

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

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Noël	Claude Balbastre
Infant Holy, Infant Lowly	Keith Chapman
The Snow Lay on the Ground	Leo Sowerby
A Child Is Born	Everett Titcomb

*Call to Worship

Leader: *Friends, the people walking in darkness
have seen a great light.
Let us go, in heart and mind,
to see what has come to pass.
Let us go with the shepherds:*

People: **Let us go to Bethlehem
and see that which the Lord
has made known to us.**

Leader: *Let us go with the magi:*

People: **Let us go to find God's promise,
born for us.**

Leader: *Let us go with the poor and humble:*

People: **Let us go find our King,
born in a lowly manger.**

Leader: *Let us go with all the world,
with all the peoples of the nations.
Come, let us worship;
come, let us adore him.*

*Hymn 143 "Angels, from the Realms of Glory"

Welcome

**Stand as you are able.*

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Prayer of Invocation (*unison*)

O Emmanuel, O “God with us,”
we rejoice and are glad on this bright Christmas morning,
for you have truly come, full of grace and truth.
Forgive us for when we have been empty of hope
or lacking in love as we have waited for your coming.
Turn our darkness into light,
and draw us once more into the mystery of your love.
Join our voices with the heavenly host,
that we may sing your glory like the angels.
Give us a place among the shepherds,
that we might find our greatest gift
in that small child resting in the manger.
Shape us to be more like Jesus,
seeking to serve rather than to be served,
seeking to give rather than to receive.
We ask all of this in Christ’s name. Amen.

*Hymn 132 “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

Listening for the Word

Psalter (*responsively*)

Psalms 96 Old Testament, page 520

Solo

“The Little Road to Bethlehem” Michael Head
*As I walked down the road at set of sun, the lambs were coming homewards.
One by one, I heard a sheep bell softly calling them along the little road to
Bethlehem. Beside an open door, as I drew nigh, I heard sweet Mary sing
a lullaby. She sang about the lambs at close of day and rocked her tiny King
among the hay. Across the air the silver sheep bell rang. “The lambs are
coming home,” sweet Mary sang. “Your star of gold is shining in the sky,
so sleep, my little King, go lullaby.”*

First Lesson

Isaiah 9:2–7 Old Testament, page 600

*Gloria Patri (*sung*) The Hymnal, 581
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.

Second Lesson
Luke 2:1-7 New Testament, page 54

Sermon
By Any Means Necessary Layton Williams

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 114 “Away in a Manger”

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.

Offering

Offertory Solo
“Gesù Bambino” Pietro Yon

When blossoms flowered 'mid the snows upon a winter night was born a child, the Christmas rose, the King of love and light. The angels sang, the shepherds sang, the grateful earth rejoiced, and at his blessed birth the stars their exultation voiced. O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord. Again the heart with rapture glows to greet the holy night that gave the world its Christmas rose, its King of love and light. Let every voice acclaim his name, the grateful chorus swell, from paradise to earth he came that we with him might dwell. O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord. I a child and thou a lamb, we are called by his name. Little lamb, God bless thee!

*Presentation of the Offering and Response

For the life that you have giv-en, for the love in Christ made known,
 with these fruits of time and la - bor, with these gifts that are your own:
 here we of - fer, Lord, our prai - ses; heart and mind and strength we bring.
 Give us grace to love and serve you, liv - ing what we pray and sing.

*Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

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.**
 All: **O God, in the sending of your Son, Jesus,
 your Word became flesh,
 and we have seen a new and radiant vision of your glory.
 His name is above every name,
 the Prince of Peace and Savior of all.
 In him we have been brought out of darkness
 into your marvelous light.
 In response to your amazing love,
 we offer you these our gifts
 and pray that you would bless them to your service
 in the world you have redeemed
 through Jesus Christ, your Son. Amen.**

*Hymn 134..... “Joy to the World”

Bearing the Word into the World

*Benediction

Postlude

Noël José Jesús Estrada

Worship Leaders

Layton Williams

The Music Today

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

Carol Carpenter, soloist

Worship Notes

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.

FOURTH CHURCH OFFERS A VARIETY of worship opportunities on Sunday, including an 8:00 a.m. Communion service, worship at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m., and a jazz service with Communion at 4:00 p.m. Each Wednesday at 9:30 a.m., Morning Prayer is held in Buchanan Chapel as a time to remember in prayer members of the Fourth Church congregation and those in need. We also offer a monthly prayer service in the style of Taizé, which meets this month on Thursday, December 31 (New Year’s Eve) at 7:30 p.m.

SOURCES AND CREDITS: Hymn tune names—as well as composers of the music and authors of the text—are listed in the hymnal with each hymn. The words to “For the Life that You Have Given” are by Carl P. Daw Jr. © 1987; music is by Morgan Simmons © 1990, 1992 Hope Publishing Co.

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Victoria G. Curtiss Associate Pastor for Mission
Matt Helms Associate Pastor
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Hardy H. Kim Associate Pastor for Evangelism

Judith L. Watt Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care
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This worship bulletin is printed on recyclable paper that contains recycled post-consumer waste and is acid free. All bulletins and inserts left in the baskets by the doors are recycled.

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