

December 21, 2003

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Come, Lord Jesus, quickly come
In your fearful innocence . . .
Come in your naked newborn might
Come, Lord Jesus, small enfleshed
Like any human helpless child . . .
Come, Word who came to us enfleshed,
Come speak in joy untamed and wild.
Come, thou wholly other, come,
Spoken before worlds began . . .
Come, Lord Jesus, at the end.
Time's end, my end, forever's start.
Come, shelter every human hour
Break, then mend the waiting heart.

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, January 5 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.; Saturday, January 17 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon; or Sunday, January 25 from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. 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

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Minister: Friends, believe the good news.

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

ANTHEM
(8:00)

“Carol of the Advent”

Philip Dietterich

People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth, and set the
table. People, look east and sing today. Love, the guest, is on the
way. Furrows, be glad; though earth is bare, one more seed is
planted there. Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in
course the flower may flourish. Love, the rose, is on the way.
Birds, though ye long have ceased to build, guard the nest that
must be filled. Even the hour when wings are froz'n, he for
fledging time has chosen. Love, the bird, is on the way. Stars,
keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall
brim, shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon
together. Love, the star, is on the way. Angels, announce to man
and beast him who cometh from the east. Set every peak and
valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming. Love, the
Lord, is on the way.

SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 2:1-7

(page 58, N.T.)

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

*GLORIA PATRI

(The Hymnal, 579)

(9:30 and 11:00) Children are dismissed to Sunday School classes.

SERMON

by John M. Buchanan

THE GIFT

“And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him
in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there
was no place for them in the inn.” Luke 2:7 (NRSV)

*HYMN 48

“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”

Tune: ES IST EIN' ROS'

*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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(traditional)*

(page 16, The Hymnal)

CHORAL RESPONSE "Amen"

Richard Warner

OFFERING

OFFERTORY SOLO
(8:00)

"Quia fecit"
from *Magnificat*

Antonio Vivaldi

For the mighty one has done great things for me and holy is his name.

OFFERTORY CANTATA
(9:30 and 11:00)

"Christmas Cantata"

Daniel Pinkham

Shepherds, tell us your story. Speak to us! Again describe the vision of glory which on earth appear'd. Born for us was Christ Jesus. We heard the angel chorus singing praises of the Lord. Alleluia! O wondrous this mystery that even lowly beasts might behold him. Son of man on earth was born; within a manger he did lie. O blessed virgin, most holy, worthy was thy womb that did carry our Savior Jesus Christ. Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace among those whom he favors. O be joyful in the Lord, ye nations, with gladness serve the Lord, with gladness serve ye him. Come before him, come before his presence, come unto him with singing, joy, and exultation. Now know ye, know that the Lord, he is God strong and mighty. He created us and not we ourselves.

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.

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*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

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.

All: Who are we, Lord God, that you should come to us?

Yet through long generations you prepared a way for the coming of your Son, and by your Spirit, you still bring light to illumine our paths. Now prepare our hearts for his coming again—keep us steadfast in hope and faithful in service. Thank you for all your gifts, supremely your love which comes to us in the birth of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior. Amen.

*HYMN 23

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

Tune: GLORIA

BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

POSTLUDE
(8:00)

The King Shall Come

Michael Burkhardt

POSTLUDE
(9:30 and 11:00)

Tutto lo di

*Roland de Lassus
arr. E. Peterson*

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

Christmas Eve Services

Wednesday, December 24 in the sanctuary

4:00 p.m.

Candlelight Service with Children's Pageant

6:00 p.m.

Candlelight Service with Meditation by Calum MacLeod

8:30 p.m.

Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols

John M. Buchanan preaching

Will be filmed by WBBM Channel 2 for local rebroadcast

11:00 p.m.

Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols

John M. Buchanan preaching

Please note that the middle two Christmas Eve services begin a half hour later than last year, at 6:00 and 8:30 p.m.

Christmas Day Worship

Thursday, December 25 at 11:00 a.m. in the sanctuary

John Cairns preaching

A traditional Christmas Dinner in Anderson Hall will follow the service.

Tickets are available during Coffee Hour and at the reception desk.

The Christmas Joy Offering, being received throughout December, supports various ministries, including Fourth Church's Elam Davies Social Service Center and other agencies that serve people who are homeless and hungry. The offering also supports racial ethnic education as well as retired pastors of the PCUSA. To make a gift to this offering, use an envelope from the pew rack or write "Joy Offering" on the memo line of a check made payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church.

Worship Leaders

- 8:00 a.m. Carol J. Allen, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care
John A. Cairns, Dean, Academy for Faith and Life
John M. Buchanan, Pastor
- 9:30 a.m. Carol J. Allen, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care
Calum I. MacLeod, Associate Pastor for Young Adults
and New Members
John M. Buchanan, Pastor
- 11:00 a.m. Dana Ferguson, Executive Associate Pastor
John A. Cairns, Dean, Academy for Faith and Life
John M. Buchanan, Pastor

The Music Today

- 8:00 a.m. The Chancel Choir; Marnie Pomeroy, soprano soloist
- 9:30 a.m. The Morning Choir; The Children's Choir; Tower Brass
- 11:00 a.m. The Morning Choir; Tower Brass

John W. W. Sherer, Organist and Director of Music
Thomas Gouwens, Associate Organist
Mary Theresa Reed, Director of Children's Music
Matthew Comerford, Artistic Director of Tower Brass

Worship Notes

The composer of today's ***Christmas Cantata***, Daniel Pinkham, is a prolific composer whose catalogue ranges from symphonies to film scores. In the first movement of the cantata, the shepherds proclaim the miracle of the birth of Jesus. In the second movement, the mystery of Jesus entering the world is pondered, and in the third movement, we hear the words the angels sang, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors."

Tower Brass, Fourth Church's brass octet, assists in worship leadership this morning. Directed by Matthew Comerford, Tower Brass participates in 9:30 and 11:00 worship each third Sunday of the month from September through May.

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.

Other Worship and Prayer Opportunities at Fourth Church

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 this 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.