



Fourth Presbyterian Church

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 18, 2022 • 10:00 a.m.

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

- Joy to the World George Frideric Handel/arr. Robert Hobby
- Creator of the Stars of Night Plainsong/arr. John Barr
- Christ Is Born Giovanni Gabrieli/arr. Nate Hepler
- Benedictus Alec Rowley
- Good Christian Friends, Rejoice Michael Praetorius/arr. Erich Peterson

Introit

- “Our King and Savior Draweth Nigh” Stephen Sturk
- Our King and Savior draweth nigh; O come, let us adore him.*

*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, from all generations, what makes you feel loved?*

All: **Handwritten notes.**

Leader: *Reading a book together.*

All: **The passing of the peace.**

Leader: *Family walks.*

All: **Youth group.**

Leader: *When I see my friends at school.*

All: **Home-cooked food.**

Leader: *Making music with other people.*

All: **Hugs.**

(Continued on following page)



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

Leader: *Today we light the candle of love as a reminder that from the very first generation, God has surrounded us with love. May this good news—these threads of love—not only weave deeper connections between neighbors but shape our actions and allow us to see God more clearly.*

— *The candle is lit* —

All: In a lonely world, let this light shine bright. From generation to generation, we are held in God’s love. Thanks be to God for that good news. Amen.

***Hymn 348.** “Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending”

Lo, he comes with clouds descending, once for our salvation slain;
thousand, thousand saints attending join to sing the glad refrain:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Christ the Lord returns to reign.

Now redemption, long expected, comes in solemn splendor near;
all the saints this world rejected thrill the trumpet sound to hear:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! See the day of God appear!

Yea, amen, let all adore thee, high on thine eternal throne;
Savior, take the power and glory; claim the kingdom as thine own.
Come, Lord Jesus; come, Lord Jesus; come, Lord Jesus.
Thou shalt reign, and thou alone!

Prayer of Confession

God of today and tomorrow,
when Mary was pregnant and afraid, she ran to her cousin Elizabeth’s house.
Elizabeth threw open the door with joy and showered blessings upon her.
How often do we have that same opportunity?
How often do we leave the door locked, the curtains drawn, and the lights off?
How often do we shower critique or judgment instead of blessings and joy?
Gracious God, forgive us for our wrongs.
We want to see you when we see our neighbor. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

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

Welcome and Announcements

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson Luke 1:39–45

*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.

Second Lesson Luke 1:46–55

Homily Shannon J. Kershner

Christmas Cantata :: “Gloria” John Rutter

- I. Glory to God in the highest and peace to God’s people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
- II. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father, receive our prayer.
- III. For you alone are the holy one, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the most high, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Responding to the Word

***Affirmation of Faith** (*unison*) Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

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

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 :: “The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy” West Indian carol
arr. David Blackwell

The virgin Mary had a baby boy, and they say that his name was Jesus. He come from the glory, he come from the glorious kingdom. O yes, believer, he come from the glory, he come from the glorious kingdom. The wise men saw where the bay born, and they say that his name was Jesus. The angels sang when the baby born and proclaim him the Savior Jesus, and they say that his name was Jesus.

***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)*

Generous God, we marvel at your many gifts—none greater than Emmanuel,
 your very presence here with us.

With these offerings we pledge to try our best to mirror and reflect
 the glory of your incarnate love and to continue in the pattern of humble,
 self-giving generosity that we see revealed in the Christ child,
 in whom we pray. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

***Hymn 134** “Joy to The World”

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Let earth receive her king; let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!

Let all their songs employ, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,

nor thorns infest the ground; he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,

and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

***Charge and Benediction**

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

Postlude

Noel Malcolm Archer

*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.*

News and Opportunities

December 18–December 24, 2022



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.



You can receive the previous Sunday’s **sermon text by email** by subscribing at www.bit.ly/fpcsermons

✳️ Available by podcast 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, with new episodes released every other Tuesday at www.fourthchurch.org/podcast

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. This afternoon we will also come together in Buchanan Chapel at 4:00 p.m. for our **Jazz at Four** service (*with Communion*). This jazz service will then resume weekly on Sunday, January 8. (*We will not have an afternoon service on December 25 or January 1.*) * 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. However, nursery care will not be available on December 25 or January 1. * **Worship can be heard** in the Sanctuary and Buchanan Chapel through the “T” or “T-coil” setting of hearing aids. * Please silence **electronic devices** during worship.



Following Sunday morning 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 (*although we will not gather in person on Wednesday, December 28*). For Zoom details, email Nancy Benson-Nicol (*nbensonnicol@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 (*except on Tuesday, December 27*). 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.

Today Women at Fourth is concluding its collection of monetary contributions for our annual **Christmas Wishes project** to provide **gifts for Chicago Lights Tutoring students**. These contributions are being used to support the purchase of a book for each student. Gifts can be made online at www.fourthchurch.org/give or by writing a check payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church with “Christmas Wishes” designated in the memo line.



Also today we will conclude the adult education class **“Welcoming the Stranger”** at 11:15 a.m. in Borwell Dining Room and via Zoom. Register at www.bit.ly/ae stranger1222 for Zoom details. ✨ A new three-week class, **“Using the Enneagram as a Tool for Spiritual Growth,”** will begin on Sunday, January 8 at 11:15 a.m. in Borwell Dining Room and via Zoom. The class will provide opportunity to learn about the enneagram and how to apply it as a tool for enhanced self-awareness; knowledge of heart, head, and body intelligence; and exploration of the spiritual dimensions of all nine enneagram types, their virtues and vices, and the holy ideas that reconnect us to our true nature and oneness with God. Register at www.bit.ly/enneagramjan23 for Zoom details.



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—next meets on Wednesday, January 11. For Zoom details for Bible studies, email Simon Crow (scrow@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** is now underway and can be completed online at www.bit.ly/cll2023 or by calling the CLL office (312.981.3389 or 312.981.3391). This new session will begin on January 9.



Books by Women will discuss ***Walking on Pins and Needles: A Memoir of Chronic Resilience in the Face of Multiple Sclerosis*** by Arlene Faulk in person and via Zoom on Tuesday, January 10 at 6:00 p.m. in the Bumpus Room. For Zoom details, contact Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org).

This year consider **giving gifts that give twice:** to the recipient and to the maker and their family.

The World Mission and Social Justice Council invites you to shop for a difference this holiday season by **shopping fair trade.** Our longtime fair-trade partner, Ten Thousand Villages Evanston, is part of the “global maker-to-market movement that breaks the cycle of generational poverty and ignites social change.” They have both an online presence at www.tenthousandvillages.com/evanston as well as a store at 915 Chicago Ave. in Evanston.



For many, the celebration of Christmas is made difficult by feelings of loneliness, grief, alienation, and sadness, whether personal or collective. Our **“Longest Night” service**, which will be hosted by our Stephen Ministers this Wednesday evening, December 21 at 6:30 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel, recognizes and makes space for these feelings and challenges. ✨ Those who would appreciate a time of reflection and meditation prior to the service are invited to **walk the labyrinth** in Anderson Hall between 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. that evening. Spiritual Formation Council hosts will be on hand to offer guidance.



On Saturday, December 24 we will gather for **four Candlelight Christmas Eve services:**

Children’s Pageant at 4:00 p.m., **Family Service** at 6:00 p.m., and **Service of Lessons and Carols** at 8:00 and 10:00 p.m.; **the 8:00 p.m. service will be livestreamed** at www.bit.ly/fpcvideos ✨ On Christmas Eve, **all entry to the Sanctuary** for worship will be through the glass Loggia doors on Michigan Avenue. ✨ **Seating will begin** at 3:15 p.m. for the Pageant; seating for the other three services will begin a half hour prior to the start of the service. ✨ There **will not be any socially distanced seating** on Christmas Eve; the regular Sunday morning socially distanced section will be available on Christmas morning. Masks are always welcome! ✨ **Discounted parking** on Christmas Eve is available only at the 900 N. Michigan garage. Those who enter the garage on Christmas Eve *prior to 5:00 p.m.* will need to purchase a parking validation ticket at the church that day for \$20. Those who enter the garage *after 5:00 p.m.* will be able to park for \$8 with a validation ticket that can be picked up for free before or after the services. ✨ On Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year’s Day there **will not be nursery care.** On those days, as on every Sunday, children are invited to be with their parents in worship.



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.

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.



Our weekly **Advent and Christmas “Rhythm and Word” video series**, which weaves together **scripture, prayer, and music** by the Fourth Church Jazz Quartet, offers a resource for your seasonal prayer and reflection. A new fifteen-minute video is released every Wednesday evening on YouTube (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos); to receive them by email, subscribe at www.bit.ly/rhythmandwordemail
* **Daily Advent and Christmas 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



Are you interested in taking part in **Deep Listening Dinners** in early 2023? Groups of six to ten people each will dine together twice in home settings, gathering for a time of discovering and better understanding our differences while honoring our shared humanity and telling our life experiences to one another. To learn more about this opportunity to strengthen the fabric of our community as we get to know each other more deeply, email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org).



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). * Our **Chicago Lights Social Service Center program participants** need a means to transport their food, clothing, housewares, blankets, and other items that they receive from the Share Shop and Food Pantry. **Particularly needed** are paper grocery bags, sturdy plastic bags, cloth bags, shopping bags, backpacks, suitcases, grocery carts, and push or pull carts. Donations of these items can be dropped off at the 126 E. Chestnut reception desk on weekdays this week between 8:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. (*The church office will be closed on Monday and Tuesday, December 26 and 27.*)

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 explore options for teletherapy or in-person conversations with a counselor, call our **Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being** at 312.787.2729, ext. 2260. ✨ 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.



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

Worship Leaders

Nancy Benson-Nicol, Hope Daniels, Sarah Pierce, Matt Helms, Shannon J. Kershner

The Music Today

Tower Brass; Charles Schuchat, Artistic Director

The Morning Choir

Michael Rees, Organ Scholar

John W. W. Sherer, Organist and Director of Music

Worship Notes

JOHN RUTTER'S *GLORIA*, today's Christmas cantata, has been described as "exalted, devotional, and jubilant." Written in 1974 for the Voices of Mel Olson, *Gloria* was the first commission Rutter ever received from an American ensemble. The text is sung in Latin and is based on the standard words of the "Gloria" used each week in countless churches.

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*) 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

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THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO

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