

December 23, 2012
Fourth Sunday in Advent
10:45 a.m.

Please enter the sanctuary and prepare for worship in silence.

*And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior."
Luke 1:46-47*

*We are not fulfilled. We cannot hope to be. No, we are held somewhere in the void of whole despair,
enraptured, and only there does the world endure.*

*Lady, sing to this Baby, even so.
-William Bronk*

GATHERING TOGETHER

Prelude

Call to Worship

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,
and in his Word I hope.
My soul waits for the Lord
more than those who watch for the morning.

There is no darkness with you, O Lord.

O Israel, hope in the Lord!

For with the Lord there is steadfast love,
and with him is plenteous redemption.

There is no darkness with you, O Lord.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

There is no darkness with you, O Lord.

(based on Psalm 130:5-7)

*Hymn 194

"Arise, Your Light Is Come!"

Invocation

In our world violence escalates and hate increases.

Come, Lord Jesus, Prince of Peace.

Fuel is added to the consuming fires of war.

Come, Lord Jesus, Prince of Peace.

Yet a dim Light grows in the midst of darkness.

Come, Lord Jesus, Prince of Peace.

Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light." (Isaiah 9:2)

The fourth Advent candle honors fire, the warmth of life that keeps us alive,
the star of Bethlehem shining on the child,
the seafire where Jesus will cook breakfast for his friends at Easter
and the fire of his love burning in our hearts, the light that brightens every darkness
of our lives, awakening in us the burning desire for Christmas,

Choral Meditation

"Creator of the Stars of Night"

Burkhardt

The Lighting

Prayer

**Lord God, in deepest night there rises the star of morning, of birth coming for sure, a day of
great joy dawning. Your loved Son is on the way! In the darkness I see the light, and find in it**

comfort, confidence and cause for celebration, for the darkness cannot overcome it. And I rejoice to nourish it in myself, in other people, in the world, for the sake of him in whom it was born and shines forever, Jesus Christ my Savior. Amen.

Greeting and Life of the Church

Please sign the red pad at the end of the pew and pass it along the row.

THE WORD

God's Word

Hebrew Scripture

Micah 5:2-5a (p.756)

Gospel

Luke 1:39-55 (p.831)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Special Music "Mary, Did You Know?" Mark Lowry & Buddy Greene

Children through second grade will be dismissed for classes.

Sermon *Sing, Even So* Christy Bouris

RESPONSE

Silent Reflection

Prayers of the Church and the Lord's Prayer

Worship of God with Offerings

Offertory

"To Bethlehem"

Bob Burroughs

*Response (36, verse 1)

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

*Prayer of Commitment

GOING FORTH

*Hymn 27

"Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above"

*Charge

*Benediction

*Threefold Amen

*Tolling

*Postlude

Following the Postlude and during the coffee hour, a Stephen Minister will be available near the stained glass windows for anyone interested in individual prayer.

**Please stand as you are able.*

Welcome! We pray that you will experience anew the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ as we worship together.

Bulletin cover: "Fire: Darkness and Light" © by Mary Barnes-Gingrich 2012.

"The light shines in the darkness and the darkness can never extinguish it" John 1:5

Our thanks to Dan and Jen Hoglund, sanctuary greeters, Steve Fogel, Dwight Samuelson, Sue Samuelson, Alan Thorne, David Westerfield, ushers; Chloe Madvig, Scripture Reader; Peter and Rene Nelson and Tom and Cindy Buettgen, coffee hosts; Nancy Magill (piano), and the Handbell Choir, directed by Linda Johnson.

WINNETKA COVENANT CHURCH
December 23, 2012

TODAY IN OUR CHURCH

If you are visiting today, welcome! Please join us in the narthex immediately following worship for coffee and conversation.

- 8:30 a.m. Early Worship and Holy Communion
9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages—*“Wait for the Lord”* in the Upper Room.
10:45 a.m. Worship
6:00 p.m. Confirmation Christmas Party
7:00 p.m. High League Christmas Party/Alumni/Graduate Reunion

MONDAY—DECEMBER 24—Christmas Eve

- 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service
10:45 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

TUESDAY—DECEMBER 25—Christmas Day

The Church office will be closed.

WEDNESDAY—DECEMBER 26

There are no regular Wednesday night activities this week.

SUNDAY—DECEMBER 30

- There will be no Early Worship or Christian Formation)
10:45 a.m. Worship
Confirmation and High League will not be meeting.

ADVANCE CALENDAR

Fridays, January 11-February 22, 6:30-9:00 p.m. **The Marriage Course**—Seven nights set in a fantastic atmosphere...Candlelight dinner at a table for two...Listening to practical talks that are informative and fun, played on DVD and facilitated by a couple...No group sharing...Time for just the two of you...Free child care. For more information/registration, visit www.winnetkacovenant.org, or call 847 446-4300. \$25 per couple for the entire course, includes dinner, child care and materials. Flyers and postcards are available in the narthex for you to share with friends and neighbors. Anyone is welcome!

Wednesday, January 30, 6:00 p.m. WCC Annual meeting

NOTICES

Larger print copies of the morning hymns are available on the table in the back of the church near the sound booth. Children's bulletins are also available in the narthex. Please help yourself as needed.

Offering envelopes for use in 2013 are available to pick up in the narthex after the worship service.

There are opportunities to volunteer for Family Promise at our church, January 6-13. You may sign up in the narthex today.

The **Christmas Post Office** is open!. Bring your fully addressed Christmas cards for members and friends of the congregation to the mailbox in the narthex, along with a check made out to Winnetka Covenant Church for the amount you would have paid for postage. The youth will sort the mail and have it ready for pick-up after the service. Or, you may choose to send one greeting to the entire church body for a donation and this card will be posted in the narthex to be seen by the congregation. All money raised will help support youth ministry and mission work.

The Worship Committee is excited about displaying the Stations of the Cross once again this Lenten season. We will be working again with artists and authors to produce new works of religious art and written reflections. If you are interested in creating art, writing a reflection, or participating in meditative music, please contact Kurt Peterson at peterpunkurtw@gmail.com or 312.218-5545 as soon as possible

Thank you to the Winnetka Covenant artists who contributed artwork for the current **Advent Art Exhibit**. The artwork is displayed in the narthex until the first week of January. Drake Johnson's beautiful installation is in the sanctuary.

The Story: A journey together into the story of God's love, continues Wednesdays, 6:45 p.m., and Sundays, 9:30 a.m. *The Story* is scripture condensed into 31 accessible chapters, allowing the stories, poems and teachings of the Bible to read like a novel. Materials will be provided. All are welcome.

"When we honestly ask ourselves which person in our lives means the most to us, we often find that it is those who, instead of giving advice, solutions, or cures, have chosen rather to share our pain and touch our wounds with a warm and tender hand." *Henri Nouwen*

Stephen Ministry of Winnetka Covenant Church.

Please contact one of our pastors or a Stephen Ministry leader if you would like more information.

Texts for next week: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52

Straight talk about Financial Stewardship – Thank you for your financial gifts to WCC so far in 2012. At this point, we have covered just over 87% of our planned 2012 budget. In real dollars, this means we need about \$140K more to meet our budget. Our church relies on generous December giving from you, including fulfilling your pledges. Please do not overlook your commitment to support our church financially. It is up to your generous giving, talents, special gifts and faith that helps us maintain our programs, missions, staff and church all year.

May I also remind you, that 2013 pledges are also being collected. We have many new pledges and still many who have yet to pledge. You can pledge online or send your pledge card to the church office.

Thank you for your financial attention to the needs of our church and your ongoing commitment to our mission.

Monday, December 24

4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

10:45 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, December 30

10:45 a.m. Worship Service

There will not be Sunday School or Early Worship

Monday, December 31

6:00 p.m. New Year's Eve Service of Holy Communion

Sunday, January 6

10:45 a.m. Worship Service.

There will not be Sunday School or Early Worship

The church office will be open on December 26, 27 and 28 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Those in need

Sue Abram
Charlotte and Owen Anderson (sister and brother-in-law of John Couleur)
Elsie Anderson
Lee Borre
Richard Carlson (nephew of Jean Larsen)
Kristen Dahl (daughter of Eleanor and Peter Milbratz)
Ray Dahlberg (brother of Marj Hanson)
Carolyn Donnan (sister of Carl Balsam)
Marilyn Drotts
JoAnna Haak (daughter of Cleo Constantin)
Norton Hoffburg (friend of Maria Moreno)
Joanna (friend of Alisa Siebrasse)
Connie Jackson (sister of Marti Crow)
Doug Johnson (uncle of Aimee Balsam and Dane Johnson)
Frank Kassen
Aaron Klaassen (nephew of Nancy Magill)
Marlene Larson (friend of Mary Nilsen)
David Lopata (friend of Dave and Maria Moreno)
Dwight Peterson (brother of Bonnie Hawkinson and Kurt Peterson)
Family of Joseph Randazzo (grandfather of Joey Randazzo)
Jonathan Schwartz (brother of Mike Schwartz)
Ruth Seaver (sister of Judy Ebright)
Susan Magill Smith (sister of Hugh Magill)
Doris Storm
Roger Vanoer
Rick Voit
Wendy Woehler (niece of Lee Borre)
Kathleen Hanson Zavatsky (sister of Cindy Buettgen, John Hanson and
Pamela Hanson)
Stephen Ministers and those for whom they care
Our nation and leaders

Those serving in the military:

Chris Haak (grandson of Cleo Constantin)
Ryan Hengell (nephew of Phil and Barbara Kazanjian)
Chris Hillman (friend of Bill & Sue Kelly)
Bill Kelly
Peter Sudhoff

Those we support who are serving on the mission field:

Kara Bladel (Alaska)
Christine Buettgen (Democratic Republic of Congo)
Don and Lillian Dwight (Taiwan)
Brittany Girle (Juarez, Mexico)
Pamela Hanson (Honduras, on home assignment)
Julio and Katie Isaza (Colombia)
Peter and Anna Kim (China)
Jamie and Erica Rose (Alaska)
Gary and Mary Lou Sander (Colombia)
James and Rachel Ventress (Alaska)

WINNETKA COVENANT CHURCH

1200 Hibbard Road

Wilmette, Illinois 60091

Church Office: (847) 446-4300 Message Line: (847) 501-4158

www.winnetkacovenant.org

Ministers to the Congregation

Peter Hawkinson, Pastor

Andrea Johnson, Pastor of Discipleship and Outreach

Christy Bouris, Youth Pastor

Arthur A.R. Nelson, Parish Associate

Dawn Pegis, Director of Music

Dominic German, Music Intern

Joshua Smith, Organist

The Stephen Ministers

Our mission is to be a Christian community and to proclaim the gospel, worshiping together in love, nurturing people in the faith, serving others as Christian disciples, and building a world of justice and hope in the name of Christ.

At Winnetka Covenant Church:

We hold grace as our highest value.

We practice honest, open, direct communication.

We speak the truth in love and listen in love.

We believe the best about each other, valuing others above ourselves, as Christ does.

We allow room for mistakes, acknowledging that mistakes are part of the growth process.