

SUNDAY WORSHIP

NOVEMBER 22, 2020

PRELUDE

“We Gather Together”
“Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”

WELCOME

Judy Hockenberry

CALL TO WORSHIP

In Christ all things hold together. He is head of the church and Lord of all. To God be glory forever and ever.

HYMN 367

“Come, Ye Thankful People, Come” St. George’s Windsor

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Righteous God, you have crowned Jesus Christ as Lord of all. We confess that we have not bowed before him, and are slow to acknowledge his rule. We give allegiance to the powers of this world, and fail to be governed by justice and love. In your mercy, forgive us. Raise us to acclaim Jesus as ruler of all, that we may be loyal ambassadors, obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MESSAGE

“God is Wasteful”
Mark 4:1-20

Rich Havard

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

TC Anderson

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.

SHARING OUR GIFTS

“A Sower Came from Ancient Hills” *Stuempfle, Jr. and Horman*
“A Sower came from ancient hills and cast good seed abroad: his field, ten thousand human hearts; his seed, the word of God. And some who listened would not bear, and some who heard forgot. But some received in fertile soil the truth the Sower taught. A Sower walked throughout the land, and everywhere he trod, he sowed his life because he was himself the Seed of God. But then, atop a barren hill, beneath a darkening sky, they threw God’s Seed on stony ground and left it there to die. The Seed was buried deep in death beneath a blood-red sky, and deeper still was buried hope for those who watched him die. But then, in Joseph’s garden fair, as dawn broke o’er the land, the Seed, from three days’ silent sleep, awoke at God’s command! O Christ, you come among us still, the Sower and the Seed. As once you sowed the truth of God in glowing word and deed, mplant your Word in waiting hearts, and let it there take hold, until it bears in fruitful lives a harvest hundredfold.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

BENEDICTION

Rich Havard

POSTLUDE

“Now Thank We All Our God”

J.S. Bach

Worship led by: Rich Havard, Judy Hockenberry, TC Anderson

Music: Adam Hendrickson, Chris Urban, and the Chancel Handbell Choir

Flowers: Sue, Sara, and Ali Campbell—Giving thanks for the life of Mike Campbell

Don and Barb Larson—Celebrating the birthday of our daughter, Heather Shaw

CHURCH LIFE ANNOUNCEMENTS
NOVEMBER 22, 2020

GUEST PREACHER — Today — Rev. Rich Havard, Pastor & Executive Director of the Inclusive Collective. A native Southerner, Rich grew up in Gloster, Mississippi - a small town with a population of 960. After calling Alabama and Georgia home for seven years, Rich moved to Chicago in 2014 and now serves as Pastor and Executive Director of the Inclusive Collective, a Christian community for young adults at the University of Illinois at Chicago and throughout Chicagoland. He strives to create faith spaces that are spiritually vibrant, inclusive, and justice-oriented. To learn more about the Inclusive Collective, visit LetsGetInclusiveUIC.org or [@LetsGetInclusiveUIC](https://www.instagram.com/LetsGetInclusiveUIC).

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT IS NOVEMBER 29 — On the First Sunday in Advent it is our tradition to celebrate the Lord's Supper. Our worship will be virtual so you are invited to be prepared before you "turn on" worship with a cracker or bread and a small glass of juice. Our Advent season will be different this year and still we are united in the love of Jesus Christ.

WISE AND SAGE THANKSGIVING DINNER CANCELLED — We're sorry to say that due to recent spikes in COVID the Illinois Department of Public Health is strongly suggesting that everyone who can stay home does, except for essential trips like school, work, groceries, etc. With this in mind we are cancelling the Wise and Sage Thanksgiving Dinner to keep our youth safe, their families safe, the Wise and Sage members safe, and our community safe. We do so with sorrow as yet another thing is cancelled due to COVID, but we are looking forward to next year when we can all hopefully gather and eat together in person again.

ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES

Wednesday Engage & Encounter: The Power of Restorative Justice in Our Communities and Our Lives — ***Wednesdays, through December 16 (no class November 25) / 7:00 pm / via Zoom / Instructor: Michele Holifield***

The term restorative justice is often misunderstood as a softer form of punishment meant to replace the current criminal justice system in the United States. In fact, restorative justice has roots back to the beginning of history and is used still today in schools and churches, just to name a few, to bring wholeness and healing to the affected community. We will look at the origins and principles of restorative justice and discover how these concepts parallel the concepts of justice in the Bible, and how this allows for a transformative approach to wrongdoing in our communities. We will also look at what it means to live restoratively in our own lives. Register in advance for this meeting by going to zoom.us/meeting/register/tJoldeGgrDspHt3rG6X39HQFAG5fYGWSt1DW or clicking the link in Weekly Highlights.

Sunday Adult Education: Out of Exile — ***Sundays, through December 20 / 10:00 am / via Zoom*** — ***Instructor: Dr. Donald Kaasch***

The Babylonian exile, along with the exodus from Egypt, are the pivotal experiences of the Jewish people. What led up to this event? Who were targeted by the Babylonians for removal to Babylon? How long did the exile last? Something was produced during and after the exile that would forever define Judaism, to this day. When the exile was ended and return to Judah and Jerusalem was open to everyone, what happened? Who freed the exiles? Don't miss this exciting look at what might well be the single, most important, period of Jewish history! Register in advance for this meeting by going to zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAoduGtpjMuHNVni8owoYIXyc4jkkJ4Pww8 or clicking the link in Weekly Highlights.

JOURNEYS MEAL DONATION AND DELIVERY HELP WANTED — First Pres continues to deliver meals to two Arlington Heights hotels where guests from our PADS program are currently staying. We anticipate providing these meals for the foreseeable future. Through your generosity, we continue to provide three meals a day, once per week, for 90 people. Also, we will provide 24 people with a box of food that will provide breakfast and lunch for a week. We need food donations, cash donations, and volunteers to pack and deliver. Sign up at signupgenius.com/go/10C044DADAF29A7FB6-winter. If you have any questions, please contact the PADS food team at padsfood@firstpresah.org.

WINTER ITEMS DRIVE — Last year, the winter items collected were valued gifts to the children of Firman House and the donations were greatly appreciated! Please keep these young children in mind this year. Instead of purchasing hats, mittens, and scarves, think about the amount you would have paid and donate that so these items may be purchased and given to the families of Firman House. Your donations mean so much to these children. Questions? Contact Kathy Doering at doering.kathy.m@gmail.com or 847-255-4364. You can donate in one of two ways—online or by check.

Online:

1. Go to www.firstpresah.org.
2. Click on "GIVE" which is the top line of the website.
3. Click on the GIVE NOW link in blue.
4. Select "PW-Firman House-WINTER" from the drop-down menu.

By check:

Send a check, made out to First Presbyterian Church, to the church office. On the memo line, indicate Firman Winter Items.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR CHRISTOPHER HOUSE — Many of us have enjoyed providing wrapped Christmas gifts for Christopher House families in past years, but because of the pandemic, that cannot happen this year. Instead, please consider donating to the Christopher House Thrive Fund. These funds assist families with bigger ticket items like rent and utilities, needs that have spiked since March because of COVID-19. By August, Christopher House had helped over 60 families from this fund. Between **November 1 and December 15**, you may contribute to the Thrive Fund. Your donation can make a huge difference in the life of a Christopher House family. Questions? Contact Fran Spencer at fran109spencer@yahoo.com, 847-767-2334 or Liz Thompson at lizht85@yahoo.com, 847-537-9087. You can donate in one of two ways—online or by check.

Online:

1. Go to www.firstpresah.org.
2. Click on "GIVE" which is the top line of the website.
3. Click on the GIVE NOW link in blue.
4. Select "Christopher House Thrive" from the drop-down menu.

By check:

Send a check, made out to First Presbyterian Church, to the church office. On the memo line, indicate Christopher House Thrive Fund.

PASTORAL CARE — If you have a death in the family, an anticipated surgery, the birth of a new baby, or if you or a loved one are struggling, your pastors and church family want to be there to support you. Please contact Pastor Judy Hockenberry, at judyhockenberry@firstpresah.org or 847-255-5900, or call the church office to share your pastoral needs.

SANCTUARY ENHANCEMENTS — During these last months, we have been busy working on a project to enhance the Chancel area of the Sanctuary. Work is currently underway to construct a permanent stage at the front of the Chancel area. With this addition, there will be acoustical improvements for the organ, choir, and instrumental ensembles, easier set-ups for handbells and orchestra ensembles, and a brighter space for weddings, baptisms, memorial services, and other special services. We expect work to be complete in mid-December and cannot wait for you to see this beautiful addition to our worship space when we are all able to gather again.



THANK YOU FROM FAITH COMMUNITY HOMES —

Dear Friends at First Pres:

Thank you for your generous donation of paper goods and cleaning products for the families in Faith Community Homes.

These necessities cannot be purchased with Link cards and generally are not distributed at regular food pantries. With your donations, you are allowing the parents in our program to put their money towards other bills instead of towards household supplies.

During the pandemic, the families in our program, many of whom were barely scraping by before, are facing job loss, reduction in work hours, new childcare concerns, loss of child support payments, and many other stressful situations. By supplying these families with household necessities, you have given the parents one less thing to worry about, and that is truly a gift.

Thank you for your continued kindness towards our neighbors in need.

With Gratitude,
Sarah Harte
Program Manager, Faith Community Homes

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT — As we continue to stream worship services until further notice, we ask that you keep your giving to the church up-to-date by mailing in a check or by going online. By continuing to give, you continue to help your church pay its bills, make its payroll, and be a light in the world. To give online:

1. Go to www.firstpresah.org.
2. Click on "GIVE" which is the top line of the website.
3. Click on the GIVE NOW link in blue.

Online giving can be done on a one-time basis or you can set up a recurring gift. It is easy and our website uses Secure Socket Layering (SSL) to protect personal credit information before it travels over the Internet. By continuing to give, you continue to help your church pay its bills, make its payroll, and be a light in the world.

BUILDING UPDATE — The following was sent to the congregation on Saturday, November 14, as an update to the opening of our building.

Dear First Pres family,

At our November meeting, the Session approved a Covid-19 Task Force recommendation that going forward we follow the guidelines for Covid-19 as stipulated by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH). As you all know, we are seeing a record number of cases of Covid-19 throughout our state.

The IDPH and the Cook County Department of Public Health have issued some advisories and ask everyone to comply for at least the next thirty days. To that end, our staff will once again work from home. **All activity**, outside of PDO and ongoing building maintenance, will stop in the church building. We will continue to collect supplies for and deliver meals for PADS because that is an essential service.

PDO will follow the guidance of District 25. Their director, Coleen Anzalone, is staying in close communication with the parents, children, and staff of PDO, as well as First Pres staff.

Some church staff will be in and out of the building during the week to check mail, phone messages, and to continue recording Sunday morning worship. All other work will be done from home. We will hold all of our meetings through the Zoom platform.

You will be able to reach the pastors through their cell phones. Those numbers are: Alex (717) 608-1396; Judy (502) 445-9281; T.C. (734) 624-6682.

At this time, we are hoping that we can return to our current level of in-office presence on December 15. However, we will continue to follow the guidance and advice of the Illinois Department of Public Health.

On-line Sunday worship is available to you throughout Sunday morning. Please join us for worship and do not hesitate to call one of the pastors if you have a special need, a prayer request, or a question.

Praying for you and with you,
The Session of First Presbyterian Church

ONLINE WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY

November 29, 2020: First Sunday of Advent
Worship (firstpresah.org/media/live-stream/)

Scriptures: Luke 23:1-5, 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

Preacher: Alex Lang

Sermon Title: Powerful Weakness

Prayer Requests

Healing & Comfort

Mario Alberico
Brian Aldrich
Pat Almblad
Liz Armstrong
Dave Berkow
Dawn Bruce
Samuel Bruce — brother of Lee Bruce
Betty Lou Bukowski
Brian & Jennifer Butler — brother-in-law and sister
of Dawn Bruce
Jane Cassaro — friend of Beth Balow
Mary Clarbour
Sally Costello
Carol Dahn
Alice Davitt — friend of Kris Ward
Sr. Sharon Dillon — friend of Kris Ward
Roger Fick
Michael Fischer — grandson of Dave and Pat Almblad
Bobbi Freres
Karl Gates — friend of Mary Kiepora
George Gerner — cousin of Kelsey Fuentes
Bill Ginnodo
Gloria — friend of June Johnson
Dorita and Houston Godfrey
Ermina Gomez & daughter — friends of Elaine Chen
Kit Graham — friend of Betty Sanders
Barbara Hayes
Bob Jackson — friend of Hal Stern
Rich Jacobs — son-in-law of Barbara MacDowell
Mary Jessogne — sister-in-law of Myrtle Jessogne
Steve Jessogne — nephew of Myrtle Jessogne
Marylyn Jirsa

Marjorie Kalivoda
Helen Lawson — friend of Liz Armstrong
Penny Lumsden — mother of Stu Lumsden
Quentin Mare'
Sean McClory — friend of Mario Alberico
Scott and Laura Morrison — friends of Mario and
Claudia Alberico
Lee Nelson
Gloria Oak
Elizabeth Postell — aunt of Janet Powers
Denise Poy
Jim Richardson — brother of Jan Richardson
Betty Roach
Jim Rohe — friend of Jo Christian
Theresa Scola — friend of Meg Haddad
Susan Scott
Dee Sievertsen
Ed Slivovsky
Je'Anna Paris Smith
Wendell Stoike
Arne Stollfuss
David Stratton — brother-in-law of Elaine Chen
Norma Syms
Sue Taflinger
Jaquan Thompson
Jewell Truskowski
Vasilios Tsironis — friend of Beth Balow
Dan Tsutsumi
Wes Upton — friend of Ralph Larsen
Marilyn Votava — sister of Judy Ayers
Gary Walker

Sympathy to

Jan Niemeyer, on the death of her sister, Dr. Peggy Garrett

Serving in the Armed Services

AMN Charles Arthur Brousseau, Air Force — son of Liz Moses and Bob Wendling
Maj. Michael B. Ford, US Army Reserves — stepson of Kris Ford
Brandon Latuzek — nephew of Elaine Chen
Geoffrey Martineau — brother of Lisa Martineau
E5MM Marc Robert McGrath, Jr., Navy — grandson of Donald and Jacqueline Schultz
2 LT Kristen Reese, Army — daughter of Jim and Becky Reese, sister of Adam and Brian Reese
Sergeant Benjamin David Schultz, Air Force — grandson of Donald and Jacqueline Schultz
Colonel Gretchen Wiltse — sister of Vincent and Heidi Wiltse