

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
The Nativity In Song
December 22, 2024



Angels Announcing the Birth of Christ to the Shepherds by Govert Flinck (1615-1660)

WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP TODAY

Thank you for joining us for worship and fellowship today. We are blessed to have you with us and look forward to greeting you after worship.

FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

Children ages 4 years-6th grade start in the sanctuary with their families and then proceed to the Godly Play classroom (Room 9) for the lesson. Following the church service, families pick up their children up from Godly Play. For the little ones, ages birth-3 years, child care is available in room 107 during the church service.

INCLUSIVITY STATEMENT

Glenview Community Church is an Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ, accepting all who believe in God without regard to race, color, age, marital status, national origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, or physical ability. It is also a W.I.S.E. church of the United Church of Christ - welcoming, inclusive, supportive, and engaged with respect to persons facing mental health challenges, their families, and their caregivers.

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS

There are large print bulletins available each Sunday. If you need one, ask an usher.

HEARING DEVICES

Hearing devices are available for your use. They are located in the Narthex. If you need assistance in locating them, please see an usher who will be able to assist you.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Ministers	Rev. Dr. James Matarazzo, Rev. Abigail Lutz
Organist	Gary Wendt
Chancel Choir	Guillermo Muñoz Küster
Musicians	Sue Cunningham, flute; Edie Harrison, clarinet
Soloists	Lucinda Fuller, Sheryl Long, Tricia Melzer-Swaydrak, Sue Newberry, Beth Raebel
Lectors	Greg Bliss, Julie Bretz
Advent Family	The Peschke family
Ambassadors	M-J Carlson, Holly Little
Head Usher	Scott Frerichs
Ushers	Shawn Eshoo, Sally Hicks, Kristen Hugueley, Jack Christiansen, Michele Monteith, Debby Fosdick, Mary Ellen Johnson
Technical Engineer	Barry Nelson
Offering Steward	Dave Tosh

MODERATOR

Susan Johns

moderator@gccucc.org

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The Nativity In Song

December 22, 2024

GATHER

PRELUDE Adore and Be Still Charles Gounod
Sue Cunningham, flute; Edie Harrison, clarinet

INTROIT Christmas Isn't Christmas J. Owens, C. Owens/J. Linn
Voices of GCC

Prepare ye the way of the Lord...

OPENING WORDS

RESPONSIVE READING *Isaiah 40:1-5*

One: Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out:

All: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

One: Every valley shall be lifted up,

All: and every mountain and hill be made low;

One: the uneven ground shall become level,

All: and the rough places a plain.

One: Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

All: Let us prepare the way of the Lord!

***HYMN #119** *Hark the Herald Angels Sing* MENDELSSOHN

ADVENT WREATH CANDLE LIGHTING

Voice 1: The first candle we light is in the name of hope: not just what we long for, but our trust for the best within us to rise.

Voice 2: We light the second candle in the name of peace: the courage to soften, and to cultivate our ability to stay present in difficult moments.

Voice 3: We light the third candle in the name of joy: the abiding faith that joy unfolds whenever and wherever we are open to possibility.

Voice 4: This morning we also light a fourth candle on our Advent wreath in the name of love, as an invitation for Christ to dwell within us, deepening our capacity to love, and to be watchful of Love's presence among us.

All: The birth of Christ invites us to have hope, peace, joy, and love.

***SUNG RESPONSE** *Sung to the tune "Away in a Manger"*
A candle is burning, a candle of LOVE,
A candle to point us to heaven above
A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth
For Jesus is bringing God's love to our earth

MUELLER

TIME WITH THE YOUNG

Nowell

Randall Thompson

*Katelyn Ornduff, leader
Chancel Choir, Voices of GCC*

The angel Gabriel visits Mary...

Gesu Bambino

Pietro Yon

Beth Raebel, soloist

READING Luke 1:28, excerpt from "Faces at the Manger" by J. Barrie Shepherd,
"Mary At The Manger".

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Hugo Distler

Chancel Choir

Caesar Augustus had decreed that a census be taken...

READING Luke 2:1-5

Zum Gali, Gali

Trad. Hebrew

Chancel Choir; Sue Newberry, soloist

A baby is born...

READING Luke 2:6-7

O Holy Night

A.Adam/D. Buck

Chancel Choir; Tricia Melzer-Swaydrak, soloist

HOMILY *It is Simple*

Rev. Abigail Lutz

***HYMN (see page 5)** *There's a Song in the Air*
vv. 1, 2, 4

J.Holland, K.Harrington

Mary's Song of Praise

READING Luke 1:46-50

He Is Born

arr. Robert Wetzler

Chancel Choir

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

All: 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.

Frankincense, Gold, and Myrrh

READING Matthew 2:11-12

Three Kings of Orient

John Rutter

Chancel Choir

***HYMN #145** *What Child Is This*

GREENSLEEVES

CALL TO OFFERING

GCC's Special Christmas Offering will be collected during the four Sundays of Advent to support Onward Neighborhood House, an organization serving families on Chicago's Northwest side. Onward House provides daycare, early childhood education, adult education, a food pantry, and social, medical, and mental health services. Loose offerings and donations in Christmas Offering envelopes will go to Onward House. To make a regular donation or pledge payment to GCC, please use the "My Offering" envelope in the pews or note your contribution on your check.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Some Children See Him*

W. Hutson, A. Burt

Chancel Choir; Lucinda Fuller, Sheryl Long, soloists

***HYMN #134** *Joy To the World*

ANTIOCH

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Hallelujah from "The Messiah"*

G. F Handel



There's a Song in the Air

Words and Music by Josiah G. Holland and Karl P. Harrington

First note



Verse
Joyfully



1. There's a song in the air! There's a star in the
 2. There's a tu - mult of joy o'er the won - der - ful
 3. In the light of that star lie the ag - es im -
 4. We re - joice in the light, and we ech - o the



sky!
 birth,
 pearled,
 song
 There's a moth - er's deep prayer and a ba - by's low
 for the vir - gin's sweet boy is the Lord of the
 and that song from a - far has swept o - ver the
 that comes down through the night from the heav - en - ly



cry!
 earth.
 world.
 throng.
 And the star rains its fire while the beau - ti - ful
 Ay! the star rains its fire while the beau - ti - ful
 Ev - 'ry hearth is a - flame and the beau - ti - ful
 Ay! we shout to the love - ly e - van - gel they



sing, for the man - ger of Beth - le - hem cra - dles a King!
 sing, for the man - ger of Beth - le - hem cra - dles a King!
 sing, in the homes of the na - tions that Je - sus is King!
 bring, and we greet in His cra - dle our Sav - ior and King!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Poinsettia Delivery

Your help is needed to deliver Poinsettias to homebound members. Flowers may be picked up after the 11 p.m. Christmas Eve Service or Thursday morning December 26 between 9-11 a.m. If you can help, please contact Karen Aldrich at:

847-309-8218 or kaaldrich@comcast.net. THANKS for your help and MERRY CHRISTMAS!

December 23

Advent Rest: All are welcomed to join Rev. Abigail tomorrow night, December 23, at 7 p.m. in the Commons for the final night of this advent series. We will be exploring rest and love. If you wish, bring a yoga mat or towel to rest on during the meditation.

December 24

Join us for Christmas Eve!

4:00 p.m. - Family Christmas Service

11:00 p.m. - Candlelight Service

December Outreach

The Mission Tree

The Mission Tree is an opportunity to donate much needed clothing items that will be distributed through **The Night Ministry** to those suffering from poverty and homelessness. Check the signage around the Commons for more information.

Dunkin Donuts Gift Cards for The Night Ministry

If you would like to donate in this way, gift cards can be placed the decorated box in the office during the week and in decorated boxes at the coffee hour on Sundays.

The Remembrance Tree

This Advent, we invite everyone to take part in a cherished tradition. Traditionally located in our memorial garden, the Remembrance Tree has been moved indoors, outside the chapel, to make it more accessible for all. Add the name of a loved one or a message or an ornament, and help us fill the tree as a powerful reminder of those who have touched our lives. Don't miss this chance to contribute to this beautiful symbol of love, memory, and community.

Save the Date: Mark your calendar! GCC is hosting a service event on Martin Luther King jr. Day, January 20. Join us for a morning of intergenerational service projects. 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Generosity Campaign: Share Abundantly!

Thank you for turning in your 2025 pledge! We have collected 197 pledges for a total of \$\$686,918.00! Thank you for being a part of the abundance we have to celebrate!

Electronic Giving

Didn't bring your cash? No more checks? No problem! Scan the QR code to be directed to the GCC giving web page where you can make a donation directly from your phone. Thank you to everyone for their continued support!



FIND YOUR

COMMUNITY

CHURCH

1000 Elm Street
Glenview, IL 60025
Phone: (847) 724-2210
website: www.gccucc.org

MINISTERS

Rev. Dr. James M. Matarazzo, Jr., Senior Minister
Rev. Abigail Lutz, Pastoral Resident

PROGRAM STAFF

Gary Wendt, Music
Guillermo Muñoz Küster, Adult Choirs
Katelyn Ornduff, Children's Choir
Chris Calandra, Children's Ministry
Meredith Estes, Youth Ministry
Laura Dillon, GCC Nursery School
Karen Ornduff, New To You

OFFICE STAFF

Dave Aki, Director of Operations
Julie Evans, Business Manager
Riley Smith, Church Administrator
Javier Avila, Custodian

YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!

Glenview Community Church is a Christian community of acceptance and welcome for all God's people. We strive to make our buildings and grounds a place of sanctuary and safety for each person who comes here. Our church community is:

Inspired by Christ,
Enriched by Faith,
Committed to Inclusivity.

We serve God as advocates for Justice, Compassion, and Peace.