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

# Gathering around the Word

Prelude	
Noël	
The Snov	oly, Infant Lowly
*Call to Wor	ship
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	

#### 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)

Psalm 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

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.

Second Lesson

Luke 2:1–7. . . . . . . New Testament, page 54

Sermon

By Any Means Necessary . . . . . . . . . . . Layton Williams

# Responding to the Word

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.

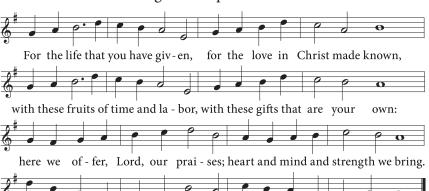
### Offering

### Offertory Solo

"Gesu 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



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.

# Bearing the Word into the World

#### \*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

Mary Shawn Addington Roy and Evelyn Anderson Evelyn Artwick Evelyn Banks

Hartley Barker Ruth Barker

Henry and Eleanore Bates

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The parents and grandparents of Laura Sterkel and Rob Wetherald

Aubrev Tonsager Paul Weber

## 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 serice, 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 Nanette Sawyer Minister for Congregational Life Jeffrey Doane Parish Associate for Older Adults Layton Williams Pastoral Resident John Buchanan Pastor Emeritus

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