thousands of years. Welcomed home again tonight, right here, right now, in us.

It's time to be home.

*Advent Candles lit*

**MINISTRY OF MUSIC**

*Angels' Carol*

Rutter

**SCRIPTURE LESSON**

Isaiah 9:2-7

**PASTORAL PRAYER & 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.*

**\*CAROL**

*Angels, From The Realms Of Glory*

*Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth.  
Ye, who sang creation's story now proclaim Messiah's birth.  
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King!  
Shepherds in the field abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night.  
God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light.  
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King!*

**\*THE CHRISTMAS STORY**

Luke 2:1-20

**SERMON**

**Home for Christmas**

Pastor Carol Hill

**OFFERTORY**

*O Holy Night*

Adam

**\*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.*

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**Holy God, as we gather this evening, all our attention is focused on a baby, lying in a makeshift bed in an "it-will-have-to-do" stable. It's not lost on us that you sent your Son, our Savior, into the world among the poorest of the poor and told us: "This will be a sign to you." As we present gifts to you, we pray that they might reach those in the greatest need, that they might lift those in the deepest despair, and that they might bring peace and compassion to those who find themselves amidst conflict. We pray this in the name of that Holy Child, Jesus the Christ, our Savior and Redeemer! Amen.**

**\*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 insert

**\*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

Morgan Tone, Director of Children's Ministries

Shelley O'Brien, Director of Children's Ministries

Wellington DaSilva, lector

Sasha Gerritson, Director of Music Ministries

Sue Douglass, Organist

Mark Holihan, guitar

Jane Kenas-Heller, pianist

Karen Nelson, violin

Carmen Abelson, violin

Naomi Hildner, viola

Victoria Mayne, cello

PRCC Chancel Choir

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## **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 continued both day and night.  
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 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 afar.  
Heavenly hosts sing: Alleluia: 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 us our songs employ;  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*

## 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](http://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 ushers: Anita Rifkind, Scott Nelson, Paula Mack, Bob Mack, Tim Lapp*

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

**NEXT SUNDAY** We will celebrate one service on December 26<sup>th</sup> and January 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10:00 am. Happy New Year!

### NEXT SERMON SERIES

Are you ready for 2022? Often we will make promises to ourselves, write new resolutions, and prepare for next year to be *different*. Even the best laid plans are abandoned a few weeks in, leaving behind a residue of disappointment and guilt. At PRCC, we will begin the new year a bit differently. We are going to focus on embracing simplicity and celebrating joy in our Worship and Study series "Grace not Perfection." Together we will reflect on God's grace, letting go of perfectionism, and basking in the truth that God loves us no matter what. God's unconditional grace assures us that everything is not resting on our shoulders and that God is at work in spite of humanity's shortcomings. Come celebrate grace, new beginnings, and the knowledge that God is on the move! Worship series begins January 9 at 8:30 and 10 am worship services with a corresponding Bible Study on Thursday evenings from 6-7:30 pm in the Church Library!

## OTHER INFORMATION

### CHURCH OFFICE AND BUILDING CLOSED

We will be closed December 27<sup>th</sup> and December 31<sup>st</sup>, wishing you a joyous Christmas and restful New Year!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### JAZZ IN JANUARY

We're Back! Join us January 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> for this wonderful night of music and fellowship. This year we will focus more on fun than fundraising so this will be a more toned-down event with Covid precautions in mind. Please note that this year we will be offering balcony seating as a mandatory mask area with no food or beverages and limiting the main floor seating to 100 tickets. If you would like to join us, tickets will be on sale after Church and in the Church Office!

#### Pricing

\$75 VIP\*  
\$40 General  
\$30 Balcony

\* VIP ticket includes beverages, food, preferred seating and table service.



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## CONTACT US:

Call 847.823.3164

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

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LIKE us on Facebook!

## STAFF & CONGREGATION LEADERSHIP:

Rev. Carol Hill, Senior Minister

Pastor Mollie Foster, Associate Minister

Sasha Gerritson, Director of Music Ministries

Shelley O'Brien, Director of Children Ministries

Morgan Tone, Director of Children Ministries

Liz Swanson, Director of Pastoral Services

Jaclyn Weir, Parish Coordinator

Tom Goodwin, Chair of the Congregation

Naomi Siebert, Vice Chair of the Congregation

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