



Fourth Presbyterian Church

First Sunday of Christmas

January 1, 2023 • 10:00 a.m.

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

La Nativité Jean Langlais
 Carol. Gerald Finzi/arr. Robert Gower
 Star of Hope Richard Keys Biggs

Introit

“The Lord Has Shown Forth His Glory”. Iain Quinn
The Lord has shown forth his glory; come, let us adore him. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

*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.

*Call to Worship (based on Luke 2:10–20)

Leader: *Glory be to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those whom he favors.*

All: **For unto us is born a Savior, Christ the Lord.**

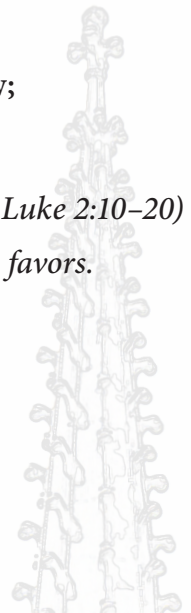
Leader: *We have heard good news of great joy, given for all people.*

All: **Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place.**

Leader: *Let us treasure the Christ child and ponder him in our heart.*

All: **Let us glorify and praise God for all we have heard and seen.**

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



***Hymn 143** “Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
you, who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king!

Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing; yonder shines the infant light:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king!

Sages, leave your contemplations; brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations; you have seen his natal star:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king!

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king!

Prayer of Confession

O Lord, our God,
as we celebrate this Christmas season once more,
we confess we have not searched for signs of your love in the world
or trusted your good news to be good.
We have expected little and hoped for less.
Forgive us when we are feeble in our faith,
empty in our hope, and lacking in our love.
This year may the miracle and mystery of Christmas happen for us again.
We ask you to make us humble and loving like Jesus,
who did not come to be served but to serve,
and who said that it is better to give than to receive,
so that in his name we may devote ourselves
to the care and service of all who are in need.
We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

Leader: *Friends, believe the good news:*

All: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

Welcome and Announcements

Anthem :: “Epiphany Alleluias” John Weaver
Alleluia, we have seen his star in the east and are come to worship him. Arise, shine, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter Psalm 8

***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.

Scripture Lesson Ecclesiastes 3:1–13

Sermon Rocky Supinger

Responding to the Word

***Hymn 152** “What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright”

What star is this, with beams so bright, more lovely than the noonday light?
’Tis sent to announce a newborn king, glad tidings of our God to bring.
’Tis now fulfilled what God decreed, “From Jacob shall a star proceed”;
and lo! the eastern sages stand to read in heaven the Lord’s command.
While outward signs the star displays, an inward light the Lord conveys
and urges them, with tender might, to seek the giver of the light.
O Jesus, while the star of grace impels us on to seek your face,
let not our slothful hearts refuse the guidance of your light to use.

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

***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.

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 :: "Star in the East" American folk hymn /arr. David Ashley White

*Brightest and best of the stars of the morning, dawn on our darkness, and lend us thine aid.
Star of the east, the horizon adorning, guide where our infant redeemer is laid. Cold on his
cradle the dew drops are shining, low lies his head with the beasts of the stall. Angels adore
him in slumber reclining, maker and monarch and Savior of all. Shall we then yield him, in
costly devotion, odors of Eden, and offerings divine, gems of the mountain, and pearls of the
ocean, myrrh from the forest, and gold from the mine? Vainly we offer each ample oblation,
vainly with gifts would his favor secure, richer by far is the heart's adoration, dearer to God
are the prayers of the poor.*

***Offertory Response** Hymn 712, verse 3

In gratitude and humble trust we bring our best today,
to serve your cause and share your love with all along life's way.
O God who gave yourself to us in Jesus Christ your Son,
help us to give ourselves each day until life's work is done.

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

Loving God, just as the magi who approached the child Jesus,
we come following a star of hope; we come with awe and wonder;
we come bearing gifts: ourselves, our time, our money, and our commitment.
Send us home changed by coming here. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

***Hymn 147** “The First Nowell”

The first Nowell the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter’s night that was so deep.

Refrain:

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night. (*Refrain*)

And by the light of that same star three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went. (*Refrain*)

This star drew nigh to the northwest; o’er Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay, right over the place where Jesus lay. (*Refrain*)

Then entered in those wise men three, full reverently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. (*Refrain*)

Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
that hath made heaven and earth of nought, and with his blood our life hath bought.
(*Refrain*)

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

Noel Claude Balbastre

*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.



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

✳️ Our weekly **“Rhythm and Word” video series**, which weaves together scripture, prayer, and music, offers a **midweek resource for your 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/rhythmwordemail ✳️ **Daily devotions** written by Fourth Church members and staff are available as a **resource for personal meditation and prayer.** Sign up at www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions to receive them by email, or read them at fourthchurch.org/devotions

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. Our 4:00 p.m. Jazz at Four service (*with Communion*) will not be held this afternoon but resumes weekly next Sunday, January 8 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. ✨ **Sunday parking** is available at the 900 N. Michigan garage (*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. ✨ **Nursery care** is not available today but resumes next Sunday. Children, who are always welcome in worship, are encouraged to be with their parents in the Sanctuary today. ✨ **Worship can be heard** in the Sanctuary 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 ✨ Also following worship, Deacons are available in Stone Chapel (*through the door to the right of the pulpit*) to pray with **individuals who would like to offer prayers** of praise or concern. ✨ 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 details, 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.

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). ✨ 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



A new three-week class, “**Using the Enneagram as a Tool for Spiritual Growth**,” will begin next 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; heart, head, and body intelligence; and 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.



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 next Monday, January 9.



Knitting and Crocheting meets this Tuesday, January 3 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 5B. ✨ **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 next Tuesday, January 10 at 6:00 p.m. in the Bumpus Room. For Zoom details, contact Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org).



The **Fourth Church offices will be closed** this Monday, January 2.

Are you interested in taking part in **Deep Listening Dinners** early this year? 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 get to know each other more deeply, email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org).



New Zoom Small Groups are starting again this month. Some groups will use Nanette Sawyer's **Hospitality** as a resource and others will use **The Color of Compromise** by Jemar Tisby. If you would like to connect with five to seven other people via Zoom for a time of fellowship, relationship building, and spiritual formation or would like more information about small group opportunities, please email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org).



Those who would like to **learn more about this congregation or become a member** of Fourth Church are invited to the Inquirers' Class on Sunday, January 15 from 11:15 to 1:30 p.m. in Room 5F. Lunch will be served. Registration is required for planning purposes and can be completed at www.bit.ly/inquirers123; for more information, email member@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 and Sundays between 8:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. (*except on Monday, January 2, when the church office will be closed*).

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

Matt Helms, Margaret Laing, Rocky Supinger

The Music Today

The Chancel and Morning Choirs

Michael Rees, Organ Scholar

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

Worship Notes

THE COMPOSER OF THIS MORNING'S FIRST ANTHEM, John Weaver (1937–2021) served as Organist and Director of Music at the Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York City from 1970 to 2005. He was also head of the Organ Department of the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia from 1972 to 2003 and chaired the Organ Department at the Juilliard School from 1987 to 2004. He played hundreds of concerts around the world, most from memory, and composed numerous works for organ and chorus.

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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