

First Sunday of Christmastide, December 31, 2017

GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: He came as a baby in a manger,

People: O come, let us adore him.

Liturgist: Angels sang his praise,

People: O come, let us adore him.

Liturgist: Shepherds brought their worship,

People: O come, let us adore him.

Liturgist: Magi offered their gifts,

People: O come, let us adore him.

Liturgist: And we –women and men, boys and girls- what shall
we do?

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

Song of Response

O Come All Ye Faithful

LUYH 76

GOD GREETS US AS WE GREET ONE ANOTHER

Pastor: People of God, in whom is our help?

People: Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made the
heavens and the earth.

READING AND RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Old Testament Reading: Psalm 148 (*Bible page 508*)

Liturgist: This is the Word of the LORD.

People: Thanks be to God

Liturgist: God, we humans have a tendency to hold on to things.
Help us to loosen up and let go.

People: I release myself from inappropriate expectations put on me by other people. I release myself from insisting on perfection. I release myself from micromanaging situations, or taking too much responsibility. I release myself from saying Yes when I should be saying No. I release myself from saying No when I should be saying Yes.

Song

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

LUYH 140

Liturgist: God, we humans have a tendency to hold on to things.
Help us to loosen up and let go.

People: I release to you any feeling that I need to fake something, or put on a show. I release to you any sense that I am unworthy, or unloved by you. I release to you any interactions I've had with people that have hurt or shocked me. I release to you any grudges or unforgiveness I'm holding. I release to you any urge for vengeance or need to prove a point.

Epistle Reading: Galatians 4: 4-7 *(Bible page 947)*

Liturgist: This is the Word of the LORD.

People: Thanks be to God

Liturgist: God, we humans have a tendency to hold on to things.
Help us to loosen up and let go.

People: I accept the peace you offer me in your presence. I accept the rest you offer me in bearing my burdens. I accept the freedom you offer me to not judge, to not consume, to not categorize or label, to not fill silence with noise. I accept the spaciousness that comes from giving up things that don't serve me or others.

Sermon: *God Wants a Yes*

Song of Response

Lead Me, Guide Me

LUYH 329

WE RESPOND IN THANKSGIVING

(Our morning offering is an act of worship whereby we as members of this congregation express our gratitude to and reliance on God. Guests and visitors should not feel that participation in this part of the service is obligatory. Anyone may participate electronically at <http://www.loopchurch.org/giving/>)

Offertory Prayer followed by *General Fund* offering

Discussion / Questions / Responses

GOD SENDS US OUT INTO THE WORLD

Benediction - Passing of the Peace

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December 31, 2017
First Sunday of Christmastide

Welcome to our worship service at Loop Church!

The Season of Christmas begins with the First Sunday of Advent, marked by expectation and anticipation, and concludes with Epiphany, which looks ahead to the mission of the church to the world. The twelve days that separate Christmas Day and Epiphany are called Christmastide, or the Twelve Days of Christmas. The sanctuary colors for Christmastide are white and gold. These are the colors of celebration, newness, and hope that mark the most sacred days of the church year.

During every service at Loop, we also celebrate communion. We welcome all baptized believers in Christ to receive the sacrament with us in the gathering of God's people. Those who have not put their trust in Jesus Christ as their Savior are asked to abstain from the sacrament but encouraged to reflect on its significance.

Nursery is available for children age 4 and under during the service. After the service, we encourage you to join us for refreshments and fellowship.

We hope you enjoy your time at Loop Church! We want to help you feel connected to God, God's people, and God's work in the world. If you're not sure where to start, feel free to reach out to your neighbor or...

Contact Us

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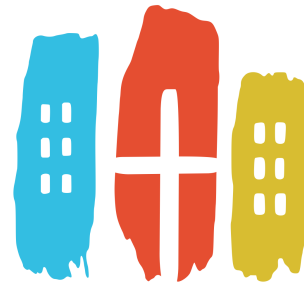
This week's lectionary readings:

Old Testament: Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Epistle: Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

Psalm: Psalm 147

Gospel: John 1:1-18



LOOP CHURCH
C H I C A G O

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Interested in Volunteering or Submitting an Announcement? Talk to Jim Bosman after the service or send him an email at jim@loopchurch.org

Missional Communities Schedule - Beginning in January the Loop Church Missional Communities will be meeting on a regular schedule as follows:

Anti-Racism Missional Community -- 1st Thursday of the month

Environmental Issues Missional Community -- 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month

Welcoming the Stranger Missional Community -- 3rd Tuesdays of the month

Calendar:

Date	Event	Time	Location
Tue, Jan 2	Worship Team Meeting	5:30 - 7:00 PM	11 E Adams
Sun, Jan 7	Brunch Sunday	10:00 - 11:30 AM	11 E Adams
Thu, Jan 4	<i>Anti-Racism MC</i>		
Wed, Jan 10	GEMS	6:30 - 8:00	Volpe Residence
Thu, Jan 12	<i>Environmental Issues MC</i>		
Tue, Jan 16	<i>Welcoming the Stranger MC</i>		
Tue, Jan 18	Steering Council Meeting	6:30 - 8:30 PM	11 E Adams
Thu, Jan 26	<i>Environmental Issues MC</i>		

Sunday Schedule:

Date	12/31	1/7	1/14	1/21	1/28
Set Up	Kevin & Mona	Jim & Mary	Peter & Silvia	Tim & Lexi	Kevin & Mona
Take Down	Tim & Lexi	Jim & Mary	Anne & Debbie	Peter & Silvia	Ginny & Charlene
Greeter 1	Janna	Joseph	Lexi	Peter	Kelley
Greeter 2	Jim	Kim	Janna	Sylvia	Jim
Refreshments	Adam & Rebecca	Brunch	Claire	Sharon	Tracey
Nursery	--- / Naomi	-----	--- / Brianna	--- / Kayla	--- / Rae
Lead Elder	JB	Kevin	Claire	Debbie	JB
Liturgist	Lexi	Emily			

Offering Update: December 24: Gen Fund \$1,807.00 FYTD: \$48,581.00