



Fourth Presbyterian Church

Third Sunday of Advent

December 11, 2022 • 10:00 a.m.

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

“Sleepers, Wake!” A Voice Astounds Us. Johann Sebastian Bach

Three Settings of “Savior of the Nations, Come” Dieterich Buxtehude,
Marcel Dupré, and J.S. Bach

Introit

“Come, Messiah, Come” Lynn Shaw Bailey and Becki Slagle Mayo
O Promised One, O Prince of peace, Emmanuel, Messiah, come. Lord, reveal your mercy; guide us, Lord we pray. May we see your light and walk in your way. Alleluia.

***Doxology**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. † Amen.

***Lighting the Advent Wreath**

Leader: *People of God, where is your joy?*

All: **In the sand between my toes**

Leader: *At the end of my to-do list*

All: **In the laughter of a baby**

Leader: *Beneath the soil of my garden*

All: **In bedtime books**

Leader: *In a hot cup of coffee with a friend*

All: **At the dinner table, lingering after dinner**

Leader: *Where my parents pick me up*

All: **In my partner’s laugh**

— *The candle is lit* —

Leader: *Today we light the candle of joy to remind one another
that joy draws us closer to God.*

All: **From generation to generation, God is bringing good news of joy.**



**Please rise in body or spirit. †Or “Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.”*

***Hymn 360** “Christ Is Coming!”

Christ is coming! Let creation from its groans and labor cease;
let the glorious proclamation hope restore and faith increase:
Christ is coming! Christ is coming! Come, O blessed Prince of peace.

Earth can now but tell the story of your bitter cross and pain;
we shall yet behold your glory, Lord, when you return to reign:
Christ is coming! Christ is coming! Let each heart repeat the strain.

With that blessed hope before us, flutes are tuned and harps are strung;
let the mighty advent chorus onward roll from tongue to tongue:
Christ is coming! Christ is coming! Let each heart repeat the song.

Long your exiles have been pining for your promised rest and home,
but in heavenly glory shining, soon the risen Christ shall come.
Christ is coming! Christ is coming! Joyful, shout the victory psalm.

Prayer of Confession

God of mercy, a million times a day we can be gracious;
we can assume the best in others; and we can give the benefit of the doubt.
We can, indeed, choose the better way.
But so often we don't. We allow fear and greed to take over;
assumptions and insecurities to intervene;
and comparison and critique to press ahead.

Forgive us. Forgive us for living like grace and mercy are not always available
or near at hand.

Forgive us for forgetting that all belong to you. We know better.
Give us the courage to love when we're afraid
and the wisdom to choose a better way, again and again. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

Leader: *Friends, believe the good news:*
All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Welcome and Announcements

Anthem :: “Veni redemptor gentium” Jacob Handl
*Come, thou redeemer of the earth, and manifest thy virgin birth.
Let every age adoring fall; such a birth befits the God of all.*

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson Isaiah 35:1–10

Children age three through grade five are invited to come forward during the singing of the Gloria Patri.

*Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:[†]
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

Children depart for Sunday School with their teachers.

Second Lesson Matthew 1:18–25

Sermon

“From Generation to Generation” Shannon J. Kershner

Responding to the Word

***Hymn 106** “Prepare the Way, O Zion”

Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!

Let every hill and valley a level way appear.

Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.

(Refrain) O blest is Christ who came in God’s most holy name.

He brings God’s rule, O Zion; he comes from heaven above.

His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth, and love.

Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding.

(Refrain) O blest is Christ who came in God’s most holy name.

Fling wide your gates, O Zion; your Savior’s rule embrace,
and tidings of salvation proclaim in every place.

All lands will bow rejoicing, their adoration voicing.

(Refrain) O blest is Christ who came in God’s most holy name.

[†]Or “to the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Ghost.”

***Affirmation of Faith** (*unison*) from A Brief Statement of Faith (PCUSA)

In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth, praying, “Come, Lord Jesus!”

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Prayers of the People

The Lord’s Prayer (*unison*)

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.

Call to Offering

Offertory Anthem :: “I Look from Afar” Anthony Piccolo

I look from afar, and behold, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth. Go ye out to meet him and say, “Tell us, if thou art he, who shall reign over the people of Israel?” All ye inhabitants of the earth, and ye children of God, rich and poor, one with another, go ye out to meet him and say, “Hear, O thou shepherd of Israel, thou that ledest Joseph like a flock.” Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lifted up, ye everlasting doors, and the King of glory shall come in who shall reign over the people of Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

***Offertory Response** The Hymnal, 144: verse 4

What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

***Prayer of Dedication** (*unison*)

God of abundance, we know you are more ready to give than we are to ask.
Humbly we pray that you accept these offerings as a sign of our intention
to follow you and love your creation.

Give us the capacity to discern well and distribute with wisdom
what you have given us for the work of ministry.

Through your spirit, may we relieve the burdened, heal the wounded,
and give joy to all who experience sorrow. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

***Hymn 362**. “Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers”

Rejoice! Rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear;
the evening is advancing and darker night is near.
The Bridegroom is arising and soon he will draw nigh.
Up, watch with expectation; at midnight comes the cry.
See that your lamps are burning; replenish them with oil;
look now for your salvation, the end of sin and toil.
The marriage feast is waiting; the gates wide open stand;
arise, O heirs of glory; the Bridegroom is at hand!
Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;
arise, thou Sun so longed for, above this shadowed sphere!
With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see
the day of earth's redemption, and ever be with thee!

***Charge and Benediction**

Worshippers who wish to do so are invited to sing along with the choir during the Benediction responses.

Postlude

Tocatta on “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” Andrew Carter

*We invite you to enjoy the postlude. If you need to leave prior to the end of the postlude,
please do so quietly out of respect for those who choose to stay.*



We are glad to be worshipping with you today and hope you will explore the many opportunities for learning, serving, and community building at Fourth Church!

✳ Inspired by the radical hospitality of Jesus Christ, we welcome everyone, without exception, into the life of this congregation. ✳ We invite you to join us at this intersection of faith and life as we share God’s grace with one another and the world through worship and ministries of healing, reconciliation, and justice.



Although wearing a mask is not required at Fourth Church, we as a community have made a commitment to be **a mask-welcoming campus**, encouraging the wearing of masks by anyone who wants or needs to wear one. As a mask-welcoming campus, we remain committed to **ensuring no one will feel out of place should they choose to wear a mask while at Fourth Church.**

✳ In the Sanctuary, the **front section on the pulpit side is for those required to or choosing to practice social distancing, and everyone sitting in that section is required to wear a mask.** The remainder of the Sanctuary is open seating.



For those who prefer to worship online or who are unable to join us in person, we livestream our morning service at 10:00 a.m. on our YouTube channel (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos), where the service is also available for viewing afterwards. ✳ **Those without Internet access** are invited to listen to the morning service via phone by calling 888.916.9166 at the time of the service.



During the week we make the 10:00 a.m. Sunday **service and sermon available via podcast** on iTunes and Spotify (www.bit.ly/FPCpodcast). ✳ You can also receive the previous Sunday’s **sermon text by email** by subscribing online at www.bit.ly/fpcsermons ✳ Available by podcast as well is an invitation to join Matt Helms and Rocky Supinger in biblical exploration as they discuss the **“Bible Top Ten”** in their **podcast** by that title (fourthchurch.org/podcast), with new episodes released every other Tuesday.

Ensure you receive the latest updates from Fourth Church by adding your email address to our distribution list. Simply sign up at www.bit.ly/newsfromfpc

If you would like to join us for **in-person worship**, we gather each Sunday at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary and at 4:00 p.m. for our Jazz at Four service (*with Communion*) in Buchanan Chapel. ✨ On Sundays the **doors open for worship** a half hour prior to the service. For the morning service, access is by the Michigan Avenue doors to the Sanctuary and the Delaware doors to the Gratz Center. For the Jazz at Four service, access is only by the Delaware doors to the Gratz Center. ✨ **Sunday parking** is available at 900 N. Michigan (*access from Rush or Walton*) at the rate of \$9 for 6 hours between 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. (*and \$18 for up to 12 hours*) and at the Hancock garage (*875 N. Michigan, enter from Delaware or Chestnut*) at the rate of \$10 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Validation tickets for the garages must be picked up from an usher. ✨ During the morning service **nursery care** is available on the fourth floor of the Gratz Center. ✨ **Worship can be heard** in the Sanctuary and Chapel through the “T” or “T-coil” setting of hearing aids. ✨ Please silence **electronic devices** during worship.



Following worship, a **pipe organ tour** begins at 11:15 a.m. at the front of the Sanctuary ✨ We gather on Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. for **Morning Prayer via Zoom** and also at 10:00 a.m. for **in-person Morning Prayer** in Buchanan Chapel. For Zoom details, email Nancy Benson-Nicol (*nbenson-nicol@fourthchurch.org*). ✨ To **submit a prayer request** to our Morning Prayer or Deacon Prayer Ministries, please email *caringministries@fourthchurch.org* ✨ The Chapel is open for **opportunity to walk the labyrinth** between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. For information about walking the labyrinth, email Rocky Supinger (*rsupinger@fourthchurch.org*). ✨ A **Sacred Pause time of meditation** is hosted virtually by our Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being at *facebook.com/reploglecenterforcounselingandwellbeing* on Tuesdays (7:45 a.m.) and Saturdays (8:30 a.m.).



We ask that those of you worshipping with us in person **please take a moment to sign the pew information pads** so that we might know you are here. Then please pass the pad down your pew so that all worshipers have an opportunity to provide updated information and to greet one another by name following the service. ✨ Those worshipping in person this morning are also invited to **greet one another during Coffee Hour** in Anderson Hall and the Commons following the service. ✨ **For additional ways to connect** with one another and Fourth Church, whether in person or online, as well as for various **resources**, watch our **website** (*www.fourthchurch.org*) and **Facebook** (*facebook.com/fourthchurch*) ✨ Events are posted on our **church calendar**, accessible from our website’s home page and at *www.fourthchurch.org/calendar*

Today is the last day to remember or honor a loved one with a gift toward the Christmas flowers, wreaths, and garlands that will decorate the Sanctuary and Buchanan Chapel this Advent and Christmas. A list of those individuals remembered and honored will be printed in the Christmas bulletin. **Contributions can be made online** at www.bit.ly/fpcgift and must be **received by this Sunday, December 11** for names to appear in the bulletin. For more information, contact Gloria Vicente (312.252.3571; gvicente@fourthchurch.org).



Women at Fourth continues to receive contributions for our annual **Christmas Wishes project** to provide **gifts for Chicago Lights Tutoring students**. To support this project we are **collecting gift cards** to Best Buy, Starbuck's, McDonald's, Uber, Target, and Amazon (*giving a total of \$25 worth of cards to each student*). Gift cards can be dropped off at the church reception desk to the attention of Simon Crow by this Monday, December 12. (*Please designate the amount on the cards.*) **Monetary contributions** can also be made to support the purchase of a book for each student. Gifts can be made online at www.fourthchurch.org/give-online or by writing a check payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church with "Christmas Wishes" designated in the memo line.



Our weekly **Advent "Rhythm and Word" video series**, which weaves together **scripture, prayer, and music** by the Fourth Church Jazz Quartet, offers a resource for your Advent prayer and reflection. A new fifteen-minute video is released each Wednesday evening on YouTube (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos); to receive them by email, subscribe at www.bit.ly/rhythmandwordemail * **Daily Advent devotions** written by Fourth Church members and staff are also available as a **resource for personal meditation and prayer**. Sign up at www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions to receive them in your inbox, or read them online at www.fourthchurch.org/devotions



The Sunday morning adult education class, "**Welcoming the Stranger**," continues today at 11:15 a.m. in Borwell Dining Room and via Zoom. For Zoom details, register at www.bit.ly/aestranger1222 * **Men's Bible Study** meets via Zoom on Tuesday mornings at 7:30 a.m. **Women's Bible Study**—which offers two Zoom gathering times (12:00 and 6:30 p.m.) on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month—meets this Wednesday, December 14. For Zoom details for Bible studies, email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org).

The Fourth Church **Festival of Advent Lessons and Music** service will be held tonight at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary (*and also livestreamed at www.bit.ly/fpcvideos*). Come hear scripture and readings of the season, be surrounded by the music of our choirs, and join in singing Advent hymns. “Cookies and Cocoa to Go” bags will be distributed by Women at Fourth afterwards. ✨ We will continue our musical celebration of the season with this year’s **Christmas with Tower Brass** concert, which will take place this Saturday, December 17 at 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. There are no tickets; donations will be received at the door. ✨ Next Sunday, December 18 during 10:00 a.m. worship the **Christmas Cantata: Gloria by John Rutter** will be performed by the Morning Choir and Tower Brass.



The **“Longest Night” service**, for those experiencing grief and sadness, will be held next Wednesday, December 21 at 6:30 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel (*in person only*). There will also be opportunity that evening to **walk the labyrinth** in Anderson Hall between 5:30 and 6:30 p.m.



On Saturday, December 24 we will gather for **four Candlelight Christmas Eve services: Children’s Pageant (4:00 p.m.), Family Service (6:00 p.m.), and Service of Lessons and Carols (8:00 and 10:00 p.m.; the 8:00 p.m. service will be livestreamed)**. There **will not be socially distanced seating on Christmas Eve**; it will be available on Christmas Day, as it is every Sunday morning. Masks are always welcome! ✨ On Sunday, December 25, **Christmas Day**, we will gather for one service only, at 10:00 a.m. (*in person and livestreamed*). There will be no Jazz at Four service on Sundays, December 25 and January 1. After that two-week break, Jazz at Four will resume on Sunday, January 8. ✨ There **will not be nursery care** on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, or New Year’s Day. On those days, as on every Sunday, children are invited to be with their parents in worship.



Our **New Year’s Eve Taizé service** will take place on Saturday, December 31 at 7:30 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel. We invite you to join us at the turning of the year for this candlelit service that offers moving music, space for prayer, and meditative pause for reflecting on the year past and looking ahead to the year to come.

As we mark the tenth anniversary of the Sandy Hook shooting, the World Mission and Social Justice Committee invites you to **learn about Fourth Church's work on anti-violence and what you can do** to help address issues of gun violence. Information will be available during Coffee Hour and can also be found at www.fourthchurch.org/mission/gun-violence.html; for information about additional ways to be part of Fourth Church's work on this and other social justice and mission issues, email Joe Morrow (jmorrow@fourthchurch.org).



For those who are sixty and over, membership in Fourth Church's **Center for Life and Learning (CLL)** is a ticket to a grand adventure filled with new insights, experiences, and friendships. CLL members enjoy Special Topics, Events, and Member-Led Groups; receive a discount for special classes; and may select from more than twenty different classes each week of the twelve-week session. Registration for the **CLL Winter Session Membership** opens this Monday, December 12 and can be completed online at www.bit.ly/cll2023 or by calling the CLL office (312.981.3389 or 312.981.3391).



Books by Women will discuss *Miss Benson's Beetle* by Rachel Joyce in person and via Zoom this Tuesday, December 13 at 6:00 p.m. in the Bumpus Room. For Zoom details, contact Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org). * The **Benevolent Guild**—which has counted among its projects making gifts for children in the hospital—meets this Wednesday, December 14 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 5B. * On Thursday, December 15 **Women at Fourth** will meet for a time of holiday fellowship in the Michigan Avenue Manse at 5:30 p.m. Register at www.bit.ly/waf1222



Fourth Church Meals Ministry is in need of volunteers to assist in helping our neighbors who are hungry and experiencing food insecurity. To explore these volunteer needs, see our Volunteer Ministry platform, VOMO (www.bit.ly/fpcvolunteers) or contact Robert Crouch, Director of Volunteer Ministry (rcrouch@fourthchurch.org).



For those facing life's challenges, **Stephen Ministers** provide a listening presence. To talk with a Stephen Minister, please leave a confidential message at 312.573.3365. * To **talk to a pastor** or **notify the pastoral staff** of personal concerns, illnesses, hospitalizations, or deaths, please email caringministries@fourthchurch.org; if the situation is an emergency or requires immediate attention, please call the church at 312.787.4570 to be connected to the Minister on Call.

Worship Leaders

Rocky Supinger, Jim Kulich, Finley Siurek, Joseph L. Morrow, Shannon J. Kershner

The Music Today

The Cherub, Children's, and Youth Choirs; Katy Sinclair, Director; Hsing-Huei Huang, Pianist
The Morning Choir
Michael Rees, Organ Scholar
John W. W. Sherer, Organist and Director of Music

Worship Notes

“SLEEPERS, WAKE! A VOICE ASTOUNDS US,” the first piece of this morning's prelude, was composed by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750). During his lifetime, Bach's compositions were not held in high regard. Many were discarded after his death, and almost none were shared beyond the churches he served. However near the end of Bach's life, a publisher and former student of his, Johann Georg Schübler, asked Bach to select six of his compositions for publication. He chose six organ chorales based on hymn tunes, including “Sleepers, Wake!”; they were published in 1747 in what came to be known as the Schübler Chorales.

OUR ANNUAL “LIGHT UP A LIFE” OFFERING supports the mission and outreach efforts of Fourth Church and Chicago Lights as they extend mercy, kindness, and love to those who are most vulnerable. You can make a gift to this offering by noting “Light Up a Life” in the comments section (*when giving online via Venmo or the Fourth Church website: www.fourthchurch.org/give-online*) or on the memo line of a check made payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church. Those worshipping in the Sanctuary can also use the special offering envelopes found in the pew racks.

Shannon J. Kershner Pastor

Lucy Forster-Smith Senior Associate Pastor

Associate Pastors

Nancy Benson-Nicol Caring Ministries and Spiritual Formation

Matt Helms Children and Family Ministry

Joseph L. Morrow Evangelism and Community Engagement

Nanette Sawyer Discipleship and Small Group Ministry

Rocky Supinger Youth Ministry and Worship

John Buchanan Pastor Emeritus

SOURCES AND CREDITS: “Prepare the Way, O Zion”
text © 1982 Hope Publishing Company. OneLicense.net. License A-712340. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Today's liturgy is adapted from A Sanctified Art LLC, sanctifiedart.org

THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO

Church office: 126 E. Chestnut Street, Chicago, IL 60611.2014

www.fourthchurch.org www.facebook.com/fourthchurch

312.787.4570 Voicemail: 312.787.2729 Fax: 312.787.4584

Those attending a Fourth Church worship service in person are entering an area where photography, video, and audio recording may occur on behalf of Fourth Church. By entering the worship service, you consent to the non-commercial use of the resulting visual and audio records; you waive all rights you may have to any claims of compensation for the use of these records; you release Fourth Church from any liability for the use of these records; and you waive the right to inspect or approve any of these records.