

We ask, Lord, for ourselves the most meaningful  
Advent season we have ever known.  
Drive us to our knees;  
to the Book;  
to an awareness of our sin;  
to a careful searching of our virtues;  
to a serious examination of words and  
terms so glibly sung and spoken.  
And grant that when Christmas morning breaks for us this  
year, we may have something more to show  
for our much running about than tired  
feet, wrapped presents, and regrets for cards not sent.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Ernest T. Campbell  
*Where Cross the Crowded Ways: Prayers of a City Pastor*

## 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.

If your infant or small child needs care during the worship service, you may leave the sanctuary and return as you wish. 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.

Worship bags, containing quiet activities and a bulletin designed for children, are available outside the south transept doors, between the sanctuary and Anderson Hall. Children who are attending worship in the sanctuary are invited to borrow one of these bags.

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 \$7.00 until 2:00 p.m. and at 900 North Michigan (access from Rush or Walton Street) at the rate of \$7.75 to 4:00 p.m. and \$6.00 after 5:00 p.m. Validation tickets must be picked up during Coffee Hour or from the Chestnut Street reception desk.

Inquirers' Class offers an opportunity to explore Presbyterian history and beliefs.

This one-session class is also a prerequisite for membership. Attend Monday, December 5 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.; Saturday, December 10 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon; or Monday, January 9 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. For information about membership, contact Calum MacLeod, Associate Pastor, at the church 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 Elizabeth Andrews, Minister for Congregational Care, at 312.274.3818 (eandrews@fourthchurch.org).

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

Church office: 126 E. Chestnut Street, Chicago, IL 60611.2014; www.fourthchurch.org  
312.787.4570; Staff extensions: 312.787.2729; Fax: 312.787.4584



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

“And the Glory of the Lord” from *Messiah*  
*George Frideric Handel*  
And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

PSALTER

Psalm 85 (*responsively*) (page 543, O.T.)

\*GLORIA PATRI

(The Hymnal, 579)

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Isaiah 40:1–11 (page 667, O.T.)  
Mark 1:1–8 (page 34, N.T.)

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

by John M. Buchanan  
THE COMFORT AND JOY OF HOME  
“Comfort, O Comfort my people, says your God.”  
Isaiah 40:1 (NRSV)

\*HYMN

“God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen”  
God rest you merry, gentlemen, Let nothing you dismay,  
For Jesus Christ our Savior Was born upon this day,  
To save us all from Satan’s power When we were gone astray:  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.  
  
From God our heavenly Father A blessed angel came,  
And unto certain shepherds Brought tidings of the same,  
How that in Bethlehem was born The Son of God by name:  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.  
  
Now to the Lord sing praises,  
All you with-in this place,  
And with true love and unity  
Each other now embrace;  
This holy tide of Christmas All others doth deface:  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.

\*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.

PRAYER RESPONSE

"Amen"

*Ruth Hanson*

OFFERING

OFFERTORY SOLO  
(8:00)

"O Thou That Tellest Good Tidings to Zion" from *Messiah*  
*George Frideric Handel*

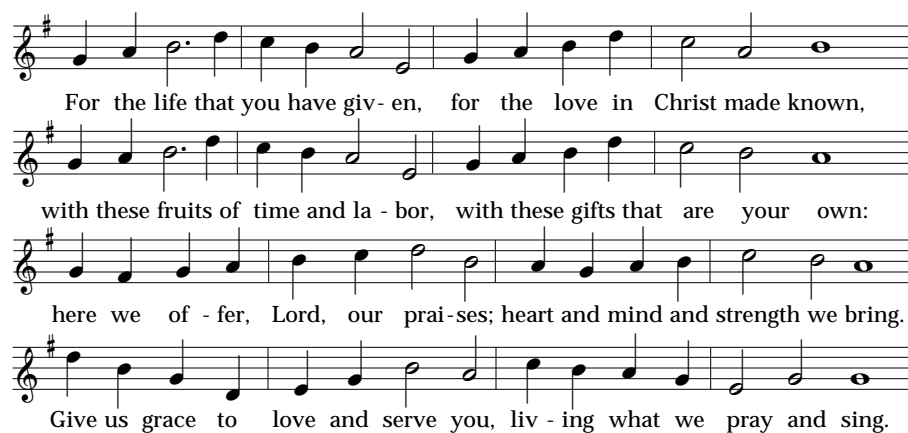
OFFERTORY ANTHEM  
(9:30 and 11:00)

"This Is the Record of John"

*Orlando Gibbons*

This is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites  
from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who art thou?" And he confessed  
and denied not, and said plainly, "I am not the Christ."  
And they asked him, "What art thou then? Art thou Elias?"  
And he said, "I am not." "Art thou the prophet?" And he  
answered, "No." Then said they unto him, "What art thou?  
That we may give an answer unto them that sent us. What  
sayest thou of thy self?" And he said, "I am the voice of him  
that crieth in the wilderness, make straight the way of the Lord."

\*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 3

“Comfort, Comfort You My People”

*Tune:* PSALM 42

BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

On Jordan’s Banks the Baptist’s Cry

*Aaron David Miller*

# 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)*

**O**n 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

*Vivianne Rae Gramza, daughter of Brian Gramza and  
Michelle Frankovich Gramza*

*John Vernon Krol, son of John Krol and Jennifer Vollbrecht*

*Adeline Laura Rees, daughter of Albert and Kristyn Rees*

*Christopher Jack Schoenherr, son of Aaron and Jennifer Schoenherr*

Children being baptized at the 11:00 worship service are

*Vincent William Auricchio, son of Vince and Tori Auricchio*

*Lauren Elizabeth Courtney, daughter of Mark and Angi Courtney*

*Katherine Ann Courtney, daughter of Mark and Angi Courtney*

*Gavin Ranjan Daniels, son of Ranjan and Kalen Daniels*

*Anthony Joseph Stefani, son of Steven and Deborah Stefani*

*Luke Ben Yachnin, son of Benson and Melinda Yachnin*

### Worship Leaders

8:00 a.m. Calum I. MacLeod, Alice M. Trowbridge, John M. Buchanan  
9:30 a.m. Calum I. MacLeod, Donna Gray, John M. Buchanan  
11:00 a.m. John H. Boyle, Alice M. Trowbridge, John M. Buchanan

### Lighting the Advent Wreath

9:30 a.m. Francis Ntowe  
11:00 a.m. Mason Essif

### The Music Today

8:00 a.m. The Chancel Choir; Laura Kubelka, alto soloist  
9:30 a.m. The Morning Choir; Oliver Camacho, tenor soloist  
11:00 a.m. The Morning Choir; Oliver Camacho, tenor soloist

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

### Worship Notes

Offering envelopes for “Light Up a Life” can be found in the pew racks. This year-end giving campaign supports congregational programs; mission and community outreach, including Chicago Lights programs; and denominational programs. “Light Up a Life” gifts can be made using these envelopes or by writing “Light Up a Life” on the memo line of a check made payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church. Details about this giving opportunity are also available in the literature racks and at [www.fourthchurch.org](http://www.fourthchurch.org).

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 stained glass window shown on the bulletin cover depicts angels praising God with harp and strings, as Psalm 150 calls us to do. The window, located in the reception area west of Anderson Hall, was designed by Charles J. Connick.

### Pastoral Staff

John M. Buchanan, Pastor  
Dana Ferguson, Executive Associate Pastor  
Elizabeth Andrews, Minister for Congregational Care  
John H. Boyle, Parish Associate  
Patrick Daymond, Pastoral Resident  
Donna Gray, Minister for Children and Families  
Keith C. Harris, Associate Pastor for Community Ministry  
Catherine Knott, Pastoral Resident  
Calum I. MacLeod, Associate Pastor for New Members and Young Adult Ministry  
Thomas C. Rook, Parish Associate  
Erica Schemper, Pastoral Resident  
Alice M. Trowbridge, Associate Pastor for Congregational Life  
Richard Williams, Pastoral Resident  
David A. Donovan, Associate Pastor Emeritus