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Christmas 2001

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**C**hristmas comes every time we see God in other persons. The human and the holy meet in Bethlehem or in Times Square, for Christmas comes like a golden storm on its way to Jerusalem determinedly, inevitably. . . . Even now it comes in the face of hatred and warring—no atrocity too terrible to stop it, no Herod strong enough, no hurt deep enough, no curse shocking enough, no disaster shattering enough. For someone on earth will see the star, someone will hear the angel voices, someone will run to Bethlehem, someone will know peace and goodwill: the Christ will be born!

Ann Weems  
*Kneeling in Bethlehem*

THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO

## Christmas Worship

11:00 a.m.

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

**Prelude** Variations sur un Noël *Marcel Dupré*

**\*Doxology and  
Invocation** (The Hymnal, 592)

### Lighting of the Christ Candle

Leader: The Word was made flesh,

People: **and dwelt among us.**

All: **Alleluia, Alleluia!**

Leader: Christ came among us, binding us in love and concern for everyone on earth.

People: **Through Christ, God dwells within us, urging us to grow in spirit and in truth.**

All: **Alleluia, Alleluia!**

Leader: As the Christ child, God became one of us, blessing humanity with God's presence.

People: **Help us, O God, to understand and appreciate the depth of love you have for us, a love expressed in the person of a baby, the child of Mary.**

All: **All glory be to you, O Lord, Prince of Peace, Shepherd of souls, inexhaustible Wisdom, Protector of the poor, Friend of all, and Treasure of the faithful. Glory be to you, O Lord!**

**\*Carol 31** "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" *Charles Wesley*

### Prayer of Confession *(unison)*

**God of wondrous grace and graceful surprise, we give you thanks for your venture into the midst of humanity. Your decision to be present among us makes possible deeper joy, bolder deeds, and sturdier belief. You have dared to be with us; may we dare constancy to you. Forgive us when we despair of faith's small beginnings. Remind us of Jesus' humble birth and miraculous growth. Forgive us when we regard Jesus as an intruder upon our will and ways. Enable us to welcome Jesus and to inhabit the world in a manner that proclaims your creation to be holy ground. Loving God, may your child grow within us. Amen.**

### Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Friends, believe the good news.

All: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

### Concerns of the Church

**Responsive Reading** Isaiah 42:1-9 (page 670, O.T.)

**Solo** "I Wonder as I Wander" *Appalachian carol*

**First Lesson** Luke 2:1-20 (page 58, N.T.)

<b>*Gloria Patri</b>		(The Hymnal, 579)
<b>Second Lesson</b>	Titus 3:4-7	(page 215, N.T.)
<b>Sermon</b>	by Carol J. Allen WHEN HUMAN AND HOLY MEET “When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us . . . according to his mercy.” Titus 3:4-5	
<b>*Carol 35</b>	“In Bethlehem a Newborn Boy”	<i>Rosamond E. Herklots</i>
<b>*Apostles’ Creed</b>	<i>(traditional)</i>	(The Hymnal, page 14)
<b>Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer</b>	<i>(traditional)</i>	(The Hymnal, page 16)
<b>Offering</b>		
<b>Offertory Solo</b>	“Rejoice Greatly, O Daughter of Zion”	<i>George Frideric Handel</i> from <i>Messiah</i>
<b>*Presentation of the Offering and Response</b>	<i>(unison)</i> <b>For the life that you have given, for the love in Christ made known, with these fruits of time and labor, with these gifts that are your own: here we offer, Lord, our praises; heart and mind and strength we bring. Give us grace to love and serve you living what we pray and sing.</b>	
<b>*Prayer of Thanksgiving</b>	Leader: Lift up your hearts. People: <b>We lift them to the Lord.</b> Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. People: <b>It is right to give our thanks and praise.</b> All: <b>God of mystery and might, we praise and worship you, for you came in silence, while all lay sleeping, to enter our world as a child of humble birth. We thank you for Jesus Christ. In his face, we behold your glory, for in his life, as in his death, is your gift of salvation. We thank you that in Jesus you became flesh and dwelt among us, sharing human hurts and pleasures. Make our hearts burn with thanksgiving, that we may give as we have received. Let our whole lives be gifts of praise to you, God of love and peace, through Jesus Christ, Lord of lords, and King of kings, now and forever. Amen.</b>	
<b>*Carol 40</b>	“Joy to the World!”	<i>Isaac Watts</i>
<b>Benediction and Response</b>		
<b>Postlude</b>	Variations sur un Noël Finale	<i>M. Dupré</i>

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\*Stand as you are able.

## Participating in the Service

Carol J. Allen, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care  
Alice Trowbridge, Pastoral Resident  
Calum I. MacLeod, Interim Associate Pastor for Evangelism  
Thomas Gouwens, Associate Organist  
Betsy Hoats, soprano soloist

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**The Christmas Joy Offering** helps those who are homeless and hungry and supports racial ethnic education as well as retired pastors of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Special envelopes are available in the pew racks or write “Joy Offering” on the memo line of a check made payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church.

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*Gifts supporting Christmastime Sanctuary adornments have been made in memory and in honor of family, friends, and loved ones.*

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### In Memory of

Richard Baird  
Richard “Dick” Beilfuss  
Rudolph Edward Beranek  
David Birdsong  
Peter Brad  
Evelyn and Eugene Cason  
Robert Cagle  
Ryan Patrick Chipman  
The Family of Donald and Frances Coe  
Anna Dabaghian  
Kazar Dabaghian  
Lucy Dabaghian  
Dorothy E. DeBoer  
Ralph M. Delk  
Mr. and Mrs. George F. Doyle  
Mr. and Mrs. Allen N. Dryhurst  
Beverly L. Duboe  
Frank and Anna Dyrek  
W. Edward Ellis  
Kathryn Grimes Farrell  
Louis J. Finkelmeier  
Clarence Flack  
Julia Futrell  
The Parents of Barbara and Jack Gallas  
Mark Douglas Galloway  
Emil Garay  
Dorothy Gaunt  
Ruth and Sydney Gerrans  
Nannette Rusk Groves  
Paul J. Grueninger  
Jean Hands  
Charles I. and Susan C. Harding  
David, Tucker, and Marc Harding

Ramey Wilson Harper, USN  
Eileen and Walter Herget  
Claude L. Hoats  
Ida Hofmeister  
Wilfred C. Howe  
Harvey and Laana Hunsberger  
Peyton S. Hutchison Jr.  
George O. James  
Lee Jennings  
Emilia Kaczka  
Francis W. Kitchens  
Helene Kozlowsky  
Helen and John Kriebel  
Robert M. Lacy  
Richard, Nancy, and Baby Langert  
Ben Larson  
Leone Larson  
Thomas Alan Larson  
Clifford Branden Latherow  
Harold Lein  
Norma A. Lineberger  
Violet Lundowski  
Mrs. Evelyn Lutman  
Raymond Mayo  
Julia and Ed Miller  
Mr. and Mrs. Roy L. Miller  
Edward W. Mackie  
Delia Nuetzmann  
Inez and William O’Connell  
Lorraine and Keith Parsons  
Robert R. Pentel  
Carol Perdon  
John Petty

The Family of Susan Peverly and Paul Rutgers  
Mr. and Mrs. Albert Pitcher  
Byron Pond III  
Don and Christena Rath  
Charles and Virginia Rentschler  
Mr. and Mrs. Herman Retzler  
Dr. Richard P. Rudnicki  
Florence Sands  
Violet and Ramero Santos  
Marvin Sarbaugh  
Charles and Katherine Schmidt  
Julie Larson Schroeder  
The Parents of Arnold and Gretchen Shafer  
Clair M. Shearer  
Margaret Simon  
Andrew T. Soleiman  
Timothy M. Soleiman  
Mrs. Mary Von Drozt Sowa  
Joseph M. Spang  
Mae E. Spang  
Richard L. and Barbara Edwards Sterkel  
Mrs. Ona Chastain Stogsdill  
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur R. Strubel  
Raymond Sundquist  
Beth and Harold Taft  
Jen, Alex, and Gordon Telford  
Avys Terrill  
Ruth Thompson

Tom Toner  
Nell Vincent  
Erich and Mary Jane Weissenberger  
Edwin L. “Chip” Withaeger Jr.  
Edwin L. Withaeger Sr.  
Marjorie L. Montgomery Withaeger  
Frances M. Youngwirth  
Eugene C. Zeltmann  
Mr. Harold Zimmerman

### In Honor of

Donald and Carol Allerton  
Lyla Brown and Nancy Brown  
Jeffrey Caldcleugh  
Mr. and Mrs. Ron Caldcleugh  
Maxine Flack  
Dorothy J. Grueninger  
Carl Heller  
Mrs. Germainie Van Horwath  
Clifford Donnen Latherow  
Lydia Mayo  
Dorothy Lein  
Marsha H. Richardson  
Lyle and Gloria Shenefield  
H. Marie Shearer  
Leslie Shearer  
Harvey and Gladys Updegrave

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## The Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago

John M. Buchanan, Pastor

Elam Davies, Pastor Emeritus

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