**MORNING WORSHIP**

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

**Prelude**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Composition</th>
<th>Composer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright</td>
<td>Johann Pachelbel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We Three Kings</td>
<td>Johannes Matthias Michel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We Praise Thy Bright Beam</td>
<td>Sigfrid Karg-Elert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From a Distant Home</td>
<td>Puerto Rican carol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>arr. Michael Burkhardt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Star of Hope</td>
<td>Richard Keys Biggs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Introit**

“How Through Love to Light!”   Jean Sibelius

Through love to light! O wonderful the way that leads from darkness to the perfect day; from darkness and from sorrow of the night to morning that comes singing o’er the sea!

Through love to light! Through light, O God, to thee, who art the love of love, the eternal light of light!

**Doxology and Invocation**

(The Hymnal, 592)

**Hymn 66**

“We Three Kings of Orient Are”   Tune: Three Kings of Orient

**Prayer of Confession**

(unison)

God of all creation, each new year, and even each new day, reminds us of new life and new chances.

But we are stuck in the day or the year that is over. We carry guilt about things we cannot forget; we hold grudges; we refuse to apologize for misdeeds; and we carry our sins with us, even though you want us to confess our sins and leave them behind.

Forgive us, Lord.

Help us forgive others and ourselves.

Help us to seek reconciliation and to correct past wrongs where we can.

Help us to see and embrace the new day and year that is before us.

We ask all this in the name of Christ Jesus, our Lord.

Amen.

*Stand as you are able.*
DECLARATION OF PARDON
Minister: Friends, believe the good news.
People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

PSALTER
Psalm 147:1–11 (page 549, O.T.)

ANTHEM
“The Morning Star”
American folk hymn
arr. Virgil Thomson
How splendid shines the morning star, God's gracious light from darkness far, the root of Jesse's blessed. Thou, David's son of Jacob's stem, my bridegroom, king, and wondrous lamb, thou hast my heart possessed. Sweetly, friendly, O thou handsome precious ransom, full of graces, set and kept in heavenly places.

FIRST LESSON
Matthew 2:1–12 (page 1, N.T.)
Minister: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

*GLORIA PATRI
(The Hymnal, 579)

SECOND LESSON
John 1:1–18 (page 86, N.T.)

SERMON
ADAM H. FRONCZEK

*HYMN 53
“What Child Is This”
Tune: GREENSLEEVES

*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”
Edward Margetson

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM “Epiphany Alleluias”
John Weaver

Alleluia. We have seen his star in the east and are come to
worship him. Alleluia. Arise, shine, for thy light is come and
the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. Alleluia.

*OFFERTORY 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: Gracious God,

as in ancient times the magi came offering their gifts,
so we offer our gifts to you.
We hope that we have given you our best.
Bless our offerings,
our time and our money and ourselves,
that they may mean new life, new chances,
and restored hope in places where there is need.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ,
who was born into the world
so that we might have new life. Amen.

**Hymn 483**

“Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above”

*Tune: MiT Freuden Zart*

**Benediction and Response**

**Postlude**

In Thee Is Joy

*J. M. Michel*
The needlepoint cushions in the chancel, faux carving, panels of wheat and grapes, and the gold cross, are the handiwork of Morgan Simmons, a member of this congregation and, from 1968 to 1996, organist and choirmaster of Fourth Church. The combined number of stitches for these works approaches 2 million, 169 per square inch. Central to each of the upper and lower chancel cushions is a religious symbol (shown here), surrounded by clusters of grapes, which echo the motif found in many of the chancel and pulpit carvings and in the stained glass windows.
WORSHIP LEADERS
9:30 a.m.  Donna Gray, John W. Vest, Adam H. Fronczek
11:00 a.m. Donna Gray, John W. Vest, Adam H. Fronczek

THE MUSIC TODAY
9:30 a.m.  The Morning Choir
11:00 a.m. The Morning Choir

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

WORSHIP NOTES

The “Light Up a Life” offering is being received throughout the Christmas season. This annual 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 Fourth Church website, www.fourthchurch.org, makes available Sunday morning 11:00 a.m. sermons in text and various audio formats. Also posted on the website is the text of all worship bulletins and “News and Opportunities” as well as information about upcoming worship services.

Fourth Church offers a variety of worship opportunities in addition to Sunday morning services. An afternoon Communion service is held each Sunday at 4:00 p.m. Each weekday morning, Morning Prayer is held in Stone Chapel as a time to remember in prayer members of the Fourth Church congregation and those in need (9:30 a.m. on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday; 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday). A Taizé service is held at 7:30 p.m. in Blair Chapel on the fourth Friday of each month.

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.