Presbyterian Church of Western Springs

Sunday, December 26, 2021 | 9:30 A.M.

1st Sunday of Christmas

Gathering Together in God's Name

Gathering Music — Christmas Selections
Kay Kelly, piano

Gathering & Greeting — The Rev. Erik P. Khoobyarian

♦ **Call to Worship & Lighting the Advent Wreath**
We lit candles. **Patiently adding one each week.**
First it was hope. **We hoped. We waited. We watched.**
Then it was Peace. **We searched our hearts and found peace in Christ.**
The third week we opened our hearts to be ready to be surprised by Joy! **Alleluia! Glory to God!**
And then there was love. **What a glorious reality that God becomes more known to us in love.**
While we still wait, while we still long, while we still seek hope, peace, joy, and love,
let us worship God, celebrating the One who came into this world so that we might have new life!

♦ **Opening Carols Selected by the Congregation**

♦ **Call to Confession & Prayer of Confession (silent confession followed by unison prayer)**
On this the first day of Christmas, as another year draws to a close,
we come together before God and with one another, confessing
the ways in which we have been caught up
in the frenzied spirit of the holidays
and turned away from Your Spirit of Peace;
the times we have focused so much on our own lives and desires,
that we have neglected the voices of your children
who cry out for Justice;
in our focus on making the season perfect,
we have turned away from the hurting people
and broken places in our world in need of Healing;
in the times we have dismissed Christmas as a time only for children,
and we have stubbornly closed our hearts to your amazing gift of Love.
O Holy Child of Bethlehem, Word Become Flesh, our Savior and King, hear us as we humbly pray,
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today. Amen.

♦ Indicates congregation standing, if able.

- Assurance of Pardon
- Passing of the Peace of Christ

A Christmas Story

Proclaiming the Word of God

Scripture Lesson Colossians 3:12-17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Meditation Living the *First* Sunday of Christmas The Rev. Erik P. Khoobyarian

Responding to God's Word

- Carol Selections

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.

Invitation for Financial Stewardship

Please consider making your contribution online at https://presbyws.org/donate/.
Reach out to Patrick Rivers (patrick@presbyws.org) with any questions or for help in setting up payments through your bank.

Go in God's Name

- Sending Carol(s)
- Charge and Benediction

Postlude

THANK YOU TO *Kay Kelly & Kate Kelly for leading our music in worship and to all of our volunteers this morning!*

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This service is being streamed live and recorded for publication. Please sit in the balcony or the back pews if you wish to be out of camera view.

Presbyterian Church Of Western Springs
5250 Wolf Road
Western Springs, IL 60558-1898
www.presbyws.org
708-246-5220 Phone
708-246-4276 Fax