**Morning Worship**

*The beginning of the prelude is a call to silent, personal preparation for the worship of God.*

**Prelude**

Savior of the Nations, Come  *Johann Sebastian Bach*

Savior of the Nations, Come  *Wilhelm Friedemann Bach*

“Sleepers, Wake!” A Voice Astounds Us  *Johann Krebs*

Comfort, Comfort You My People  *Paul Manz*

Creator of the Stars of Night  *John Barr*

**Introit**

*Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming*  *Michael Praetorius*

(9:30)

Lo, how a rose e’er blooming from tender stem hath sprung, of Jesse’s lineage coming, by faithful prophets sung. It came a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night. Isaiah ’twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind; with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind. To show God’s love aright she bore for us a savior, when half spent was the night.

**Introit**

*“Ding-Dong! Merrily on High!”*  *French carol*

(11:00)

arr. Ruth Artman

Ding-dong! Merrily on high, in heaven the bells are ringing. Ding-dong! Verily the sky is filled with angel singing. Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis! Ding-dong! Merrily they ring; the weary world rejoices. Ding-dong! Verily they sing, now join the angel voices. Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis!

**Doxology**

(10:50)

(The Hymnal, 592)

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

Leader: In expectation of her child, Mary sang out for joy: “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor upon the lowliness of his servant.”

People: “Surely, from now on all generations will call us blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for us, and holy is God’s name.”

Leader: The third candle on the Advent wreath stands for joy. It reminds us to be thankful that God’s presence is becoming brighter in our world.

People: The light reminds us that God’s child is coming to bring joy to the world.

*Stand as you are able.*
**Leader:** A voice cries out in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.”

**People:** Soon the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken it.

*Hymn 1*  
“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”  
*Tune:* Stuttgart

**Prayer of Confession** *(unison)*  
Lord, we have not kept watch for you.  
We have occupied ourselves with our own concerns.  
We have not waited to find your will for us.  
We have not noticed the needs of the people around us.  
We have not acknowledged the love that has been shown to us.  
Forgive us for our lack of watchfulness.  
Help us to wait to know your will.  
Help us to look out for the needs of others.  
Help us to work and watch for your coming. Amen.

**Declaration of Pardon**  
Minister: Friends, believe the good news.  
People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**Reception of New Members** *(11:00)*

**Concerns of the Church**

**Psalter**  
Psalm 23 *(responsively)*  
*(page 474, O.T.)*

**Anthem**  
“To Thee, O Lord, Have I Lifted up My Soul”  
*Gerald Near*  
To thee, O Lord, have I lifted up my soul; O God, in thee have I put my trust. Let me never be ashamed, nor let my enemies laugh at me. Show me thy ways, O Lord, and teach me thy paths.

**First Lesson**  
Genesis 28:10–13, 15  
*(page 24, O.T.)*  
Minister: The Word of the Lord.  
People: Thanks be to God.

*Gloria Patri*  
*(The Hymnal, 579)*

**Second Lesson**  
Matthew 1:18–23  
*(page 1, N.T.)*
**Sermon**

The Promise

“Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go.”

Genesis 28:15 (nRSV)

**Hymn 48**

“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”  
*Tune: Es Ist Ein’ Ros’*

**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**

*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.*

**Prayer Response**

“Amen”

*Eric DeLamarter*

**Offering**

**Offertory Anthem**

“O Thou, the Central Orb”  
*Charles Wood*

O thou, the central orb of righteous love, pure beam of the most high, eternal light of this, our wintry world, thy radiance bright awakes new joy in faith; hope soars above. Come, quickly come, and let thy glory shine, gilding our darksome heaven with rays divine. Thy saints with holy luster ’round thee move, as stars about thy throne set in the height of God’s ordaining counsel, as thy sight gives measured grace to each thy power to prove. Let thy bright beams disperse the gloom of sin; our nature all shall feel eternal day in fellowship with thee, transforming day to souls erewhile unclean, now pure within. Amen.
PRESERVATION OF THE OFFERING AND RESPONSE

*Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication*

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

All: Eternal God, as you led your people in ages past, you direct our journey into the future.

We give you thanks that you came to us in Jesus Christ, and we eagerly await his coming again that his rule may be complete and your righteousness reign over all the world.

Open our eyes to the generosity of your hand and to the miracles of love all around us.

Fill us with gratitude and expectancy and hope, in the name of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

Amen

*Hymn 12*  
“People, Look East”  
*Tune*: BESANÇON

Benediction and Response

Postlude  
People, Look East  
*Barbara Harbach*
Advent and Christmas Worship
at Fourth Presbyterian Church

Festival Service of Advent Lessons and Carols
Sunday, December 12 at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary
Cookies-and-cocoa reception to follow in Anderson Hall

Christmas Cantata
Magnificat by Aaron David Miller
with the Fourth Church Morning Choir, Tower Brass, and organ
Sunday, December 19 during 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. worship

Blue Christmas Service
Wednesday, December 22 at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary
For those for whom the Christmas celebration
is made difficult by loss and sadness

Four Christmas Eve Candlelight Services
Friday, December 24 in the sanctuary
4:00 p.m. Children’s Pageant
6:00 p.m. Family Service • John W. Vest preaching
8:30 p.m. Lessons and Carols • John Buchanan preaching
11:00 p.m. Lessons and Carols • John Buchanan preaching

Christmas Day Service
Saturday, December 25 in the sanctuary
11:00 a.m. • Victoria G. Curtiss preaching
A traditional Christmas dinner in Anderson Hall will be
served at 12:30 p.m. Dinner tickets are available during
Coffee Hour and at the reception desk during the week.

Sunday Worship with Christmas Hymns and Readings
Sunday, December 26 in the sanctuary
9:30 and 11:00 a.m. • (No 8:00 a.m. or 4:00 p.m. services)
Worship Leaders
9:30 a.m. Sarah A. Johnson, John W. Vest, John Buchanan
11:00 a.m. Sarah A. Johnson, John W. Vest, John Buchanan

Lighting the Advent Wreath
9:30 a.m. Eran Wade
11:00 a.m. Monica Brown

The Music Today
9:30 a.m. The Youth Choir; the Morning Choir; Laura Perkett, oboist
11:00 a.m. The Children’s Choir; the Morning Choir; Laura Perkett, oboist

John W. W. Sherer, Organist and Director of Music
Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist and Handbell Director
Katy Sinclair, Associate Director of Music for Children and Youth

Worship Notes
This morning’s Prayer of Confession is from The Worship Sourcebook (Calvin Institute of Christian Worship).

The “Light Up a Life” offering is being received throughout December. This year-end giving campaign supports congregational programs, mission, and community outreach, including Chicago Lights programs, and denominational programs. “Light Up a Life” gifts can be made using the special offering envelopes found in the pew racks or by writing “Light Up a Life” on the memo line of a check made payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church.

The bulletin cover quote is from “Emmanuel” in Frederick Buechner’s Secrets in the Dark.

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