



Fourth Presbyterian Church

Christmas Day

December 25, 2023 • 10:00 a.m.



Gathering around the Word

Prelude

The Shepherds at the Manger. Franz Liszt

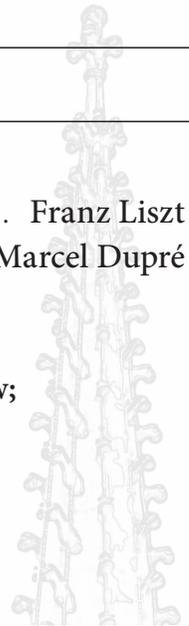
Variations on “O Come, All Ye Faithful” Marcel Dupré

***Doxology**

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

***Opening Sentences and Prayer**

**Please rise in body or spirit. †Or “Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.”*



***Hymn 133** “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;

O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem! Come, and behold him, born the King of angels!

O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;

O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

True God from true God, Light from light eternal,

born of a virgin, a mortal he comes; very God, begotten, not created!

O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;

O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;

sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God, all glory in the highest!

O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;

O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;

Jesus, to thee be all glory given; Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!

O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;

O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

***Litany for Christmas**

One: *The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all.*

All: **Glory to God in the highest!**

One: *The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.*

All: **Glory to God in the highest!**

One: *For a child has been born for us, a Son has been given to us.*

All: **Glory to God in the highest!**

One: *He is Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

All: **Glory to God in the highest!**

One: *To us is born in the city of David a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord.*

All: **Glory to God in the highest!**

One: *And the Word became flesh and lived among us.*

All: **Glory to God in the highest!**

***Exchange of Peace**

Leader: *The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.*

People: *And also with you.*

We invite you to greet those around you, wishing them “peace” or “the peace of Christ.”

Welcome and Announcements

Solo

“Sweet Holy Child” Mary Caldwell
*What shall I bring for the sweet, holy child, who has but the straw for a bed? Shall I bring stars
for a wee silver crown to place by his dear little head? Gold from the sun shall I bring for a light,
softest of moon beams to garland the night, gentle soft lambs for his delight, sweet Jesus, the Lord
of my heart. What shall I bring for the sweet, holy child, who smiles as he wakes from his sleep?
Roses so fair and a soft blanket warm,*

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter Psalm 98

One: *The Word of God for the people of God.*

All: *Thanks be to God.*

***Gloria Patri**

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.

Scripture Lesson John 1:1–14

One: *The grass withers, and the flower fades,*
All: *but the word of our God shall stand forever.*

Sermon Rocky Supinger

[†]Or “to the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Ghost.”

Responding to the Word

***Hymn 132** “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven’s door, and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

***Affirmation of Faith** (*unison*)

In a time before all knowing, God is,
and God’s breath fills the emptiness, creating:
a universe, a world, an ecology, a biology, and us, humankind.

All humankind, no exceptions, no imperfections;
and all of us beloved just as we are.

In a time before all knowing, Christ Jesus watches the creating
and steps out into creation:
becoming, living, dying, and rising, all for us.

All humankind, no exceptions, no reservations;
all of us just as we are, God’s beloved.

In a time before all knowing the Spirit is
and moves through every part of creation:
consoling, interceding, leading, and refreshing all the world, including us.

All humankind, no exceptions, no differentiations;
all of us just as we are, God’s beloved. 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.

Call to Offering

Offertory Solo

"Eia, Eia" German carol
To us in Bethlehem city was born a little Son; in him all gentle graces were gathered into one. Eia, Eia, were gathered into one. And all our lives and fortune lie in his mighty hands; our sorrows, joys, and failures he sees and understands. Eia, Eia, he sees and understands. O Shepherd, ever near us; we'll go where thou dost lead, no matter where the pasture, with thee at hand to feed. Eia, Eia, with thee at hand to feed.

*Offertory Response Hymn 144, v. 4

What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
 if I were a wise man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

*Prayer of Dedication

Gracious God, teach us to give thanks in all circumstances,
 for you are always with us, Emmanuel.
Thank you for the privilege of sharing what we have with others,
 of giving ourselves away in love,
 and of receiving the gifts that others share with us.
With our whole being, spirit, soul, and body, we rejoice in you.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

***Hymn 119** “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king.

Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”

Joyful all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;

with the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord,

late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin’s womb.

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate deity,

pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!

Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.

Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,

born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

In Thee Is Gladness Johann Sebastian Bach

***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
Annelle Ahmed
Susan Lohr Alexander
Norman K. Anderson
Bill and Ruth Andrews
James and Joan Bailey
Eric S. Ball
Mr. and Mrs. O.E. Banker
Evelyn Banks
James Baughman
Richard Beilfuss
Lourdes Belo Melion
Magdalena and Jacob Binnendijk
Frances May and
Hershel Blakeney
Mary E. Bolton
Alan and Florence Book
Sonja Bowen
John H. Boyle
Dean Richardson Brandt
Carl Bridges and Lucille Stone
Bridges
Eleanor T. and Colver R. Briggs
Carl and Irma Broders
E.W. and Mathilda Broders
Monica Brown
Margaret Harris and
Bruce Brumfield
Blanche M. Buchanan and
Robert E. Buchanan
Steve Bumpus
Marc and Frances Burr
Cedric Charles Carter
Catherine and Harold Clark
Edythe and Henry Clum
David and Patricia Clyde
Hunter Q. Coe
Mary Alice, Mike, and Sarah
Conlon
Sandra Cotosman
Robert and Arvilla Crouch
Chet Currier
Larry Denison
Andrew Derks
Wilbert and Beth Doak
Barbara Doyle
Helen and Elliott Faulk
Peggy Faulkner
Sue Felty

Bud Fennema
Robert D. Ferguson
Mildred Ann Fleming
Wilbert David Fleming
Elizabeth B. and
David Forbes Orwig
Edward C. and Mary M. Fordney
James "Chief" and
Eunice Gabelman
Vera Gaines
Bruce Garrett
Jose Garza
William and Sarah Gentle
Dorothy and Ed Goerling
Joyce Green Kolton
David Whieldon Grinslade
Gordon and Barbara Gubbins
Jeff Gubbins
Margaret and Armon C. Haagen
Pam, Frank, and Jeanne Habicht
Hugh F. Halverstadt
Myrtle and Otto Hannemann
Sue Hannemann
Jackie Harrington
Paul and Eillene Hawk
Marsha Heizer
Francis and Elaine Hoeltgen
Haldor J. and Laura Hofteig
Lauren Paul Hofteig
Martha Hopkins Lehnis
George H. Horsman
Barbara Horsman Mason
Willie Houston
Bob and Ginny Jacob
James Ethan Jacobs
Ok-Soon Ji
Chris Joseph
Phillip Joseph
Bertha and Robert Kearney
Joyce and Robert S. Kearney
Richard W. and Dorothy L. Kerch
Dorothy Jean Kerr
Wendy Keys
Ward Kirby
Helmut Knapp
Tallie and Helmuth Kohler
Sue Krasnek
Lucille Lacy
Shirley Lacy
Wendel LaFortune

Patrica Lamps
Betty, Clifford, and
Danmen Latherow
Tom Leahy
Robert and Irene Lindau
Ross Lober
Richard Lowry Garza
Sally Lowry Garza
Shirley Lowry Haas
H. H. "Scot" MacPherson
Barbara Maggio
Sebastian Maggio
Cecile Maxwell Griffith
Charles D. McAdams
Jerry and Grace McFarlane
Florence D. McMillan
Hans Melion
Harriet Melion
Ed and Julia Miller
Marcus J. and Betty Cole Miller
Miss Ollie
Betty Myers
Robert E. Olson
Mildred and David Ostfeld
Robert and Gladys Ostman
Michael Pagliarella and
Hugh Foley
Helen Palk
Gerald Patterson
Wayne and Gerry Peak
Donald and Janet Peters
Robert Petkus
Mark E. Preiman
Robert L. Price
Don and Christena Rath
Beth Repke
Dorothy Ritchie
William and Eva Roberts
Alyson Robertson
Antoinette and John Rojc
Lewis G. and Amelia
Schimmelpfennig
Fred and Emily Schwartz
George J. Scoulas
Barbara Shanahan
Joseph Shanahan
Swadesh Sharma
Edith Shifflett
Joyce Sigmon
Mary L. Simmons

David Lamar Singleton
John and Maude Singleton
Samuel Myrus Singleton
Stephen Sondheim
Hyman and Aurelia Spann
Chester and Lillie Stean Carter
Moreland Grace (Gigi) Stenstrom
Stevenson Family
Hazel and Doug Storer
Michael Sturuss
Cecy R. Szuba
Helen Szuba
Donald W. and Bonnie Jean Tarun
David W. Thomspson
Timothy Tincknell
William and Elinore Todt
Karen Trabert
A. Robert Twardock
Kristi Kathryn Walker
Roy and Rosemary Winkler
Anna S. and Edward V. Wosylus
Hilda V. J. Yancy
Frances M. Youngwirth
Eugene W. Zeltmann
Ruth and Eugene C. Zeltmann

In Honor of

William Grant Farrar
Marcella Garrett
Kay and Frank Giuliano
Good Samaritans
Liam Haldor Hofteig and
Brooks Prawer Hofteig
Josephine Horsman
Dorothee Knapp
Ron and Sandra Knorr
Laura Lee Larson and
Jeannie Forrest
William G. McMillan
Lydia S. Olson
Kenneth and Bonnie Prawer
Don and Nancy Sproul
Stephen Ministers
Ann Straub
Krysten and Nancie Thompson
Sue Thompson
Allison Youngblood

Christmas blessings to you!



We are delighted to be celebrating with you this Christmas Day! As our Advent hymn of “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” has joyfully transitioned to “O Come, Let Us Adore Him,” we embrace together the promise that has come to life: God with us. Inspired by the radical hospitality of the one born in the manger, we welcome everyone, without exception, into the life of this congregation. We invite you to join us on the journey at this intersection of faith and life as we share God’s grace with one another and the world through worship and ministries of healing, reconciliation, and justice. This season and always may you know and rejoice in the abiding presence of God with you. Merry Christmas!

Christmas Day with Fourth Church

As part of our Christmas Day observances, we are posting a **Christmas “Rhythm and Word” video** to our YouTube channel (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos) this morning. We invite you to take ten minutes later today—when you are looking for a moment to pause and reflect—to enjoy that Christmas-themed video of scripture, music, and prayer. If you know **friends or family who are unable to worship in person** today, we also encourage you to share that “Rhythm and Word” video with them and invite them to view our Christmas season worship **videos, from last night’s 8:00 Lessons and Carols** to services of past years, also available on YouTube. (*This morning’s service is not being livestreamed.*) ✨ Today **discounted parking** is available only at the 900 N. Michigan garage and costs \$20. Those parking validations can be purchased in the Fourth Church Commons following worship. ✨ In the Sanctuary **worship can be heard** through “T” or “T-coil” settings of hearing aids. ✨ During worship please silence **electronic devices**.

Sharing Christmas joy

Our annual **“Light Up a Life” offering** provides funds for **Fourth Church programs** that support our neighbors and congregation; for **Chicago Lights**, our nonprofit community outreach arm, as their Social Service Center, Tutoring, and Urban Farm programs build brighter futures for Chicago’s youth and adults through supportive relationships and life-changing programs; for **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance**; and for the **Presbyterian Church (USA) Joy Offering**. Gifts can be made using the envelopes in the pew racks; by indicating “Light Up a Life” when giving via www.fourthchurch.org/give or Venmo; or by writing “Light Up a Life” on the memo line of a check made payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church.

Ensure you receive the latest updates from Fourth Church by adding your email address to our distribution list. Simply sign up at www.bit.ly/newsfromfpc

Christmas reflections

Daily Christmas devotions, written by Fourth Church members and staff and based on **favorite hymn texts of the season**, are available as a **resource for personal meditation and prayer**. We invite you to receive them in your inbox (*subscribe at www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions*), read them online (*www.fourthchurch.org/devotions*), or share them via Facebook (*www.facebook.com/fourthchurch*). ✨ Our **“Rhythm and Word” video series** offers ten minutes of midweek music, scripture, and prayer for viewing at home. While we are releasing this week’s video this morning for Christmas Day, on January 3 we will return to releasing the videos on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. Sign up at www.bit.ly/rhythmwordemail to receive them by email; you can also subscribe to our YouTube channel: www.bit.ly/fpcvideos ✨ Matt Helms and Rocky Supinger invite you to tune in to their **“Bible Top Ten” podcast** (*www.fourthchurch.org/podcasts*). This lively, informative, and often amusing podcast explores the Bible through a rotating series of top ten lists, with recent topics on lesser-known figures of Advent and stories of waiting.

When the season isn’t easy

Feelings of grief over losses can be heightened at this time of year. **Expectations for the holidays** can be different from the realities. The season can be lonely, and the turning of the year can be both challenging and an opportunity when we seek someone to walk alongside us in embracing change and opportunity. Fourth Church’s **Reprogle 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 Reprogle Center can help, call the Center at 312.787.8425 or visit www.reproglecenter.org

Pastoral care and a listening presence and witness

To **talk to a pastor** or **notify pastoral staff** of personal concerns, illnesses, hospitalizations, or deaths, email caringministries@fourthchurch.org; if the situation requires immediate attention, please call the church at 312.787.4570 to be connected to the Minister on Call. ✨ For **those facing life’s challenges**, Stephen Ministers provide a listening presence. To talk with a Stephen Minister, please leave a confidential message at 312.573.3365. ✨ To **submit a prayer request** to our Morning Prayer or Deacon Prayer Ministries, email caringministries@fourthchurch.org

Joining together in service

Each of us has gifts and **talents to share** with our community. Perhaps it is lending a listening ear, serving meals, or tutoring a child. We invite you to explore **volunteer opportunities matching your interests** at www.bit.ly/fpcvolunteers or by contacting Robert Crouch (rcrouch@fourthchurch.org), Director of Volunteer Ministry.

New Year's Eve

This coming **Sunday, December 31**, we will have **just one morning worship service, at 10:00 a.m.** (*also livestreamed*). We will then gather in our Sanctuary with neighbors and our friends from Holy Name Cathedral at 6:30 p.m. for a candlelit **New Year's Eve Taizé service** (*in person only*). This Taizé service offers moving music, space for prayer, and meditative pause for reflecting on the year past and looking ahead to the year to come. (*Our weekly 2:00 p.m. service will not be held on New Year's Eve but will resume on January 7. Our schedule of two morning worship services will resume on January 7 as well.*)

Worshipping with us in person

If you like to join us for **in-person worship**, we typically gather at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., although as noted above, we will have just one service next Sunday, December 31, at 10:00 a.m.

Worshipping with us online

Each Sunday our worshipping body is a wonderful mix of those online, on the phone, and in the pews. For those who prefer to worship online or who are unable to join us in person, next **Sunday, December 31, we will be streaming the 10:00 a.m. service** on our YouTube channel (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos), where it can be viewed any time after the service begins. (*For tips on how to watch—from the beginning—a service that is already in progress, see fourthchurch.org/watch-from-the-beginning*) **When our regular Sunday schedule resumes on January 7**, we will return to livestreaming our 9:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. services. ✨ **Those without Internet access** are invited to listen via phone by calling 888.916.9166 at the time of the livestreamed service.

Worship podcasts and sermon text

During the week the Sunday morning **service and sermon is available via podcast** on multiple podcast platforms and at fourthchurch.org/podcasts ✨ You can also receive the previous Sunday morning's **sermon text** (fourthchurch.org/sermons) **by email** by subscribing at www.bit.ly/fpcsermons.

Prayer and meditation

On Wednesdays we gather at 9:30 a.m. for **Morning Prayer via Zoom**. For Zoom details, email Nancy Benson-Nicol (nbenson-nicol@fourthchurch.org). Our **in-person Morning Prayer** in Buchanan Chapel will resume at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 3. ✨ Buchanan Chapel is open for **opportunity to walk the labyrinth** between 1:00 and 2:00 p.m. this Wednesday and Thursday. ✨ A **Sacred Pause time of meditation** is offered virtually by our Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being at [facebook.com/reploglecenterforcounselingandwellbeing](https://www.facebook.com/reploglecenterforcounselingandwellbeing) on Tuesdays (7:45 a.m.) and Saturdays (8:30 a.m.).

Get connected

We invite you to take advantage of the many opportunities for **learning, serving, and community building** at Fourth Church. Coming up this week is **Men's Bible Study**, which meets via Zoom on Tuesdays at 7:30 a.m. For details, email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org). ✨ Our weekly free **Friday Noonday Concerts series** (*in the Sanctuary and livestreamed*) features **organist John Sherer** this Friday, December 29. For a schedule of concerts at Fourth Church, see www.fourthchurch.org/concerts

Coming up in the new year

A new session of fitness classes along with lectures and arts courses for **adults sixty and over** kicks off Tuesday, January 2, when the **Center for Life and Learning** begins their winter programming. See www.fourthchurch.org/cll for details. ✨ **Knitting and Crocheting** gathers Tuesday, January 2 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 5B, with a monthly Zoom option later in the month. ✨ On Sunday, January 7, **Sunday School** for children from three years old to fifth grade resumes at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. **Eighth-grade Confirmation** and **Junior and Senior High** youth groups will also return to their Sunday morning schedule that day. ✨ **"Finding Faith in Hard Times: When Bad Things Happen to Good People"** is the topic of a three-week Adult Education class led by Amy Pagliarella beginning Sunday, January 7 at 11:00 a.m. in Borwell Dining Room and via Zoom. For Zoom details, register at www.bit.ly/aefindingfaith ✨ **Books by Women** will discuss *Firekeeper's Daughter* by Angeline Boulley on Tuesday, January 9 at 6:00 p.m. in the Bumpus Room. ✨ **Horizons Women's Bible Study** meets via Zoom on Wednesday, January 10 at 12:00 and 6:30 p.m. For Zoom details, email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org). ✨ **"The Hidden Roots of White Supremacy and the Future of American Democracy"** will be the topic of our next **Michigan Avenue Forum**, which will be held on Wednesday, January 31 at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Our speaker will be **Robert P. Jones**, author of the *New York Times* bestseller *The Hidden Roots of White Supremacy and the Path to a Shared American Future*. ✨ To learn more about our **Day School preschool**, contact Kathy Hager (khager@fourthchurch.org).

Stay connected!

We hope to stay connected with you in the seasons ahead! Please do take some time to explore any of the opportunities that interest you— or even just make you curious. You can find details about them and **additional ways to connect** with one another and this congregation, whether in person or online, on **our website: fourthchurch.org**, where you will also discover various **resources**. ✨ To see all that is going on at Fourth Church, we encourage you to bookmark our **online church calendar**, which is accessible from our website's home page and at fourthchurch.org/calendar ✨ We invite you to **follow us** on YouTube (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos), Facebook (facebook.com/fourthchurch), and Instagram (instagram.com/fourthchurch). ✨ Look for information, updates, and **snapshots of life at Fourth Church** in our weekly email newsletter, to which you can subscribe at ww.bit.ly/newsfromfpc

Worship Leaders

Nanette Sawyer, Margaret Laing, Rocky Supinger

The Music Today

Carol Carpenter, Soloist

Michael Rees, Organ Scholar

Worship Notes

OUR ANNUAL “LIGHT UP A LIFE” OFFERING provides funds for Fourth Church programs that support our neighbors and congregation; for Chicago Lights, as it extends kindness and love to those who are most vulnerable; for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance; and for the Presbyterian Church (USA) Joy Offering. You can make a gift to this offering by using the special offering envelopes found in the pew racks; by noting “Light Up a Life” in the comments section (*when giving online via the Fourth Church website: www.fourthchurch.org/give or via Vemmo*); or by noting that on the memo line of a check made payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church.

Tom Are Jr. Interim Pastor

Lucy Forster-Smith Senior Associate Pastor

Associate Pastors

Nancy Benson-Nicol Caring Ministries and Spiritual Formation

Matt Helms Children, Family, and Welcoming Ministries

Joseph L. Morrow Evangelism and Community Engagement

Nanette Sawyer Discipleship and Small Group Ministry

Rocky Supinger Youth Ministry and Worship

Amy Pagliarella Parish Associate for Caring Ministries

John Buchanan Pastor Emeritus

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THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO

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