**MORNING WORSHIP**

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

**Prelude**

Creator of the Stars of Night

*John Barr*

**Introit**

“Our King and Savior Draws Near”

*Iain Quinn*

Our King and savior draws near; 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 ever shall be. Amen.

**Doxology**

(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.

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 2**

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

*Tune: HYFRYDOL*

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*Stand as you are able*
PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God of all mercy, in the hubbub of the world
and in the darkness of these days,
we have failed to see your glory and
to hear and heed your call of service.
Stuck on ourselves, we have turned our backs
on the needs of others and stood by silently
as taunts and insults have been heaped
upon those most vulnerable in our midst.
We worry and fret and look
with hopeless eyes upon your world,
forgetting the love you sent into the world.
Evading his cross and the sacrifices it inspires,
we have excused ourselves
and not corrected our ways.
Forgive us, God of hope, and strengthen us,
that in your forgiveness we may more faithfully
do your will of justice and peace in the world.
Amen.

DECLARATION OF PARDON

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

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

PSALTER Psalm 146 (responsively) (page 549, O.T.)

ANTHEM “Hark, the Glad Sound!” Mary Goetze
Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes, the Savior
promised long. Let every heart prepare a throne and
every voice a song. Let love attend the Prince of Peace,
the Savior promised long. Hark, the glad sound! He comes
the broken heart to bind, the bleeding soul to cure; and
with the treasures of his grace to enrich the humble poor.
Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes, the Savior
promised long. Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
your welcome shall proclaim, and heaven’s eternal arches
ring with your beloved name. Hark, the glad sound!
The Savior comes! Let every heart prepare a throne and
every voice a song.
**First Lesson**  Isaiah 35:4–7, 10  (page 623, O.T.)

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God**.

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


**Sermon**  When Hopes Deceive  John H. Boyle

**Hymn 84**  “In the Cross of Christ I Glory”  Tune: Rathbun

**Apostles’ Creed**  (unison)

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.

**Offering**

**Offertory Solo**  “He Shall Feed His Flock” from *Messiah*

George Frideric Handel

He shall feed his flock like a shepherd, and he shall gather the lambs with his arm and carry them in his bosom and gently lead those that are with young. Come unto him, all ye that labor, that are heavy laden, and he will give you rest. Take his yoke upon you and learn of him, for he is meek and lowly of heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls.
THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

INVITATION

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Minister: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
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.

PRAYER

Minister: It is truly right and our greatest joy . . .

. . . who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**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.

**The Communion**

**Communion 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.

**Prayer after Communion (unison)**

With these simple gifts from your table, O Lord, you have reminded and reassured us that we are not ultimately alone in the world, that life can have meaning and purpose even when hopes deceive and fears annoy, and that in alliance with one another and with affection toward one another, life is redeemable and endurable. For this blessing we give you thanks, and with this blessing we will seek to bless others, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Hymn 8* “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates” *Tune: Truro*

**Benediction and Response**

**Postlude** On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry *Bruce Neswick*
Worship Leaders
Joyce Shin, Calum I. MacLeod, John H. Boyle

Lighting of the Advent Wreath
Josie Phelps

The Music Today
The Chancel Choir; Erin Snell, soloist
John W. W. Sherer, Organist and Director of Music
Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist and Handbell Director

Worship Notes
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.

This morning, Communion is served by intinction. The congregation will come forward by the center aisle to receive the bread, which they will then dip into the chalice of grape juice. (Gluten-free bread is available in a small tumbler in each basket of bread.) Worshipers will return to their pews by the side aisles. The invitation to the Lord’s Supper is not just for Presbyterians or “members of the church.” All who confess Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord are invited to partake of the Lord’s Supper. Even one who doubts or whose trust is wavering may receive the bread and grape juice (in place of wine) in order to be assured of God’s love and grace in Jesus Christ.

Pastoral Staff
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Sarah A. Johnson, Minister for Congregational Care
Linda C. Loving, Minister for Evangelism
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