

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

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice Johann Sebastian Bach
Noel José Jesús Estrada
What Child Is This Ralph Vaughan Williams
Puer Natus Est (A Child Is Born) Everett Titcomb

Introit

“Alleluia, 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.*

*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: *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 find the Savior!

Leader: *Let us go with the Wise Ones:*

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 and find our King, born in a lowly manger.

Leader: *Let us go with all the world, with the people of all nations.*

Come, let us worship; come, let us adore him!

*Prayer of Praise

*Hymn 133 “O Come, All Ye Faithful!”

**Stand as you are able.*

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

God of love,
all year long we pursue strength and power,
yet you come to us in weakness.
All season long we covet material things,
yet you demand we focus on something greater.
As we listen to your Word made flesh,
who has come among us full of grace and truth,
may you forgive us, heal us, and correct us.
Then open our lips,
that we may sing your praise with the angels,
and remake our lives,
that we may witness to your transforming love.
Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

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

Concerns of the Church

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter (*sung*)

“Let the Whole Creation Cry” (Psalm 148) The Hymnal, 679

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.

First Lesson

Isaiah 61:10—62:3 Old Testament, page 650
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 2:22–40 New Testament, page 55
Minister: *The Word of the Lord.*
People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Already, But Not Yet” Matt Helms

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 100 “My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout”
*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.

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

“Alleluia, Amen” Parke S. Barnard

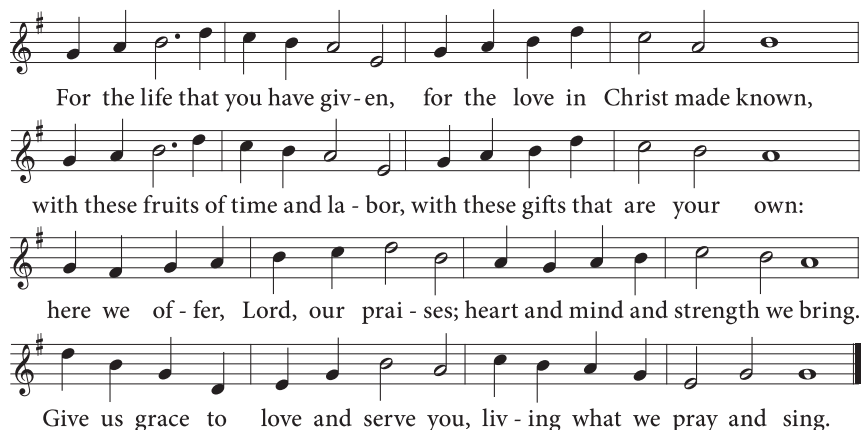
Offering

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!
Even so, here below let steeple bells be swungen,
and i-o, by priest and people sungen.
Gloria, hosanna in excelsis!
Pray you, dutifully prime your matin chime, ye ringers;
may you beautifully rime your eve time song, ye singers.
Gloria, hosanna in excelsis!*

*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

Almighty God, you have poured upon us
the light of your incarnate Word.
Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts,
may shine forth brightly in our lives
and send us forth to live in hope and peace.
We ask this through Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 136 “Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

*Benediction and Response

Postlude

 Noël Claude Balbastre

Worship Leaders

9:30 Abbi Heimach-Snipes, Elaine Filus, Nanette Sawyer, Matt Helms
11:00 Abbi Heimach-Snipes, Robert Crouch, Nanette Sawyer, Matt Helms

The Music Today

The Morning Choir
John W. W. Sherer, Organist and Director of Music

Worship Notes

THE “LIGHT UP A LIFE” OFFERING is being received throughout the Christmas season. “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).

THE BULLETIN COVER IMAGE depicts one of the south-aisle ceiling canvases, painted by Frederic Clay Bartlett in 1914. The cover quote is from Eberhard Arnold’s book of Christmas meditations, *When the Time Was Fulfilled*.

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	Alex Wirth Minister for Evangelism
Matt Helms Associate Pastor for Children and Family Ministry	Jeffrey Doane Parish Associate for Older Adults
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THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO
Church office: 126 E. Chestnut Street, Chicago, IL 60611.2014
www.fourthchurch.org | www.facebook.com/fourthchurch
312.787.4570 | Voicemail 312.787.2729 | Fax: 312.787.4584