

**December 9, 2012**  
**Second Sunday in Advent**  
**10:45 a.m.**

**Please enter the sanctuary and prepare for worship in silence.**

*“For I will pour water on the thirsty land,  
And streams on the dry ground...”  
(Isaiah 44:3)*

*“...the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness.  
He went into all the region around the Jordan,  
proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.”  
(Luke 3:2-3)*

*“Remember your baptism, and be thankful.”  
(Covenant Book of Worship)*

**GATHERING TOGETHER**

Prelude

Choral Introit    *“Come to the Water”*    John Foley

Words at the Water (Isaiah 55:1-3)

\*Hymn 55        *“All Creatures of Our God and King”*    LASST UNS ERFRUEN  
(During the singing of verse 5, the light enters)

Invocation

Lighting of the Second Advent Candle

*“For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground...” (Isaiah 44:3)*

The second candle this year honors water, in which we are brought to life-  
water which cradles Jesus in the womb; water in which he was baptized in the river Jordan;  
water, where he ministered at the sea of Galilee,  
water at the well of Jacob where Jesus gave himself as living water to the woman in need-  
awakening our thirst for Christmas.

Choral Meditation        *“Water of Life”*    David Haas

The Lighting

Prayer

***O God, we are asking not always for calm seas,  
slack sails and premature benedictions,  
but perhaps storm enough to make within us  
and of us something new, something saving,  
something true, a gladness of heart, a pitch for a storm,  
a word of praise lived, a gratitude shared, a cross dared  
and a joy received. Amen.***

Greeting and Life of the Church

**GATHERING WITH WORD AND SPIRIT**

Hebrew Scripture  
Gospel

Malachi 3:1-4 (p.778)  
Luke 3:1-6 (p.834)

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

Choral Anthem *"Prepare the Royal Highway"* arr. Michael Burkhardt

Reception of New Members

**We the members of this congregation now welcome you with joy into our Church family. We pledge to you our love and support, our friendship and our prayers, so that together we may continue to grow in the knowledge and love of God. Welcome! Welcome! Amen.**

\*Hymn 120

*"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"*  
*(Children through second grade are dismissed for classes)*

VENI EMMANUEL

Proclamation

*Zechariah*

Luke 1:57-80

### RESPONSE

Silent Reflection

Prayers of the Church and the Lord's Prayer

Worship of God with Offerings

Offertory *"But who may abide—For He is like a refiner's fire"*

G.F. Handel

\*Response (634, verse 4)

**Dear God who first loved us and drew our hearts toward you,  
Confirm our faith, increase our love our whole life through.  
With joyful hearts we come to you, renewing now our gifts of love.**

\*Prayer of Commitment

### GOING FORTH

\*Hymn 123

*"O How Shall I Receive You"*

ST. THEODULPH

\*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. Please join us in fellowship hall immediately following the service for a high coffee and a time to greet our new church members.

Bulletin cover: "Water: Deluge and Light" © by Mary Barnes-Gingrich 2012. In this image the curved lines, representing water, nearly engulf the candles' flames. Yet the light, representing hope for the coming Messiah, survives. Water is a theme that appears throughout the stories of Jesus, from his baptism to calming the stormy sea.

Our thanks to Matt and Elsa Johnson, sanctuary greeters, Steve Fogel, Reuben Hanson, Sue Samuelson, Dwight Samuelson, Alan Thorne, ushers; Aidan Jimenez, Andy Meyer, Scripture Reader; Nancy Magill (piano), Dr. Mark George, (piano), and Val and Makeda Hausman, candle lighters.

**WINNETKA COVENANT CHURCH**  
**December 9, 2012**

**TODAY IN OUR CHURCH**

If you are visiting today, welcome! Please join us in fellowship hall immediately following worship for high coffee. All are welcome.

- 8:30 a.m. Early Worship and Holy Communion
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages. For adults, 1) *The Story* in Room 203 and 2) *"Wait for the Lord"* in the Upper Room.
- 10:45 a.m. Worship. New members will be welcomed.
- 11:45 a.m. High coffee in fellowship hall to honor and greet our new members.
- 5:00 p.m. Children's Christmas Program. All are welcome. A reception will follow.
- 6:00 p.m. Confirmation
- 6:00 p.m. High League Progressive Dinner

**TUESDAY—DECEMBER 11**

Women's Bible Study will not be meeting. Classes will resume January 8.

- 6:45 p.m. Christian Formation Board meeting
- 7:00 p.m. Outreach Committee meeting
- 7:00 p.m. Worship Resource Committee meeting
- 7:00 p.m. Mens Basketball
- 7:00 p.m. Stitch and Study at the home of Marilyn Nelson. All are welcome.
- 7:30 p.m. Mission Committee meeting

**WEDNESDAY—DECEMBER 12**

- 10:00 a.m. Staff meeting
- 5:30 p.m. Wednesday Night Dinner: Chili. All are welcome. cost: \$3.50/adult; \$2.50/child or \$10/family. Cleanup: The Story
- 6:00 p.m. Adult Bell Choir rehearsal
- 6:15 p.m. Singing, Skits and Scripture in the Upper Room. All are welcome.
- 6:45 p.m. Programs for all ages, ending at 7:45 p.m. Explorers (ages 2-3); Voyagers (ages 4-Kindergarten); Pathfinders (grades 1-2); Trailblazers (grades 3-5)  
Junior High Christmas Party
- 6:45 p.m. Book/Film Group in the Prayer Room. The group will be viewing "The Way".
- 6:45 p.m. The Story in Room 203
- 6:45 p.m. Adult Choir rehearsal

**THURSDAY—DECEMBER 13**

- 8:30 a.m. Leisure Class Breakfast at the Bistro (Covenant Village, Northbrook). All are welcome.  
Contact: Sam Paravonian

**SATURDAY—DECEMBER 15**

- 8:00 a.m. Mens Fellowship
- 10-11:00 a.m. Adult Choir rehearsal

**SUNDAY—DECEMBER 16**

- 8:30 a.m. Early Worship and Holy Communion
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages. For adults, 1) *The Story* in Room 203 and 2) *"Wait for the Lord"* in the Upper Room.
- 10:45 a.m. Worship
- 5:00 p.m. Choir Christmas Concert. Child care will be available for children under the age of five.  
A reception will immediately follow the concert.
- 5:40 p.m. High League—North Side Youth Collision
- 6:00 p.m. Confirmation

## **ADVANCE CALENDAR**

Thursday December 20, 4:30 p.m. **Friendly Towers Christmas Party** (see Notices)

Monday, December 24, 4:00 p.m. and 10:45 p.m. **Christmas Eve Services.**

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](http://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!

## **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.

**The Friendly Towers Christmas Sharing Tree** is up in the narthex. Choose a gift request; SIGN YOUR NAME ON THE LOWER HALF OF THE TAG, DETACH IT, AND PASTE IT ON ONE OF THE LISTS ON THE TABLE near the tree. All gifts should be wrapped and returned to the tree by Sunday, December 16. We are happy to have helpers at the party (December 20). If you intend to bring your gift directly to the party, please notify Gladys Johnson. Join with another family, your Sunday School class, or K-Group to buy one of the more expensive gifts or put a monetary contribution toward a gift into the small basket hanging on the tree.. See December newsletter for further important details.

Gift items and bakery and deli items not sold at Lucia are available for purchase. Perishable items are in the church refrigerator and other items on a table outside of the church kitchen.

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.

**ALL CHURCH ORCHESTRA**, Sunday, December 23. Rehearsal in the narthex 9:30-10:15 a.m.; Play Prelude at 10:30. (We will use our traditional carol music). Please contact Mary Gingrich for music.

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.

Ravenswood Covenant Church is hosting an Advent Concert Series: Thursday, December 13 (Covenant Gospel Jazz Trio) and Thursday, December 20 (Axiom Brass). Both concerts are open to the public at no cost. Childcare is provided and light refreshments will follow the concerts.

"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:** Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18

**Straight talk about Financial Stewardship** – Thank you for your financial gifts to WCC so far in 2012. At this point, we have covered almost 85% of our planned 2012 budget. In real dollars, this means we need about \$200K 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.

### **REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

#### ***Those in need***

Sue Abram  
Charlotte and Owen Anderson (sister and brother-in-law of John Couleur)  
Elsie Anderson  
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)  
Connie Jackson (sister of Marti Crow)  
Doug Johnson (uncle of Aimee Balsam and Dane Johnson)  
Family of Gordy Johnson (uncle of Tom Johnson and Kris Heintzelman)  
Frank Kassen  
Marlene Larson (friend of Mary Nilsen)  
David Lopata (friend of Dave and Maria Moreno)  
Dwight Peterson (brother of Bonnie Hawkinson and Kurt Peterson)  
Jonathan Schwartz (brother of Mike Schwartz)  
Ruth Seaver (sister of Judy Ebright)  
Roger Vanoer  
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**

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Wilmette, Illinois 60091

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

[www.winnetkacovenant.org](http://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.*