



Prelude

- Good Christian Friends, Rejoice Johann Sebastian Bach
- Deck the Halls with Boughs of Holly Welsh carol/arr. Larry Sue
- Noel. Louis-Claude Daquin
- Angels We Have Heard on High French carol/arr. L. Sue
- The Snow Lay on the Ground. English carol/arr. Leo Sowerby
- Ding Dong Merrily on High French carol/arr. L. Sue

Introit :: “A Christmas Carol” Charles Ives
*Little star of Bethlehem! Do we see thee now? Do we see thee shining o’er the tall trees?
Little child of Bethlehem, do we hear thee in our hearts? Hear the angels singing,
“Peace on earth, goodwill to all!” Noel!*

***Opening Responses**

- One: *Do not be afraid, for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy.*
- All: **To us is born this day in the city of David a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord.**
- One: *This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in cloth and lying in a manger.*
- All: **Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace!**
- One: *Let us go now to Bethlehem.*

**Please rise in body or spirit.*

***Carol 133 :: “O Come, All Ye Faithful”**

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;
O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem! Come, and behold him, born the King of angels!
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

True God from true God, Light from light eternal,
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes; very God, begotten, not created!
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God, all glory in the highest!
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory given; Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Lighting of the Christ Candle

One: *The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.*

All: **Glory to God in the highest!**

One: *For a child has been born to us, a Son has been given to us.*

All: **Glory to God in the highest!**

—*The candle is lit*—

One: *And the Word became flesh and lived among us.*

All: **Glory to God in the highest!**

Anthem :: “Joys Seven” English carol/arr. Stephen Cleobury

The first good joy that Mary had, it was the joy of one; to see the blessed Jesus Christ when he was first her son, good man, and blessed may he be, both Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, to all eternity. The next good joy that Mary had, it was the joy of two; to see her own son, Jesus Christ, to make the lame to go, good man, and blessed may he be, both Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, to

(Continued on facing page)

all eternity. The next good joy that Mary had, it was the joy of three, to see her own son, Jesus Christ, to make the blind to see, good man, and blessed may he be, both Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, to all eternity. The next good joy that Mary had, it was the joy of four; to see her own son, Jesus Christ, to read the Bible o'er, good man, and blessed may he be, both Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, to all eternity. The next good joy that Mary had, it was the joy of five, to see her own son, Jesus Christ, to bring the dead alive, and blessed may he be, both Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, to all eternity. The next good joy that Mary had, it was the joy of six, to see her own son Jesus Christ upon the crucifix, good man, and blessed may he be, both Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, to all eternity. The next good joy that Mary had, it was the joy of seven, to see her own son, Jesus Christ, to wear the crown of heaven, good man, and blessed may he be, both Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, to all eternity.

A Time with Children Rocky Supinger

***Carol 113** “Angels We Have Heard on High”

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
 and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
 Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
 What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?
 Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
 come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
 Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

The Story of Jesus' Birth Luke 2:1-20

***Carol 115** “Away in a Manger”

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
 The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
 The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
 I love thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky, and stay by my side until morning is nigh.
 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray.
 Bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

Homily Tom Are Jr.

***Carol 119.** “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king.
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate deity,
pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”

Prayer

Offering

Offertory Anthem :: “What Sweeter Music” John Rutter

What sweeter music can we bring than a carol, for to sing the birth of this our heavenly King? Awake the voice! Awake the string! Dark and dull night, fly hence away, and give the honor to this day that sees December turned to May. Why does the chilling winter’s morn smile, like a field beset with corn? Or smell like a meadow newly shorn thus on the sudden? Come and see the cause, why things thus fragrant be; ’tis he is born, whose quickening birth gives life and luster, public mirth, to heaven and the underearth. We see him come, and know him ours, who, with his sunshine and his showers turns all the patient ground to flowers. The darling of the world is come, and fit it is, we find a room to welcome him. The nobler part of all the house here is the heart, which we will give him; and bequeath this holly, and this ivy wreath, to do him honor; who’s our King and Lord of all this reveling. What sweeter music can we bring than a carol, for to sing the birth of this our heavenly King.

The Light Shines John 1:1-5

Spreading the Light “Silent Night”

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright 'round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy Infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace; sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight; glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'nly hosts sing “Alleluia: Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born!”

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth; Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light; with the angels let us sing
Alleluia to our King: Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born.

Sentences of Light

***Carol 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.

***Benediction**

Postlude # From Heaven Above to Earth I Come Garth Edmundson

***Gifts supporting Christmastime Sanctuary adornments have
been made in memory and in honor of family, friends, and loved ones.***

In Memory of

Mary Shawn Addington
Annelle Ahmed
Susan Lohr Alexander
Norman K. Anderson
Bill and Ruth Andrews
James and Joan Bailey
Eric S. Ball
Mr. and Mrs. O.E. Banker
Evelyn Banks
James Baughman
Richard Beiffuss
Lourdes Belo Melion
Magdalena and Jacob Binnendijk
Frances May and
Hershel Blakeney
Mary E. Bolton
Alan and Florence Book
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Dean Richardson Brandt
Carl Bridges and Lucille Stone
Bridges
Eleanor T. and Colver R. Briggs
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E.W. and Mathilda Broders
Monica Brown
Margaret Harris and
Bruce Brumfield
Blanche M. Buchanan and
Robert E. Buchanan
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Marc and Frances Burr
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Catherine and Harold Clark
Edythe and Henry Clum
David and Patricia Clyde
Hunter Q. Coe
Mary Alice, Mike, and Sarah
Conlon
Sandra Cotosman
Robert and Arvilla Crouch
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David Forbes Orwig
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Eunice Gabelman
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Barbara Maggio
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Charles D. McAdams
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Florence D. McMillan
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Marcus J. and Betty Cole Miller
Miss Ollie
Betty Myers
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Mildred and David Ostfeld
Robert and Gladys Ostman
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Hugh Foley
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Chester and Lillie Stean Carter
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Hazel and Doug Storer
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Karen Trabert
A. Robert Twardock
Kristi Kathryn Walker
Roy and Rosemary Winkler
Anna S. and Edward V. Wosylus
Hilda V. J. Yancy
Frances M. Youngwirth
Eugene W. Zeltmann
Ruth and Eugene C. Zeltmann

In Honor of

William Grant Farrar
Marcella Garrett
Kay and Frank Giuliano
Good Samaritans
Liam Haldor Hofteig and
Brooks Praver Hofteig
Josephine Horsman
Dorothee Knapp
Ron and Sandra Knorr
Laura Lee Larson and
Jeannie Forrest
William G. McMillan
Lydia S. Olson
Kenneth and Bonnie Praver
Don and Nancy Sproul
Stephen Ministers
Ann Straub
Krysten and Nancie Thompson
Sue Thompson
Allison Youngblood

Christmas blessings to you!



We are delighted to be celebrating with you this Christmas Eve! As our Advent hymn of “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” joyfully transitions to “O Come, Let Us Adore Him,” we embrace together the promise that has come to life: God with us. Inspired by the radical hospitality of the one born in the manger, we welcome everyone, without exception, into the life of this congregation. We invite you to join us on the journey 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. This season and always may you know and rejoice in the abiding presence of God with you. Merry Christmas!

Christmas Eve

This evening our candlelight Christmas Eve celebrations here in the Sanctuary will continue with our **Lessons and Carols services** at 8:00 p.m. (*which will be livestreamed*) and 10:00 p.m. ✨ **Discounted parking** for Christmas Eve services is only available at the 900 N. Michigan garage, at the rate of \$9 for 6 hours (*and \$18 for up to 12 hours*) when using a green validation ticket picked up from one of the ushers when exiting the Sanctuary.

Christmas Day

We invite you to join us again tomorrow when we gather on **Christmas morning** for a joy-filled service of worship at 10:00 a.m. ✨ Discounted **Christmas Day parking** will be available only at the 900 N. Michigan garage and will cost \$20. Those parking validations can be purchased in the Fourth Church Commons tomorrow morning prior to returning to the garage after worship. ✨ While we will not be livestreaming the Christmas Day service, we encourage those looking for an **online option on Christmas Day** to view the Christmas Eve service from 8:00 tonight or any of our past seasonal offerings available on YouTube (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos). We will also be sharing there tomorrow morning a brief **Christmas “Rhythm and Word” video**, offering scripture, music, and reflection for Christmas Day.

Sharing Christmas joy

Our annual “**Light Up a Life**” offering provides funds for **Fourth Church programs** that support our neighbors and congregation; for **Chicago Lights**, our nonprofit community outreach arm, as their Social Service Center, Tutoring, and Urban Farm programs build brighter futures for Chicago’s youth and adults through supportive relationships and life-changing programs; for **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance**; and for the **Presbyterian Church (USA) Joy Offering**. You can make a gift to the “Light Up a Life” offering by using the offering envelopes found in the pew racks; or by indicating that designation when giving via the church website at www.fourthchurch.org/give or via Venmo; or by writing “Light Up a Life” on the memo line of a check made payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church.

Christmas reflections

Daily Christmas devotions, written by Fourth Church members and staff and based on **favorite hymn texts of the season**, are available as a **resource for personal meditation and prayer**. We invite you to receive them in your inbox (*subscribe at www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions*), read them online (*www.fourthchurch.org/devotions*), or share them via Facebook (*www.facebook.com/fourthchurch*). ✨ Our **“Rhythm and Word” video series** offers ten minutes of midweek music, scripture, and prayer for viewing at home. The next video will be released on **Christmas Day** at 9:00 a.m. on YouTube. On January 3 we will return to releasing the videos on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. Sign up at www.bit.ly/rhythmandwordemail to receive them by email; you can also subscribe to our YouTube channel: www.bit.ly/fpcvideos ✨ Matt Helms and Rocky Supinger invite you to tune in to their **“Bible Top Ten” podcast** (*www.fourthchurch.org/podcasts*). This lively, informative, and often amusing podcast explores the Bible through a rotating series of top ten lists, with recent topics on lesser-known figures of Advent and stories of waiting.

When the season isn't easy

Feelings of grief over losses can be heightened at this time of year. **Expectations for the holidays** can be different from the realities. The season can be lonely, and the turning of the year can be both challenging and an opportunity when we seek someone to walk alongside us in embracing change and opportunity. Fourth Church's **Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being** offers various resources and a supportive environment for reflecting on, exploring, and coping with such experiences. To learn how the Replogle Center can help, call the Center at 312.787.8425 or visit www.reploglecenter.org

Pastoral care and a listening presence and witness

To **talk to a pastor** or **notify pastoral staff** of personal concerns, illnesses, hospitalizations, or deaths, email caringministries@fourthchurch.org; if the situation requires immediate attention, please call the church at 312.787.4570 to be connected to the Minister on Call. ✨ 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 **submit a prayer request** to our Morning Prayer or Deacon Prayer Ministries, email caringministries@fourthchurch.org

Joining together in service

Each of us has gifts and **talents to share** with our community. Perhaps it is lending a listening ear, serving meals, or tutoring a child. We invite you to explore **volunteer opportunities matching your interests** at www.bit.ly/fpcvolunteers or by contacting Robert Crouch (rcrouch@fourthchurch.org).

New Year's Eve

Next **Sunday, December 31**, we will have **just one morning worship service, at 10:00 a.m.** (*also livestreamed*). We will then gather in our Sanctuary with neighbors and our friends from Holy Name Cathedral at 6:30 p.m. for a candlelit **New Year's Eve Taizé service** (*in person only*). This Taizé service 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 2:00 p.m. service will not be held on New Year's Eve but will resume on January 7. Our schedule of two morning worship services will resume on January 7 as well.*)

Worshipping with us in person

Worship can be heard through “T” or “T-coil” settings of hearing aids. ✨ During worship please silence **electronic devices**. ✨ If you like to join us for **in-person worship**, we typically gather at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., although as noted above, we will have just one service next Sunday, December 31, at 10:00 a.m.

Worshipping with us online

Each Sunday our worshipping body is a wonderful mix of those online, on the phone, and in the pews. For those who prefer to worship online or who are unable to join us in person, next **Sunday, December 31, we will be streaming the 10:00 a.m. service** on our YouTube channel (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos), where it can be viewed any time after the service begins. (*For tips on how to watch—from the beginning—a service that is already in progress, see fourthchurch.org/watch-from-the-beginning*) We will also be streaming our **8:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols service** tonight. **When our regular Sunday schedule resumes on January 7**, we will return to livestreaming our 9:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. services. ✨ **Those without Internet access** are invited to listen via phone by calling 888.916.9166 at the time of the livestreamed service.

Worship podcasts and sermon text

During the week the Sunday morning **service and sermon is available via podcast** on multiple podcast platforms and at fourthchurch.org/podcasts ✨ You can also receive the previous Sunday morning's **sermon text** (fourthchurch.org/sermons) **by email** by subscribing at www.bit.ly/fpcsermons.

Prayer and meditation

On Wednesdays we gather at 9:30 a.m. for **Morning Prayer via Zoom**. For Zoom details, email Nancy Benson-Nicol (nbenson-nicol@fourthchurch.org). Our **in-person Morning Prayer** in Buchanan Chapel will resume at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 3. ✨ A **Sacred Pause time of meditation** is offered 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.).

Get connected

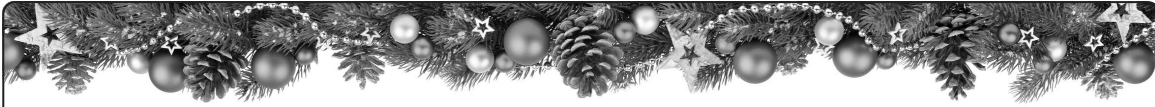
We invite you to take advantage of the many opportunities for **learning, serving, and community building** at Fourth Church. Coming up this week is **Men's Bible Study**, which meets via Zoom on Tuesdays at 7:30 a.m. For details, email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org). ✨ Our weekly free **Friday Noonday Concerts series** (*in the Sanctuary and livestreamed*) features **organist John Sherer** this Friday, December 29. For a schedule of concerts at Fourth Church, see www.fourthchurch.org/concerts

Coming up in the new year

A new session of fitness classes along with lectures and arts courses for **adults sixty and over** kicks off Tuesday, January 2, when the **Center for Life and Learning** begins their winter programming. See www.fourthchurch.org/cll for details. ✨ **Knitting and Crocheting** gathers Tuesday, January 2 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 5B, with a monthly Zoom option later in the month. ✨ On Sunday, January 7, **Sunday School** for children from three years old to fifth grade resumes at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. **Eighth-grade Confirmation** and **Junior and Senior High** youth groups will also return to their Sunday morning schedule that day. ✨ **"Finding Faith in Hard Times: When Bad Things Happen to Good People"** is the topic of a three-week Adult Education class led by Amy Pagliarella beginning Sunday, January 7 at 11:00 a.m. in Borwell Dining Room and via Zoom. For Zoom details, register at www.bit.ly/aefindingfaith ✨ **Books by Women** will discuss *Firekeeper's Daughter* by Angeline Boulley on Tuesday, January 9 at 6:00 p.m. in the Bumpus Room. ✨ **Horizons Women's Bible Study** meets via Zoom on Wednesday, January 10 at 12:00 and 6:30 p.m. For Zoom details, email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org). ✨ **"The Hidden Roots of White Supremacy and the Future of American Democracy"** will be the topic of our next **Michigan Avenue Forum**, which will be held on Wednesday, January 31 at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Our speaker will be **Robert P. Jones**, author of the *New York Times* bestseller *The Hidden Roots of White Supremacy and the Path to a Shared American Future*. ✨ To learn more about our **Day School preschool**, contact Kathy Hager (khager@fourthchurch.org).

Stay connected!

We hope to stay connected with you in the seasons ahead! Please do take some time to explore any of the opportunities that interest you—or even just make you curious. You can find details about them and **additional ways to connect** with one another and this congregation, whether in person or online, on **our website: fourthchurch.org**, where you will also discover various **resources**. ✨ To see all that is going on at Fourth Church, we encourage you to bookmark our **online church calendar**, which is accessible from our website's home page and at fourthchurch.org/calendar ✨ We invite you to **follow us** on YouTube (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos), Facebook (facebook.com/fourthchurch), and Instagram (instagram.com/fourthchurch). ✨ Look for information, updates, and **snapshots of life at Fourth Church** in our weekly email newsletter, to which you can subscribe at ww.bit.ly/newsfromfpc



Want to enjoy more of Christmas with Fourth Church?

We will be gathering again in the Sanctuary at 8:00 and 10:00 p.m. tonight for our **Service of Lessons and Carols**; the 8:00 service will be livestreamed and available for later viewing should you want to enjoy it during Christmas week (or in any season).

Just click the link on our home page at www.fourthchurch.org

Then tomorrow morning we will come together at 10:00 a.m. for a festive **Christmas Day service**, with more of the seasonal music that everyone loves to sing.

And what could make a more meaningful start to the new year than joining us for our **First Sunday of Christmas** service at 10:00 a.m. next Sunday morning, December 31? There will be ample Christmas music and a refreshing spirit of rebirth and looking toward bright new horizons for 2024.

Finally, a week from tonight, we will gather for our **New Year's Eve Taizé Service** at 6:30 p.m., providing an opportunity to pause in a contemplative, prayerful setting at the end of a busy year. Candles; easy-to-learn songs from various countries, traditions, and languages; and a period of silence all contribute to a time to reflect and to open oneself to God.

Join us!

For additional opportunities and resources available to you at Fourth Church, see www.fourthchurch.org



Worship Leaders

Rocky Supinger, Anneke Stracks, Thomas Becker, David Becker,
Tom Are Jr.

The Music Tonight

The Handbell Choir; Briana Belding-Peck, Director
Chancel Choir
Michael Rees, Organ Scholar
John W. W. Sherer, Organist and Director of Music

OUR ANNUAL “LIGHT UP A LIFE” OFFERING

is being received throughout the Christmas season. Gifts to this offering provide funds for Fourth Church programs that support our neighbors and congregation; for Chicago Lights, as it extends kindness and love to those who are most vulnerable; and for the Presbyterian Church (USA) Joy Offering. You can make a gift to the “Light Up a Life” offering by using the offering envelopes found in the pew racks; or by designating “Light Up a Life” when giving online via Venmo or the church website: www.fourthchurch.org/give; or by writing it on the memo line of a check payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church.

Tom Are Jr. Interim Pastor

Lucy Forster-Smith Senior Associate Pastor

Associate Pastors

Nancy Benson-Nicol Caring Ministries and Spiritual Formation

Matt Helms Children, Family, and Welcoming Ministries

Joseph L. Morrow Evangelism and Community Engagement

Nanette Sawyer Discipleship and Small Group Ministry

Rocky Supinger Youth Ministry and Worship

Amy Pagliarella Parish Associate for Caring Ministries

John Buchanan Pastor Emeritus



THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO

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