**Morning Worship**

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

**Prelude**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Piece</th>
<th>Composer</th>
<th>Arrangement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine</td>
<td>Hieronymus Praetorius</td>
<td>arr. Erich Peterson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jesus Comes with Clouds Descending</td>
<td>Alan Ridout</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming</td>
<td>Michael Praetorius</td>
<td>arr. E. Peterson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O Come, O Come, Emmanuel</td>
<td>George Schafer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good Christian Friends, Rejoice</td>
<td>M. Praetorius</td>
<td>arr. Aaron David Miller</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Introit**

“Our King and Savior Draweth Nigh”  
*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.**

**Hymn 41**

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”  
*Tune: Adeste Fideles*

*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.**

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

(11:00)

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

PSALTER

Psalms 89:1–4 *(responsively)*

*(page 516, O.T.)*

*GLORIA PATRI*

*(The Hymnal, 579)*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 2:1–20

*(page 54, N.T.)*

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

The Gift  
*John Buchanan*

“**Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place.**” Luke 2:15 *(NRSV)*

*HYMN 25*

“**Away in a Manger**”  *Tune: Mueller*
*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 “Alleluia, Amen”

Parke S. Barnard

Offertory Cantata “Gloria”

John Rutter

I. Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God’s people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

II. Lord, Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father, receive our prayer.

III. For you alone are the holy one, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the most high, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.
OFFERTORY RESPONSE

For the life that you have given, for the love in Christ made known,

with these fruits of time and labor, with these gifts that are your own:

Give us grace to love and serve you, living what we pray and sing.


*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 servant 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 31

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” Tune: MENDELSSOHN

BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

POSTLUDE Final from Noël Marcel Dupré
Christmas Worship

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

Four Christmas Eve Candlelight Services
   Saturday, December 24
   4:00 p.m. Children's Pageant
   6:00 p.m. Family Service
      Adam H. Fronczek preaching
   8:30 p.m. Lessons and Carols
      John Buchanan preaching
   11:00 p.m. Lessons and Carols
      John Buchanan preaching

Christmas Day Service
   Sunday, December 25
   11:00 a.m.
      John Buchanan leading worship
      (No 8:00, 9:30 a.m. or 4:00 p.m. services)
      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.

New Year’s Eve Taizé Service
   Saturday, December 31
   7:30 p.m.

New Year’s Day Services
   Sunday, January 1
   11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.
   (No 8:00 or 9:30 a.m. services)
Worship Leaders
9:30 a.m.  Victoria G. Curtiss, John W. Vest, John Buchanan
11:00 a.m.  Victoria G. Curtiss, Hardy H. Kim, John Buchanan

Lighting the Advent Wreath
9:30 a.m.  The Ebie Family
11:00 a.m.  Larry and Karen McCracken

The Music Today
9:30 and 11:00  Tower Brass; The Morning Choir
Callie Thompson, Laura Perkett, and Elizabeth Anderson, 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

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’s Cantata, Gloria, was written in 1974 by English composer John Rutter (b. 1945). Set in Latin, it uses the traditional Gloria in excelsis text, which begins with the biblical words found in Luke 2:14. This ancient canticle is known as “the angels’ song” because of its opening sentence.

The bulletin cover photograph depicts a wreath and ribbon hanging in the Fourth Church chancel. The cover quote is from The Collected Sermons of William Sloane Coffin: The Riverside Years.

Pastoral Staff
John 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
Hardy H. Kim, Associate Pastor for Evangelism
Joyce Shin, Associate Pastor for Congregational Life
John W. Vest, Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry
Judith L. Watt, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care
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.