

During my journey through life I have moved in and out of agnosticism and even atheism, as I become bewildered by what mankind has done to God. But I cannot live for long in this dead-end world, but return to the more open places of my child's intuitive love of God where I know all creatures are the concern of the God who created the galaxies. . . . When I think of the incredible, incomprehensible sweep of creation above me, I have the strange reaction of being fully alive. Rather than feeling lost and unimportant and meaningless, set against galaxies which go beyond the reach of the furthest telescopes, I feel that my life has meaning. Perhaps I should feel insignificant, but instead I feel a soaring in my heart that the God who could create all this can still count the hairs on my head.

Madeleine L'Engle
The Irrational Season

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*We are grateful for your presence and invite you to participate
in the worship, program, and service life of Fourth Church.*

During Today's Worship

- Large-print bulletins, Bibles, and hymnals and individual listening devices for improved sound are available in the back of the sanctuary.
- Child care for infants and toddlers is provided in Westminster 14, through the south transept doors and to the right. See an usher for directions. Activity bags for children in worship are available outside the south transept doors.
- During the Concerns of the Church, please pass the pew information pads, so that all worshipers have an opportunity to provide updated information and to greet one another by name following the service.
- Please turn off all cell phones when in the sanctuary.

If You Are New to Fourth Church

- Please wear a lapel pin, found in the pew racks, so we might greet you after worship.
- We invite you to stop by Coffee Hour after worship for fellowship, conversation, and information about church programs and volunteer opportunities.
- A church tour begins at 12:15 p.m., starting at the back of the sanctuary.
- Parking is available Sundays at 900 North Michigan (access from Rush or Walton Street) at the rate of \$5.50 to 4:00 p.m. and \$6.25 after 5:00 p.m. and at the John Hancock Center, 875 North Michigan Avenue (access Chestnut Street), at the rate of \$5.00 until 2:00 p.m.
- Inquirers' Class offers an opportunity to explore Presbyterian history and beliefs. This one-session class is also a prerequisite for membership. Attend Monday, December 1 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.; Saturday, December 13 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon; or Saturday, December 20 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. For information about membership, contact Calum MacLeod, Associate Pastor for Young Adults and New Members, at 981.4025 (cmacleod@fourthchurch.org).

Fourth Church Cares

- For pastoral care; to notify the church of illnesses, hospitalizations, or deaths; to pass along a prayer request to be remembered in Morning Prayer; or to arrange homebound Communion, contact Carol Allen, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care, at 640.5398 (callen@fourthchurch.org).
- The Lorene Replogle Counseling Center, a ministry of Fourth Church, offers support groups as well as individual, couples', and premarital counseling. Information about the Center is available in the literature racks or by calling 312.787.8425.
- Births, adoptions, and baptisms: To notify the church of births and adoptions or for information about baptisms, contact Jill Stephens in the Children and Family Ministry office at 640.2578 (jstephens@fourthchurch.org).

The Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago
Joanna M. Adams and John M. Buchanan, Pastors
Church office: 126 E. Chestnut Street, Chicago, IL 60611.2094; www.fourthchurch.org
312.787.4570; Staff extensions: 312.787.2729; Fax: 312.787.4584

MORNING WORSHIP

8:00, 9:30, and 11:00

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

PRELUDE
(8:00)

“Sleepers, Awake!” A Voice Astounds Us

Johann Sebastian Bach

PRELUDE
(9:30 and 11:00)

“Sleepers, Awake!” A Voice Astounds Us

Johann Sebastian Bach

Savior of the Nations, Come

J. S. Bach

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Robert Lau

INTROIT

“Halleluya! We Sing Your Praises”

South African freedom song

arr. Anders Nyberg

*DOXOLOGY

(The Hymnal, 592)

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Leader: We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

People: Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

*HYMN 5

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

Tune: PICARDY

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

God of the future, you are coming in power to bring
all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not
expected your kingdom, for we live casual lives,
ignoring your promised judgment. We accept lies as truth,
exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse your justice
and peace. In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom
to welcome your way and to seek things that will endure
when Christ comes to judge the world. Amen.

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Minister: Friends, believe the good news.

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

PSALTER

Psalm 25:1–10 (*responsively*)

(page 502, O.T.)

*GLORIA PATRI (The Hymnal, 579)
(9:30 and 11:00) Children are dismissed to Sunday School classes.

SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 21:25–36 (page 85, N.T.)
Minister: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON by John M. Buchanan
THE ADVENT OF GOD
“When you see these things taking place, you know that
the kingdom of God is near.” Luke 21:31 (NRSV)

*HYMN 1 “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” Tune: STUTTGART

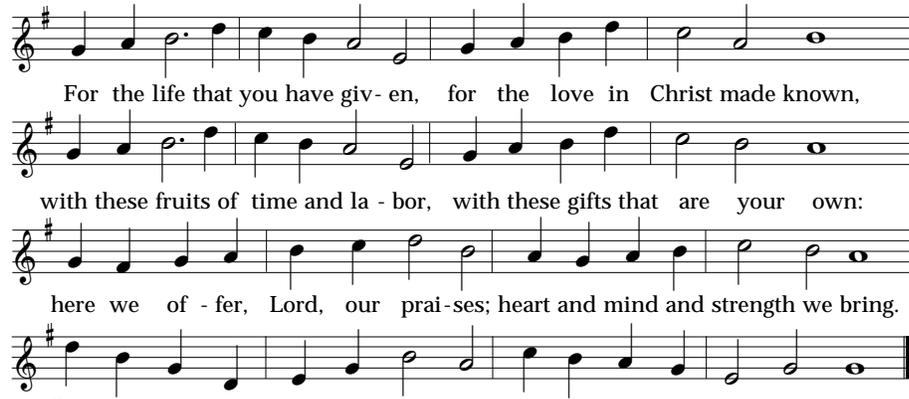
*APOSTLES’ CREED (unison)
I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell;
the third day he 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.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY SOLO “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” Eugene Hill
(8:00)

OFFERTORY ANTHEM “Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi” Ron Nelson
(9:30 and 11:00)

*OFFERTORY 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.

Words: Carl P. Daw Jr. ©1987; Music: Morgan Simmons ©1987. Used by permission.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

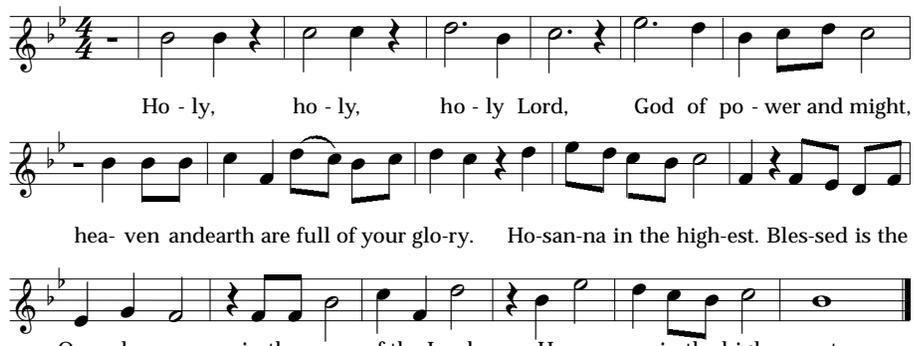
INVITATION

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Minister: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Minister: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them to the Lord.
Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PRAYER

Minister: It is truly right and our greatest joy . . .
. . .who forever sing to the glory of your name:



Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, God of po-wer and might,
hea-ven and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the high-est. Bles-sed is the
One who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

Music: John W.W. Sherer; © 1997. Used by permission.

Minister: You are holy, O God of majesty . . .
. . . dedicated to your service.

Minister: Great is the mystery of faith:

People: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Minister: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit . . .

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(traditional)*

(The Hymnal, page 16)

THE COMMUNION

COMMUNION ANTHEM "Canite Tuba in Sion" *Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina*

PSALM 23

(recited in unison after all have received the cup)

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures, he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul; he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me. Thou preparatest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies; thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *(unison)*

Eternal God, as you led your people in ages past, you direct our journey into the future. We give you thanks that you came to us in Jesus Christ, and we eagerly await his coming again that his rule may be complete and your righteousness reign over all the world. Send us out into the world, with hope and courage renewed, to love with your love, and to be your faithful people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*HYMN 551

"Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"

Tune: ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR

BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

POSTLUDE
(8:00)

Savior of the Nations, Come

Paul Manz

POSTLUDE
(9:30 and 11:00)

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Adolphus Hailstork

THE LORD'S SUPPER AT FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

"Do this in remembrance of me." Luke 14:19 (NRSV)

The Lord's Supper is the sign and seal of eating and drinking in communion with the crucified and risen Lord. In this act, we remember that during his earthly ministry, Jesus shared meals with his followers and sat at dinner tables as a sign of acceptance of the sinner and the outcast. In the last meal before his death, Jesus took and shared with his disciples bread and wine, speaking of these elements as his body and blood, symbols of the new relationship with God brought about by his impending death. On the day of his resurrection, the risen Jesus made himself known to his followers in the breaking of bread.

In the act of remembering that is the Lord's Supper, we receive and trust the love of Christ present to us and to the world. Through it, we are renewed and empowered to be the church, the body of Christ, in the world.

The invitation to the Lord's Supper is not just for Presbyterians or "members of the church." All who confess Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord are invited to partake of the Lord's Supper. Access to the Table is not a right conferred upon the

worthy but a privilege given to the undeserving who come in faith, repentance, and love. Even one who doubts or whose trust is wavering may receive the bread and grape juice (in place of wine) in order to be assured of God's love and grace in Jesus Christ.

At our morning communion services, the congregation is served in the pews by elders and deacons in an act symbolizing their role as servant leaders in the church. The congregation also takes on the role of serving: worshipers first take the bread and grape juice from the plate held by their neighbor and then they take the plate and serve the neighbor on their other side. Empty glasses are placed in the ringed holes in the pew racks.

Fourth Presbyterian Church celebrates the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper each Sunday at evening worship and at morning worship on the first Sunday of even-numbered months.

*"I am the bread of life."
John 6:35 (NRSV)*

Portions of the text adapted from
The Book of Order

Worship Leaders

- 8:00 a.m. Calum I. MacLeod, Associate Pastor for Young Adults
and New Members
Wendy Mathewson, Pastoral Resident
John M. Buchanan, Pastor
- 9:30 a.m. Keith C. Harris, Associate Pastor for Youth and Campus Ministry
John A. Cairns, Dean, Academy for Faith and Life
John M. Buchanan, Pastor
- 11:00 a.m. Keith C. Harris, Associate Pastor for Youth and Campus Ministry
John A. Cairns, Dean, Academy for Faith and Life
John M. Buchanan, Pastor

The Music Today

- 8:00 a.m. The Chancel Choir; Elizabeth Hedgcock, soprano soloist
- 9:30 a.m. The Morning Choir; The Children's Choir
- 11:00 a.m. The Morning Choir; The Children's Choir

John W. W. Sherer, Organist and Director of Music
Thomas Gouwens, Associate Organist
Mary Theresa Reed, Director of Children's Music

Worship Notes

The Advent banners, in the form of wings, convey the idea of Advent stillness and of waiting in the presence of angels. They were designed and painted by Eliza Linley of Berkeley, California.

The art installation of stars and doves reflects the Stewardship and Capital Campaign theme, "A Light in the City: Sharing God's Grace." The hundreds of different stars represent the individuality and diversity in our faith community. Together with the doves, symbols of God's presence and grace, they mirror light, reminding us of the abundance of God's grace to us and our gifts to others.

The blue of the ribbons in the outdoor wreaths connotes the hope and expectation that are part of the Advent season, as we await the coming of Christ. Blue is also the color of royalty, reminding us that the promised Savior is King of kings.

The tune on which today's 9:30 and 11:00 postlude is based dates back to the ninth century, but Adolphus Hailstork (b. 1941) gives "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" a very modern sound, creating an exciting toccata punctuated with syncopations.

Other Worship and Prayer Opportunities at Fourth Church

Special prayer requests are included in intercessory prayer in Stone Chapel on Sundays. Individuals can leave their prayer requests written on paper in the box outside the chapel or they can pray together with the Deacon who is in Stone Chapel after 11:00 worship.

Morning prayer is held each weekday morning at 9:00 a.m. in Blair Chapel.

A Vespers Communion service is held each Sunday evening at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary.

A prayer service in the style of Taizé is held the fourth Friday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in Blair Chapel. The next service is Friday, December 26.

Daily devotions, written by Fourth Church staff, are available in the literature racks and by e-mail from devotions@fourthchurch.org.

Today's sermon will be available online at www.fourthchurch.org by this Friday.

Recent sermons are also available in the literature racks.

For a preview of next Sunday's worship, subscribe to the weekly e-mail newsletter News@FourthChurch by sending e-mail addresses to news@fourthchurch.org.