

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

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## Gathering around the Word

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### Prelude

Advent Fanfare . . . . .	Aaron David Miller
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel . . . . .	George Schafer
From Heaven Above to Earth I Come . . . . .	Johann Pachelbel arr. Christine Worthing
Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding . . . . .	Richard Webster
The Angel Spoke to the Shepherds . . . . .	Heinrich Schütz arr. Gary Olson

### Introit

“Our King and Savior Draweth Nigh” . . . . . Leo Sowerby  
*Our King and Savior draweth nigh; O come let us adore him.*

\*Doxology (*sung*). . . . . The Hymnal, 606

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise God, all creatures here below;  
praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

\*Call to Worship

Leader: *The anointed One comes to be good news:*

People: to bind up broken hearts,  
to announce the year of the Lord’s favor.

Leader: *So let those who plant with tears*

People: reap the harvest with joyful shouts;

Leader: *let those who cried on the way, sowing their seed,*

People: come home with songs of joy!

\*Prayer of Praise

\*Hymn 360 . . . . . “Christ Is Coming!”

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*\*Stand as you are able.*

Advent Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

God of our salvation, in Christ you have done great things—  
our hearts are filled with joy.  
By your power you lifted us out of the desert of sin  
and brought us with joy and gladness into your kingdom.  
Salvation is your gift to us.  
But we confess that often we try to replace your gift with our own efforts.  
We try to complete what is already perfect;  
we try to ask for what is already full; we try to earn what we already have.  
Forgive us for our foolishness. Help us to focus on your grace.  
Help us to live grateful lives in return. O God, you alone know our hearts;  
hear us as we come before you in silence.

*(Please hold silence)*

Sung Response (*unison*)

“Wait for the Lord” (Psalm 27) . . . . . The Hymnal, 90  
Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.  
Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart!

Declaration of Pardon

Leader: *Friends, believe the good news:*  
People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

Concerns of the Church

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Listening for the Word

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Prayer for Illumination

Canticle (*sung*)

“My Soul Gives Glory to My God” . . . . . The Hymnal, 99

Anthem

“There Is No Rose” . . . . . Stephen Caracciolo  
*There is no rose of such virtue as is the rose that bare Jesu. Alleluia. For in this  
rose contained was heaven and earth in little space, res miranda (marvelous thing).  
By that rose we may well see there be one God in persons three, pares forma  
(equal in form). Leave we all this worldly mirth and follow we this joyful birth,  
transeamus (let us go). There is no rose of such virtue as is the rose that bare Jesu,  
gaudeamus (let us rejoice).*

First Lesson

Isaiah 7:10–15 . . . . . Old Testament, page 598  
Leader: *The Word of the Lord.*  
People: **Thanks be to God.**

\*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 1:46–55 . . . . . New Testament, page 53

Minister: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: Thanks be to God.

Meditation . . . . . Shannon J. Kershner

## Proclamation of the Word through Music

“In Nativitatem Domini Nostri Jesu Christi Canticum”

by Marc-Antoine Charpentier

1. Prelude

2. Recitative

*The shade of icy night covered all the earth and plunged everyone into a deep sleep. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them,*

3. Aria

*“Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” Go quickly, shepherds, and there adore him.*

4. Chorus of Shepherds

*Arise, let us go to Bethlehem. There we shall see the child who is born for us and offer our praise and adoration; our God, now in human form. Why linger, why hesitate, you sleepy shepherds? Arise, let us go to Bethlehem.*

5. March

6. Recitative

*So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in a manger. Kneeling there, they sang of their adoration in artless but devoted songs:*

7. Aria of a Shepherd

*Lord, tender newborn King! Now all creation sing of thy praise and worth!  
From heaven you came and in this humble birth come to all on earth.*

8. Chorus of Shepherds

*Lord, tender newborn King! Now all creation sing of thy praise and worth!  
From heaven you came and in this humble birth come to all on earth.*

9. Ritornelle

10. Aria of a Shepherd

*O thou perfect one, very God from heaven, thou has won salvation for all today. Eternal grace we gain, freedom from evil, comfort in sorrow and pain, now and always.*

11. Ritornelle

12. Aria of a Shepherd

*Child of the virgin mild, blessed and undefiled, heaven's holy child, God's only Son. Praise to thee, holy one; praise to the three in one; praise to thy kingdom come.*

13. Chorus of Shepherds

*Child of the virgin mild, blessed and undefiled, heaven's holy child, God's only Son. Praise to thee, holy one; praise to the three in one; praise to thy kingdom come.*

14. Ritornelle

## Responding to the Word

\*Hymn 147 . . . . . "The First Nowell"

\*Affirmation of Faith (*unison*) . . . . . Apostles' Creed

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.

### Reception of New Members (11:00)

#### 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" . . . . . Eric DeLamarter

#### Moment for Stewardship

Offering

Offertory Anthem

“A Maiden Most Gentle” . . . . . French carol; arr. Andrew Carter

*A maiden most gentle and tender we sing, of Mary the mother of Jesus our King, ave Maria (hail Mary). How blessed is the birth of her heavenly child, who came to redeem us in Mary so mild, ave Maria. The archangel Gabriel foretold by his call the Lord of creation and Savior of all, ave Maria. Three kings came to worship with gifts rich and rare and marveled in awe at the babe in her care, ave Maria. Rejoice and be glad at this Christmas we pray; sing praise to the Savior, sing endless, ave Maria.*

\*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 Dedication

Holy God, you bless us with many gifts, you retrieve us from despair and fear, you visit us with surprising proclamations, and you intend for us good things. We thank you for your steadfast love, for sending signs of assurance, and for the gift of faith. Use our gifts to bring your comfort and justice to those in need, reforming the ways of our world for the sake of new life. Amen.

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Bearing the Word into the World

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\*Hymn 348 . . . . . “Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending”

\*Benediction and Response

Postlude

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice . . . . . Michael Praetorius  
arr. Aaron David Miller

## Worship Leaders

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9:30 Victoria G. Curtiss, Coleen Mraz, Nanette Sawyer, Shannon J. Kershner

11:00 Victoria G. Curtiss, Ron Botrell, Nanette Sawyer, Shannon J. Kershner

## Lighting the Advent Wreath

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9:30 Enjolie McCullough

11:00 Kenneth Nicholson and Nicole Dekker

## The Music Today

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The Morning Choir; Tower Brass; Carla Janzen and Carol Carpenter, flutists  
Laura Perkett, Melissa Arning, and Daniel Richardson, soloists

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

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

Matthew Comerford, Artistic Director of Tower Brass

## Worship Notes

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THE “LIGHT UP A LIFE” OFFERING is being received throughout Advent. “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; by writing “Light Up a Life” on the memo line of a check made payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church; or online ([www.bit.ly/FPCgifts](http://www.bit.ly/FPCgifts)).

TODAY’S CHRISTMAS CANTATA was composed by the French composer Marc-Antoine Charpentier (1634–1704). Except for the opening sentence that sets the scene, the text of “In Nativitatem Domini Nostri Jesu Christi Canticum” (“Song of the Birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ”) is based on Luke 2:8–16. The cantata concludes with a series of “artless but devout songs” from the shepherds.

SOURCES AND CREDITS: The Call to Worship is adapted from “The Coming of God” by Ann Weems. Hymn tune names—as well as composers of the music and authors of the text—are listed in the hymnal with each hymn. The Advent Prayer of Confession is adapted from *The Worship Sourcebook*, Calvin Institute of Christian Worship. 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. The Prayer of Dedication is from *Feasting on the Word: Advent Companion* © 2014.

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