**Morning Worship**

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

**Prelude**

Advent Fanfare  
Noël  
Prelude and Evening Prayer  
The King of Glory Comes  
Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

**Arrangements**

Advent Fanfare  
Noël  
Prelude and Evening Prayer  
The King of Glory Comes  
Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

**Arranger**

Aaron David Miller

**Arranged by**

Neal Berntsen

**Introduction**

The King of glory comes; the nation rejoices. Open the gates before him; lift up your voices. Who is the King of glory; how shall we call him? He is Emmanuel, the promised of ages.

**Doxology**

(The Hymnal, 592)

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

Leader: In the coming of Christ, we hear God’s message to us:  
“I have exalted one chosen from the people.  
I have found my servant David;  
with my holy oil I have anointed him;  
my hand shall always remain with him.”

People: We shall cry out to Christ, “You are my God,  
the Rock of my salvation!”

Leader: The fourth candle on the Advent wreath reminds us that our Savior has almost come.  
He will bring light to the darkness and hope to the world.

People: We are called into God’s house to bear witness to the light.  
We are sent from God’s house to take light into 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.

*Stand as you are able.*
PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Minister: Arise, shine: for your light has come.

People: O God, we live as if the light had never defeated the darkness in the world or in us.

Minister: And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

People: We confess that we ignore the Christ you sent to be among us, to be in us.

Minister: For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you.

People: We’ve kept the birth of your Son confined to the Christmas season and do not yearn for his birth each moment in our waiting hearts.

Minister: And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

People: Lord, you came to us in the fullness of time. Forgive us for not opening our eyes to your coming. It’s time that we prepare for your coming. Let the earth ring with song. Let the light break forth. Let us all rejoice in the miracle of love. Let Christ come into the fullness of our time. Amen.

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Minister: Friends, believe the good news.

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

PSALTER

Psalms 80:1–3 (page 511, O.T.)

*GLORIA PATRI

(The Hymnal, 579)

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Luke 2:1–7; 1 John 4:7–12, 16 (pages 54, 226, N.T.)

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

The God Who Lives in Our Love

“So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.” 1 John 4:16 (NRSV)


**HYMN 36**

“In the Bleak Midwinter”  
*Tune: Cranham*


**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.


**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.


**Prayer Response**

“Amen”  
*John Stainer*

**Offertory Cantata**  
“I. My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in  
God, my Savior. You have looked with favor on your lowly servant.  
And from this day all generations will call me blessed. You, O most  
mighty, have done great things for me; holy is your name. You have  
mercy on those who fear you, from generation to generation.

II. You have shown the strength of your arm; you have scattered the  
proud in their conceit. You have cast down the mighty from their  
thrones and have lifted up the lowly. You have filled the hungry,  
sent the rich away empty. You have come to the help of your people.  
You remember your promise of mercy made to our forebears,  
Abraham and his children forever.

III. Glory to God! Glory to the Father. Glory to the Son. Glory to the  
Holy Spirit. Amen. As it was in the beginning, is now, and will  
be forever. Amen.”
**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: God of mystery and might,
we praise you and worship you,
for you came in silence, while all lay sleeping,
to enter our world as a child of humble birth.
We thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ,
born of your handmaid Mary.
In his face we behold your glory,
for in his life as in his death is your gift of salvation.
By your Spirit, make our hearts burn with thanksgiving,
that we may give as we have received.
Let our whole lives be gifts of praise to you,
God of love and peace, in the gracious name of Jesus Christ,
your Son, by the power of your Holy Spirit, now and forever.
Amen.

**Hymn 22**

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”  
*Tune: Regent Square*
Christmas Worship
at Fourth Presbyterian Church

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)

New Year’s Eve Taizé Service

Friday, December 31 at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary
WORSHIP LEADERS
9:30 a.m.  Adam H. Fronczek, Joyce Shin, John Buchanan
11:00 a.m. Adam H. Fronczek, Joyce Shin, John Buchanan

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH
9:30 a.m. Russell Gloyd and Jeanne Bishop
11:00 a.m. Nancy Baird

THE MUSIC TODAY
9:30 a.m. Tower Brass; the Morning Choir;
Laura Perkett and Callie Thompson, soloists
11:00 a.m. Tower Brass; the Morning Choir;
Laura Perkett and Callie Thompson, soloists
John W. W. Sherer, Organist and Director of Music
Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist and Handbell Director
Matthew Comerford, Artistic Director of Tower Brass

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

This morning’s Cantata, Magnificat, was commissioned by Fourth Church in 2009. Today it is performed for the first time. Its composer Aaron David Miller, who is Director of Music and Organist at House of Hope Presbyterian Church in St. Paul, also served as Associate Organist at Fourth Church from 1999 to 2001.

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.

PASTORAL STAFF
John M. Buchanan, Pastor
Calum I. MacLeod, Executive Associate Pastor
Victoria G. Curtiss, Associate Pastor for Mission
Adam H. Fronczek, Associate Pastor for Adult Education and Worship
Donna Gray, Minister for Children and Families
Sarah A. Johnson, Minister for Congregational Care
Linda C. Loving, Minister for Evangelism
Joyce Shin, Associate Pastor for Congregational Life
John W. Vest, Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry
John H. Boyle, Parish Associate
Thomas C. Rook, Parish Associate
Kerri N. Allen, Pastoral Resident
Matthew J. Helms, Pastoral Resident
David A. Donovan, Associate Pastor Emeritus

This worship bulletin is printed on recyclable paper that contains recycled post-consumer waste and is acid free. The printing is done with inks having low volatile organic compounds and formulated with soy and vegetable oils. All bulletins and inserts left in the baskets by the doors are recycled.