



Prelude

- Of the Father’s Love Begotten Plainsong/arr. Greg Flint
- Good Christian Friends, Rejoice Johann Sebastian Bach
- Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming Michael Praetorius/arr. Erich Peterson
- Noel. Louis-Claude Daquin
- In the Bleak Midwinter Gustav Holst/arr. Charles Schuchat
- The Snow Lay on the Ground. English carol/arr. Leo Sowerby
- The Wild Wood Carol. John Rutter/arr. Eric Bell
- O Holy Night Adolphe Adam/arr. Aaron David Miller

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 Sentences

Carol 140 “Once in Royal David’s City”
(*stanza one sung by soloist; congregation stands to sing remaining stanzas*)

Once in royal David’s city stood a lowly cattle shed,
 where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:
 Mary was that mother mild; Jesus Christ, her little child.
He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
 and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;
 with the poor and meek and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.
Jesus is our childhood’s pattern; day by day like us he grew;
 he was little, weak, and helpless; tears and smiles like us he knew;
 and he feels for all our sadness, and he shares in all our gladness.
And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;
 for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above;
 and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

Prayer for Christmas Eve (*unison*)

Holy God, as you came at night when all was still,
 so enter our lives this night.
Illumine our paths with the light of Christ’s presence,
 that we may clearly see the way before us, the truth to speak,
 and the life to live for him, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

First Lesson Isaiah 9:2–7

Anthem :: “For unto Us a Child Is Born” from *Messiah* George Frederic Handel
*For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon his
shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting
Father, the Prince of Peace.*

Second Lesson Isaiah 11:1–4, 6–9

***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!

Third Lesson Luke 1:26–35, 38

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 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.

Fourth Lesson Luke 2:1–7

***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!

Fifth Lesson Luke 2:8–20

Homily Tom Are Jr.

***Carol 121.** “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

Sixth Lesson Matthew 2:1–12

Prayer

Offering

Offertory Anthem :: “His Light in Us” Kim André Arnesen

God’s distant call flares in the night, so long expected, so longed for; and all my life, Christ called my name, and now at last, I’ll answer him. Renewed, his hope, his light in us, incarnate, fragile, our Lord appears, alleluia. Eternal, so perfect, his cry of changeless love. Alive, awake, his call is here; it is the crying of the Child; I know Christ’s call, its hidden flame, it makes my spirit flare with hope! Renewed, his hope, his light in us, incarnate, fragile, our Lord appears, alleluia. Eternal, so perfect, his cry of changeless love. This root, this stem, this flowering love, this mustard seed, it grows to the greatest tree, the birds of souls have nested there. The light of the night now blazes at dawn! You’ve led me here, O little child, your being singing with God’s life. The kingdom sings, it choirs with earth, all creation lives Christ’s peace. Renewed, his hope, his light in us, incarnate, fragile, our Lord appears, alleluia. Eternal, so perfect, his cry of changeless love.

Seventh Lesson 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**

***Choral Response** :: “Beside Thy Cradle, Here I Stand” Johann Sebastian Bach

*Beside thy cradle here I stand, O thou that ever livest;
and bring thee with a willing hand the very gifts thou givest.
Accept me; 'tis my mind and heart, my soul, my strength, my every part,
that thou from me requirest.*

***Postlude**

Go Tell It on the Mountain African American spiritual/arr. A. D. Miller

***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 Beilfuss
Lourdes Belo Melion
Magdalena and Jacob Binnendijk
Frances May and
Hershel Blakeney
Mary E. Bolton
Alan and Florence Book
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Margaret Harris and
Bruce Brumfield
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Robert E. Buchanan
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Marc and Frances Burr
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Catherine and Harold Clark
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David and Patricia Clyde
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Mary Alice, Mike, and Sarah
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Robert and Arvilla Crouch
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Shirley Lowry Haas
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Barbara Maggio
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Cecile Maxwell Griffith
Charles D. McAdams
Jerry and Grace McFarlane
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Robert and Gladys Ostman
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Hugh Foley
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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 Prawer Hofteig
Josephine Horsman
Dorothee Knapp
Ron and Sandra Knorr
Laura Lee Larson and
Jeannie Forrest
William G. McMillan
Lydia S. Olson
Kenneth and Bonnie Prawer
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 we are livestreaming the 8:00 service. **If you are joining us online, please let us know you are here** by filling out an information form, which takes only 20 seconds to complete. The link appears in the text below the video (*after exiting full-screen view*); a QR code displayed during the service can be scanned with a phone camera to take you to the form. ✨ **Discounted parking** 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 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 our Christmas season worship service videos from past years, available on YouTube (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos). We will also be posting there tomorrow morning a brief **Christmas “Rhythm and Word” video**, offering scripture, music, and reflection specifically 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**. Gifts can be made using the envelopes in the pew racks; by indicating “Light Up a Life” when giving via www.fourthchurch.org/give or 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 **Reprogle 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 Repogle Center can help, call the Center at 312.787.8425 or visit www.reproglecenter.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*) **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. ✨ Buchanan Chapel is open for **opportunity to walk the labyrinth** between 1:00 and 2:00 p.m. this Wednesday and Thursday. ✨ 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

Worship Leaders

Tom Are Jr., Interim 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

Amy Pagliarella, Parish Associate for Caring Ministries

Liturgists

Allison Youngblood (8:00); Jared Light (10:00)

The Music Tonight

Tower Brass; Charles Schuchat, Artistic Director

The Morning Choir; Joan Marie Dauber, Soloist

Michael Rees, Organ Scholar

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

OUR ANNUAL "LIGHT UP A LIFE" OFFERING

provides 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; for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance; and for the Presbyterian Church (USA) Joy Offering. 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 worshiping in the Sanctuary can also use the special offering envelopes found in the pew racks.

THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO

Church office: 126 E. Chestnut Street, Chicago, IL 60611.2014 • 312.787.4570

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