**Christmas Worship**

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

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**Prelude**

Noël

The Snow Lay on the Ground

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

A Child Is Born

*Louis Claude Daquin*

*English carol*

*arr. Leo Sowerby*

*Polish carol*

*arr. Keith Chapman*

*Everett Titcomb*

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**Introit**

“Allélúia. To Us a Child Is Born”

*Iain Quinn*

*Alleluia. To us a child is born, come let us adore him.*

*Alleluia. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.*

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**Call to Worship and Lighting of the Christ Candle**

Minister: Come, holy people, redeemed of God, to follow the way prepared for you.

People: *Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth, goodwill to all.*

Minister: Once again the earth is surprised at a manger, as the glory of God transforms the commonplace.

People: *Let us go to Bethlehem to see what God has made known to us.*

Minister: Experience anew the wonder of God’s ways.

People: *We light the Christ candle to proclaim that, out of love for the world, God dispelled darkness forever through the birth of Jesus Christ.*

Minister: Let us glorify and praise God for the Light of the world!

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**Doxology**

*(The Hymnal, 592)*

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*Stand as you are able.*
**Litany for Christmas**

Minister: Jesus, Son of the living God, splendor of the Father, 
eternal light:

People: **Lord, we praise you!**

Minister: Jesus, King of glory, sun of justice, son of the virgin Mary:

People: **Lord, we praise you!**

Minister: Jesus, Wonderful Counselor, everlasting Lord, 
Prince of Peace:

People: **Lord, we praise you!**

Minister: Jesus, gentle and humble of heart, our help and our refuge:

People: **Lord, we praise you!**

Minister: Jesus, God of peace, friend of all, source of life 
and of holiness:

People: **Lord, we praise you!**

Minister: Jesus, brother of the poor, goodness without measure, 
unending wisdom:

People: **Lord, we praise you!**

Minister: Jesus, good shepherd, true light, our way and our life:

People: **Lord, we praise you! Amen.**

**Hymn 22**

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”  
*Tune: Regent Square*

**Prayer for Christmas Day (unison)**

All glory to you, great God, for the gift of your Son, 
whom you sent to save us. 
With singing angels, let us praise your name 
and tell the earth his story, 
that all may believe, rejoice, and bow down, 
acknowledging your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, 
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, 
one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Prayer of Confession (unison)**

O God, in the beginning you spoke, and creation was born, 
the object of your loving care. In the fullness of time you 
spoke, and the Word became flesh, Jesus, gift of your love. 
We wonder at the miracle of creation; we stand in 
awe before the mystery of the incarnation. Forgive us 
earthbound creatures, feeble in faith, empty of hope, 
lacking in love. This year let the miracle and mystery of 
Christmas happen for us again. We wait upon you with 
ready hearts, O God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.
CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

**Psalter**

Psalm 98 *(responsively)* (page 521, O.T.)

**Anthem**

“A Child Is Born in Bethlehem”  
*Samuel Scheidt*

A child is born in Bethlehem, alleluia, and joy is in Jerusalem, alleluia. Rejoice, sing high, sing low, alleluia, benedicamus Domino, alleluia. To thee, O Lord, be glory paid, alleluia, thou Son of Mary, mother maid, alleluia. To Holy Trinity give praise, alleluia, with Deo gracias always, alleluia.

**Christmas Reading**

“A Christmas Memory” *(in three parts)*  
*Truman Capote*

Part 1

*Hymn 38* “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”  
*Tune: Carol*

Part 2

*Hymn 51* “See Amid the Winter’s Snow”  
*Tune: Humility*

Part 3

*Hymn 28* “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”  
*Tune: In Dulci Jubilo*

**Scripture Lesson**

Matthew 1:18–25  
*(page 1, N.T.)*

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

A Christmas Meditation  
by John Buchanan

**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”  
*Ruth Hanson*

**Offering**
**Offertory Anthem**  “Ding Dong! Merrily on High”  
*French carol arr. Charles Wood*

Ding dong! Merrily on high in heaven the bells are ringing; ding dong verily the sky is riven with angel singing: “Gloria, hosanna in excelsis!” E’en so, here below let your steeple bells be swung and i-o, i-o, by priest and people sungen. Pray you, dutifully prime your matin chime, ye ringers; may you beautifully rime your evetime song, ye singers.

**Presentation 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:** O God, we thank you for making our hearts glad in the yearly festival of our Savior’s birth. May we, who have come once again to Bethlehem, live in the light of his love all our days, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Hymn 56*  “The First Nowell”  
*Tune: The First Nowell*

**Benediction**

**Postlude**  Noël  
*José Jesús Estrada*
Gifts supporting Christmastime Sanctuary adornments have been made
in memory and in honor of family, friends, and loved ones.

In Memory of

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<th>Mary Shawn Addington</th>
<th>Robert Gates</th>
<th>Edward L. Renno</th>
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Worship Leaders
Judith L. Watt, Calum I. MacLeod, Hardy H. Kim, John Buchanan

The Music Today
The Morning Choir
John W. W. Sherer, Organist and Director of Music
Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist and Handbell Director

Worship Notes
This morning’s Christmas Reading, A Christmas Memory, was written by Truman Capote and adapted by Barbara Joabson.

The “Light Up a Life” offering is being received throughout the Christmas season. 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.

Fourth Church offers a variety of worship opportunities each week. On Sunday mornings throughout the year, there are three services: 8:00 Communion, 9:30, and 11:00 a.m. An afternoon jazz service with Communion is also held on Sundays. On weekday mornings, Morning Prayer is held in the Sanctuary as a time to remember in prayer members of the Fourth Church congregation and those in need (9:00 a.m. on Tuesday; 9:30 a.m. on Monday—except tomorrow, December 26—Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday). A Taizé service is held at 7:30 p.m. on the fourth Friday of each month except for November and December. In December, the Taizé service is held on New Year’s Eve at 7:30 p.m.

Today there will not be a 4:00 jazz service, but it will resume next Sunday, January 1. In the morning on New Year’s Day, there will be just one service, at 11:00 a.m. The full schedule of four Sunday services resumes on Sunday, January 8.

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

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