

Theologians through the centuries have been scandalized when they contemplate that the God who is omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent is incarnate in one person, with that person's particularities and limitations. This "scandal of particularity" . . . is nowhere more evident than in God's selection of Mary. God did not elect to be born of some woman but of a particular woman. . . . A particular woman gave of her humanity to the being of the God-human. The peasant woman nurtured, raised, trained, even shaped the personality of the One who is God.

Cynthia L. Rigby, "Mary and the Artistry of God"
Blessed One: Protestant Perspectives on Mary

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 the John Hancock Center, 875 North Michigan Avenue (access Chestnut Street), at the rate of \$6.00 until 2:00 p.m. and at 900 North Michigan (access from Rush or Walton Street) at the rate of \$7.50 to 4:00 p.m. and \$6.00 after 5:00 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 6 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.; Saturday, December 11 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon; or Monday, January 3 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. For information about membership, contact Calum MacLeod, Associate Pastor, at 312.981.4025 (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, at 312.640.5398 (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 Schiltz in the Children and Family Ministry office at 312.640.2578 (jschiltz@fourthchurch.org).

The Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago
John M. Buchanan, Pastor

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)

Savior of the Nations, Come

Johann Sebastian Bach

PRELUDE
(9:30 and 11:00)

Selections by the Duncan Choir of
The Merit School of Music

INTROIT

“Prepare the Way of the Lord”
Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight
his paths. Rejoice, the Lord is at hand!

Richard Proulx

*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 ADORATION AND CONFESSION (*unison*)

God of grace ever faithful to your promises,
the earth rejoices in hope of our Savior 's coming and
looks forward with longing to his return at the end
of time. Prepare our hearts to receive him when
he comes, for he is Lord forever and ever .

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 the promise of your presence in the world.
We accept lies as truth, neglect neighbors, and refuse
to care for the earth. In your mercy, forgive us.
As we prepare to celebrate the birth, grant us wisdom
to welcome our Savior and to seek his kingdom in
our midst: through him whose coming is certain, whose
day draws near, your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Minister: Friends, believe the good news.

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM
(9:30 and 11:00)

UNISON PRAYER (9:30 and 11:00) Holy God, remind us of the promises given in our own baptism and renew our trust in you. Make us strong to obey your will and to serve you with joy; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

ANTHEM (8:00) "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" *Gustav Holst*
Let all mortal flesh keep silence and with fear and trembling stand. Ponder nothing earthly minded for with blessing in his hand, Christ our Lord to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand. King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood. Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood he will give to all the faithful his own self for heavenly food. Rank on rank, the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way, as the light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day. That the powers of hell may vanish as the darkness clears away. At his feet the six winged seraph, cherubim with sleepless eye, veil their faces to the presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry, "Alleluia, Lord most high." Amen.

ANTHEM (9:30 and 11:00) The Storm is Passing Over *African-american spiritual*
If thou art near, then I with gladness will go unto my final rest. That blessed hour, free from all sorrow, when I shall sleep and on the morrow shall wake within thy loving breast.

PSALTER Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 (*responsively*) (page 533, O.T.)

*GLORIA PATRI (The Hymnal, 579)

SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 1:26-42 (page 56, N.T.)
Minister: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON by John M. Buchanan
MARY
"Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you"
"Blessed are you among women" Luke 1:28, 42 (NRSV)

*HYMN 16 "The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came"
Tune: GABRIEL'S MESSAGE
The choir will sing verse 1;
all are invited to sing verses 2 and 3.

*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 *(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.

CHORAL RESPONSE "Amen"

John Stainer

OFFERING

OFFERTORY SOLO
(8:00)

"I Wonder as I Wander"

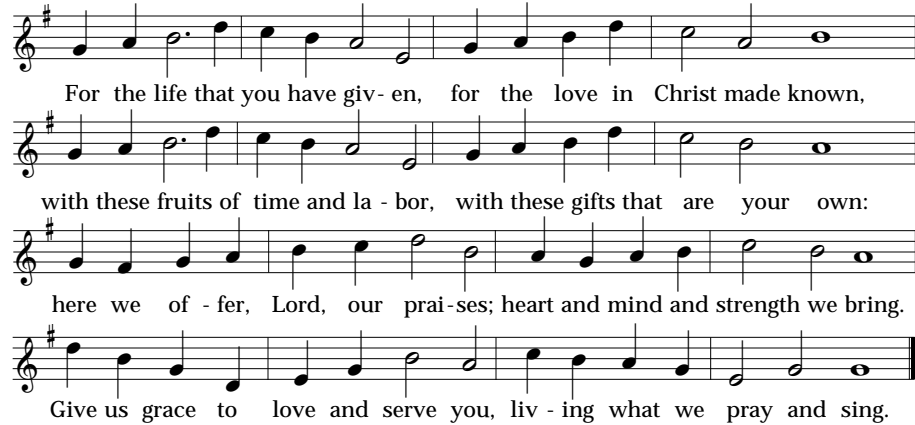
Appalachian Carol
arr. Joe Raney

I wonder, as I wander out under the sky, how Jesus the savior
did come for to die for poor ordinary people like you
and like I. I wonder as I wander out under the sky.
When Mary birthed Jesus 'twas in a cow stall,
with wise men and farmers and shepherds and all.
But high from God's heaven a star's light did fall,
and the promise of ages it then did recall. If Jesus
had wanted for any wee thing, a star in the sky or a bird
on a wing, or all of God's angels in heaven for to sing,
he surely could have had it 'cause he was the King.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM "Ave Maria"
(9:30 and 11:00)

Franz Biebl

*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.

Words: Carl P. Daw Jr. ©1987; Music: Morgan Simmons ©1990, 1992 Hope Publishing Co.
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*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: 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. Fill us
with gratitude overflowing, that we may share life and
love in praise to you, God of all the ages,
in the gracious name of Jesus Christ, your Son,
by the power of your Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen

*HYMN 1

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

Tune: STUTTGART

BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Carillon de Westminster

Louis Vierne

BAPTISM AT FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*“Let the little children come to me . . .
for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.”
Matthew 19:14 (NRSV)*

On the second Sunday of each month, Fourth Church includes the Sacrament of Baptism in morning worship. Baptism is the sign and seal of God’s grace and covenant in Christ. As *The Book of Order* of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) explains, baptism signifies the faithfulness of God, the washing away of sin, rebirth, putting on the fresh garment of Christ, and adoption into the covenant family of the church.

The baptism of children witnesses to the truth that God’s love claims people before they are able to respond in faith. The congregation, on behalf of the whole church, assumes responsibility for nurturing the baptized children in the Christian life, and it is for this reason that the congregation makes such a promise during the service.

In the unison prayer we also remember that we too were baptized and as children of God are part of the worldwide family of faith.

Children being baptized at the 9:30 worship service are
Paige Flannery Barker, daughter of Andrew and Dinna Barker
James Patrick Wattleworth Collins, son of J. Michael and Carol Collins
Robert Andrew Cupps, son of Andrew and Danielle Cupps
Ava Ruth Kuhlman, daughter of Adam and Kathy Kuhlman
Angus Capen Muldoon, son of Paul and Samantha Muldoon
Zachary Sabatino, son of Anthony Sabatino and Monique Alberry
Loring Karl Teuteberg, son of Jeffrey and Winifred Teuteberg

Children being baptized at the 11:00 worship service are
Everett George Cook, son of Steven and Bess Cook
Alexander Ricardo Cuadros, son of David and Susana Cuadros
Claire Elise Mertzlufft, daughter of Timothy Mertzlufft and Dawn Sellstrom
Peter McLeod Morton, son of Bruce and Kimberlee Morton
Abigail Virginia Nowinski, daughter of Douglas and Jane Nowinski
Charles Herman Schau, son of Mark and Barbara Schau
Hannah Christine Stewart, daughter of Jeffrey and Anne Stewart
Imogene Louise Tuerk, daughter of Edward and Jennifer Tuerk

Worship Leaders

- 8:00 a.m. Julie Kim, Pastoral Resident
Keith C. Harris, Associate Pastor
John M. Buchanan, Pastor
- 9:30 a.m. Carol J. Allen, Associate Pastor
Calum I. MacLeod, Associate Pastor
John M. Buchanan, Pastor
- 11:00 a.m. Alice M. Trowbrige, Associate Pastor
John A. Cairns, Dean, Academy for Faith and Life
John M. Buchanan, Pastor

Lighting the Advent Wreath

- 9:30 a.m. Alison Gerlach
11:00 a.m. Jay Frey and Michael Hires

The Music Today

- 8:00 a.m. The Chancel Choir; Elizabeth Harrison, soprano soloist;
Carol Carpenter, flute
- 9:30 a.m. The Morning Choir; The Duncan Choir of The Merit School of
Music; Cole Seaton, tenor soloist
- 11:00 a.m. The Morning Choir; The Duncan Choir of The Merit School of
Music; Cole Seaton, tenor soloist

John W. W. Sherer, Organist and Director of Music
Thomas Gouwens, Associate Organist

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.

Fourth Church welcomes the Duncan Choir of The Merit School of Music to worship this morning. They will be singing the prelude and first anthem at the 9:30 and 11:00 services.

Fourth Church welcomes the fourth grade class from Chicago Sinai Congregation who will be worshipping with us for the first part of the 11:00 service this morning.

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. 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.

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.

Daily prayer is held each weekday morning at 11:45 a.m. in Stone 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 except this December, when the fourth Friday is