



# Gathering

## Third Sunday of Advent

- Gathering Music** "Better Get Hit in Your Soul" . . . . . Charles Mingus  
 "People Get Ready" . . . . . Curtis Mayfield

*During Advent we ready our hearts to encounter the coming light of Christ. The scriptures tell us that Christ's coming will be like the coming of summer, but that even before his coming, we will see signs like leaves on the trees.*

*Through our prayers this season, we invite you to participate with us in preparing for Jesus to enter our lives again. Instead of using our usual prayer cards, we will be offering our Advent prayers in a new way: we will fill out green prayer cards with **prayers of expectation (things we are asking of God) and prayers of transformation (things for which we give thanks to God)**. We will build a tree with these prayers throughout the season, using the prayers as leaves that show signs of Christ coming into the world.*

### Welcome

*Inspired by the radical hospitality of Jesus Christ, Fourth Presbyterian Church welcomes all of God's children into the life of the church regardless of gender, age, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, physical limitation, educational background, or economic situation.*

**\*Call to Worship** . . . . . "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

\* Stand as you are able

**\*Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

Leader: We light a third candle for all God’s messengers,  
preparing the way for change, signs pointing to a new age to come.

**People: Give us light, give us hope, give us joy.**

Leader: As we continue on our Advent journey, may we travel expectantly.

**People: Give us light, give us hope, give us joy.**

Leader: Startling God, fill us with your grace so  
that we may accept your call and rejoice in your salvation.

**All: Lord, by your presence, light up the past,  
that we might learn from it with thankfulness.  
Light up the present, that we might live in it with love.  
Light up the future, that we might prepare for it in hope.  
As we watch and wait and pray, may we be always ready  
to encounter the Lord who is already and always with us. Amen.**

**\*Opening Song** . . . . . “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

**Please note**

Copyrighted musical pieces that we do not have permission to distribute online (but only to include in the printed order of worship) are not shown in this version of the bulletin.

For details on the licenses, permission to reprint, and copyright information for the musical pieces not included here, please see the “Acknowledgments” page later in this bulletin.

**Prayer of Confession**

**Almighty God, you who shaped out of nothing all that is,  
forgive us for returning empty-handed.**

**You who called forth light, forgive our preference for the dark!**

**You who send John to be a voice crying,  
forgive our unwillingness to say anything at all!**

**Create in us clean hearts, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within us.**

**Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Assurance of Forgiveness**

Leader: Friends, believe the good news.

**People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

**\*Passing of the Peace**

Leader: As beloved children of God, let us not be strangers to one another but family in Christ.

Please stand and greet each other with the peace of Christ.

The peace of Christ be with you all.

**People: And also with you.**

*All are invited to stand and share the peace of Christ with one another.*

**\*Song** ..... "While We are Waiting, Come"

# Hearing and Proclaiming the Word

**Psalter** . . . . . Psalm 27:1–6, 13–14 (*the congregation sings the antiphon*)

Leader: God is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?  
God is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?  
When evildoers came upon me to eat up my flesh,  
it was they, my foes and adversaries, who stumbled and fell.  
Though an army should encamp against me, yet my heart shall not be afraid;  
and though war should rise up against me, yet will I put my trust in God.

**ANTIPHON** (*unison*) **The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?**

Leader: One thing have I asked of God; one thing I seek:  
that I may dwell in the house of God all the days of my life,  
to behold the fair beauty of God and to seek God in the temple.  
For God shall keep me safe in shelter; in the day of trouble  
hide me in the secrecy of a dwelling and set me high upon a rock.  
Even now God lifts my head up above my enemies round about me.  
Therefore I will sacrifice in God’s tent with shouts of joy;  
I will sing and make music to God.

**ANTIPHON** (*unison*) **The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?**

Leader: What if I had not believed  
that I should see the goodness of God in the land of the living!  
O tarry and await God’s pleasure; be strong, and God shall comfort your heart.  
Wait patiently.

**ANTIPHON** (*unison*) **The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?**

## Scripture Reading

Luke 3:7–18. . . . . (*New Testament, page 56*)

**Sermon** “John the Optimist” . . . . . *Layton Williams*

# Responding to the Word

## Musical Reflection

**Offertory Music** "Jesus Gonna Be Here" . . . . . *Tom Waits*

**Sharing of Gifts** (*Please place gifts and prayer cards in the plate as it is passed.*)

**\*Doxology** . . . . . *Lucy Smith*

## The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

### The Great Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise!**

**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 Music** "Fill My Cup" ..... *Isaiah Jones Jr.*

**Prayer After Communion** (*unison*)

**Gracious God,  
we thank you for the love  
that brings us food from heaven,  
gives us the life of your dear Son,  
and assures us that we belong  
to the company of all his faithful people  
in heaven and on earth.**

**Grant that, strengthened by this fellowship  
and by the power of his Holy Spirit,  
we may continue his work in the world  
until we come to the glory of your eternal kingdom;  
through the same Jesus Christ,  
your Son, our Lord. Amen.**

# Sending

**\*Closing Song.** . . . . . "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

**\*Benediction**

**Sending Music**

## Worship Leaders

<b>Layton Williams</b>	Pastoral Resident
<b>Clark Orwig</b>	Lay Liturgist
<b>Sarah Forbes Orwig</b>	Lay Liturgist
<b>Shelley Donaldson</b>	Senior High and Confirmation Youth Coordinator
<b>Lucy Smith Quartet</b>	Lucy Smith, vocals Bryan Doherty, bass Marcus Evans, drums Marcin Fahmy, piano

The “**Light Up a Life**” offering is being received throughout December. “Light Up a Life” provides opportunity to support congregational programs, mission, and community outreach—including Chicago Lights programs—as well as denominational efforts. “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.

### A note on inclusive language

Incorporating ancient and contemporary traditions in this service, God is named corporately in a variety of ways that are gender neutral. This allows for your personal expressions as you are led to name the Holy in ways meaningful to you.

### Acknowledgments

*Words and Music*—“Psalm 126” is from *The Emergent Psalter* by Isaac Everett, copyright © 2009 Church Publishing, Incorporated. “My Heart Cries Out with a Joyful Shout” by Rory Cooney, copyright © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Used with permission. OneLicense.net. License A-712340.

*Music*—“Praise God (Dox)” by Lucy Smith, copyright © 2013. All rights reserved. “Gospel Sanctus” by Lucy Smith, copyright © 2011. All rights reserved. Used with permission. “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” copyright © 1990 John Weaver.

**FOURTH**  
PRESBYTERIAN  
**CHURCH**  
*A Light in the City*

### PASTORAL STAFF

**Shannon J. Kershner**, Pastor  
**Victoria G. Curtiss**, Associate Pastor for Mission  
**Matt Helms**, Associate Pastor for Children and Family Ministry  
**Hardy H. Kim**, Associate Pastor for Evangelism  
**Judith L. Watt**, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care  
**Nanette Sawyer**, Minister for Congregational Life  
**Jeffrey Doane**, Parish Associate for Older Adults  
**Layton Williams**, Pastoral Resident  
**John Buchanan**, Pastor Emeritus



# News and Opportunities

## Worship

**Opportunity to walk the labyrinth** in Buchanan Chapel is available this week on Monday and Wednesday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Tuesday from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., and Saturday from 7:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

**A service in the style of Taizé** will next be held on New Year's Eve, Thursday, December 31 at 7:30 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel. It will be preceded by opportunity to walk the labyrinth in Anderson Hall from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

**Advent devotions**, written by Fourth Church members and staff, are available in the church literature racks, by email (send email addresses to [devotions@fourthchurch.org](mailto:devotions@fourthchurch.org)), at [www.facebook.com/fourthchurch](http://www.facebook.com/fourthchurch), and via Twitter (@FourthChicago).

## Children, Youth, and Family

**No Sunday School or youth gatherings** will be held on Sundays, December 27 or January 3.

**La Posada Family Night** will be held on Friday, December 18 at 5:30 p.m. in Anderson Hall. For details, contact Matt Helms at [mhelms@fourthchurch.org](mailto:mhelms@fourthchurch.org) or 312.573.3362.

## News and Resources

**Visit the Fourth Church page on Facebook** ([facebook.com/fourthchurch](http://facebook.com/fourthchurch)) for sermon quotes, photos, and programming information. If you have a Facebook account, be sure to "like" our page to keep up-to-date on Fourth Church news.

**Follow FourthChurch on Twitter:** @FourthChicago

**Stephen Ministry** provides one-to-one caring relationships to support those who are experiencing challenging times. Information for those who might benefit from conversation with a Stephen Minister is available in the literature racks, online, and by leaving a confidential message at 312.573.3365.

**To subscribe to the weekly email newsletter** News@FourthChurch, send email addresses to [news@fourthchurch.org](mailto:news@fourthchurch.org)

## Fellowship

**Young Adults** gather for discussion and fellowship on Sundays at 12:30 p.m. in Room 5A.

**Presbyterian Women** will gather for a "Good News Fellowship" hour on Thursday, December 17 at 5:30 p.m. in the Bumpus Room.

### It's easy to fulfill your 2015 pledge online:

Just go to [www.fourthchurch.org](http://www.fourthchurch.org) (or scan this QR code) and click on "To Make a Gift." There you will find an option to make a gift toward your Annual Appeal pledge for 2015.

On the same page you can also make Light Up a Life gifts in honor of friends, family, and colleagues, gifts that offer important year-end support to programs that serve others.



# News and Opportunities

## Volunteers and Donations

### **Current Volunteer Needs**

**Candle sleeves** to put drip sleeves on candles for the Christmas Eve services; Tuesday and Wednesday, December 22 and 23

**Members to assist a child** with special needs during 9:30 a.m. Sunday School

**Tutors** for the Chicago Lights Tutoring program; one evening a week; 6:00–7:30 p.m.

**Drummers** for the Fourth Church Drumming Circle

**Ushers** for the 11:00 a.m. worship service

**Audio-video recorders** for the 11:00 a.m. service

**Nursery caregivers** on Sundays at the 9:30 or 11:00 a.m. worship services

**Aides** to help Chicago Lights Elam Davies Social Service Center guests select groceries from the Consumer Choice Food Pantry

**Book Nook attendants** to staff the Book Nook during Coffee Hour

**Clothes washers** to wash and dry clothes, on rotation, for a family with a chronically ill child and living in zip code 60618

**Grocery shoppers** for Sunday and Monday Night Suppers and sandwich teams, on rotation

### **Current Donation Needs**

**Clean blankets**

**Magazines**

**Yoga mats**, new or used

**Men's and women's winter clothes**

**Nonperishable food items** for the Chicago Lights Elam Davies Social Service Center

For details or to volunteer, contact Larry Nicholson at 312.981.3382 ([lnicholson@fourthchurch.org](mailto:lnicholson@fourthchurch.org)) or visit [www.fourthchurch.org/volunteer](http://www.fourthchurch.org/volunteer)

## Enrichment

**Men's Bible Study** will meet this Tuesday, December 15 at 7:30 a.m. in the Loop. For details or to RSVP, contact Anne Ellis at [aellis@fourthchurch.org](mailto:aellis@fourthchurch.org)

**Life without Parole** will be the topic of discussion facilitated by Claudia Boatright as part of the mass incarceration book series this Tuesday, December 15 at 5:30 p.m. in Room 4F.

**A screening and discussion** of the film *Death Makes Life Possible* will be hosted by the Replogle Center this Thursday, December 17 at 6:30 p.m. Register online at [bit.ly/dmlp2015](http://bit.ly/dmlp2015)

**"Fifteen Days of Free Liberal Arts Education"** describes the January Series of lectures offered by Calvin College and shown via live Internet video feed at Fourth Church on weekdays January 6–26. Lecturers include Eboo Patel, Ron Suskind, David Brooks, and Mitri Raheb. Visit [www.calvin.edu/january](http://www.calvin.edu/january) to learn more.

**A Michigan Avenue Forum** on mass incarceration will be presented by Iva Carruthers, professor emeritus and former chairperson of the sociology department at Northeastern Illinois University, on Monday, January 18 at 7:00 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel.

**"Claiming Our Faith Stories,"** a retreat for women, will be held on Saturday, January 31 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Led by Layton Williams, Vicky Curtiss, and members of Fourth Church, the morning will include a variety of workshops. Contact Anne Ellis ([aellis@fourthchurch.org](mailto:aellis@fourthchurch.org); 312.573.3369) for details and to register.

### Advent

**Today the Festival of Advent Lessons and Music** will take place at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. A cookies-and-cocoa reception will follow in Anderson Hall.

**A Lakeside Singers holiday concert** will be held this Friday, December 18 at 8:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Tickets are available at [www.lakesidesingers.com](http://www.lakesidesingers.com)

**A “Christmas with Tower Brass” concert** will be held this Saturday, December 19 at 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. A \$20 suggested donation will be received at the door.

**A Christmas Cantata**, featuring John Rutter’s *Gloria*, will be sung by the Morning Choir next Sunday, December 20 during 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. worship.

**The “Longest Night” service**, which will be held Tuesday, December 22 at 6:30 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel, recognizes the feelings of loneliness, grief, and alienation that are often present during the holiday season.

**Four candlelight services** will be held on Christmas Eve: 4:00 p.m. (Children’s Pageant); 6:00 p.m. (Family Service); and 8:30 and 11:00 p.m. (Service of Lessons and Carols). The Christmas Day service will be at 11:00 a.m.

**Expectations for the holidays** can be different from the realities. Feelings of grief over losses can be heightened. Such experiences need not be dealt with alone. Fourth Church’s Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being offers various resources and a supportive environment for reflecting on, exploring, and coping with such experiences. To learn how the Counseling Center can help, call the Center at 312.787.8425.

**The annual Christmas Dinner** will take place on Friday, December 25 at 12:15 p.m. in Anderson Hall. Tickets are available at the reception desk.

**The “Christmas Wishes” gift project** collects gifts for Chicago Lights Tutoring students who might not otherwise receive them. Volunteers are needed. To help, call Anne Ellis at 312.573.3369.

**A Christmas jazz service** will be held on Sunday, December 27 at 4:00 p.m.

### Music and the Arts

**The Bach Beethoven Ensemble** will perform this Friday’s free Noonday concert at 12:10 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel.

**Those who would like to receive *Music Notes***, a weekly email newsletter about music at Fourth Church, are invited to subscribe by sending email addresses to [music@fourthchurch.org](mailto:music@fourthchurch.org)

### Mission and Outreach

**Deadlines for 2016 mission trips** are upcoming: for the April Cuba trip, December 20; and for the July Northern Ireland trip, January 15. Details are available in the literature racks, and registration can be completed online at [www.bit.ly/1e0JaWV](http://www.bit.ly/1e0JaWV)

**The Book Nook** is selling copies of *The Presbyterian Hymnal* at Coffee Hour this holiday season. For details, contact Anne Ellis at [aellis@fourthchurch.org](mailto:aellis@fourthchurch.org)

**Save the date!** **The Chicago Lights Gala of Hope** will be Friday, March 4, 2016, at the Radisson Blu Aqua Hotel. For details, contact Andrea Miller ([amiller@fourthchurch.org](mailto:amiller@fourthchurch.org); 312.640.2576).

## During Today's Worship

**All are encouraged to use the prayer card**, found in this worship bulletin, to offer joys and/or concerns. The cards will be collected during the Sharing of Gifts (simply place the card in the offering plate as it is passed). The prayers will then be read aloud during this afternoon's Prayers of the People.

If you have a prayer you would rather not share during worship, you are invited to complete a prayer card found by one of the prayer boxes in the Narthex, at the back of the Sanctuary, and it will be passed on to Judith Watt, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care.

**All, including children, are invited to the Lord's Table** to receive Communion, which is served by intinction. The congregation will come forward by the center aisle to receive the bread (gluten-free bread is available in the paper "cup" within the basket of bread), which they will then dip into the chalice of nonalcoholic grape juice. Worshipers will return to their pews by the side aisles.

**The large banners hanging in the middle of the Sanctuary** were created by liturgical artist Shawna Bowman during the 4:00 worship service and are artistic representations of our worship experience.

**Please** turn off all cell phones when in the Sanctuary.

**Worship also can be heard** through the "T" setting of hearing aids.

**If your infant or small child needs care** during the worship service, you may leave the Sanctuary and return as you wish. There is also an area in the left-side aisle where your child can play quietly.

**Worship folders**, containing quiet activities and a bulletin for children, are available from a greeter.

**Printed copies of sermons** recently preached at Fourth Church are available in the literature racks. They are also available at [www.fourthchurch.org/sermons/index.html](http://www.fourthchurch.org/sermons/index.html).

**To notify pastoral staff** of personal concerns, illnesses, hospitalizations, or deaths; to pass along a prayer request; or to arrange homebound Communion with a Deacon, contact Judy Watt, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care, at 312.573.3360 ([jwatt@fourthchurch.org](mailto:jwatt@fourthchurch.org)).

## If You Are New to Fourth Church

**Inquirers' Class** explores Presbyterian history and beliefs. This one-session class is also a prerequisite for membership and includes a light meal. Attend Monday, January 4 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.; Saturday, January 16 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon; or Monday, February 1 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. For membership information, contact Hardy Kim, Associate Pastor for Evangelism, at 312.981.3399 ([hkim@fourthchurch.org](mailto:hkim@fourthchurch.org)) or go to [www.fourthchurch.org](http://www.fourthchurch.org).

**Information about opportunities and resources** available to you here at Fourth Church is available in the literature racks as you're leaving the church. You can also find information on our website ([www.fourthchurch.org](http://www.fourthchurch.org)), our page on Facebook ([facebook.com/fourthchurch](https://facebook.com/fourthchurch)), and in our weekly email newsletter (send addresses to [news@fourthchurch.org](mailto:news@fourthchurch.org)).

**If you are interested in considering baptism or membership** at the 4:00 p.m. service at Fourth Church, please contact Hardy Kim ([hkim@fourthchurch.org](mailto:hkim@fourthchurch.org)) or any pastor involved in the service. Information is available about the Baptism Seminar and Inquirers' Class, which are necessary for preparation. A monthly opportunity to be baptized or join the church at the 4:00 service is available on December 27 or January 24.

**Sunday parking is available** at 900 North Michigan (access from Rush or Walton Street) at the rate of \$8 between 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Validation tickets for the 900 garage must be picked up from the Chestnut Street reception desk.

### The Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago

Church office: 126 E. Chestnut Street, Chicago, IL 60611.2014; [www.fourthchurch.org](http://www.fourthchurch.org)  
312.787.4570; Fax: 312.787.4584; [www.facebook.com/fourthchurch](https://www.facebook.com/fourthchurch)