

Lighting our candles, we see ourselves again as dwelling in darkness. Despite all the lights and noise of Christmas commerce, the world is cold and in need. God is not here. Not yet, not enough. . . . Why again these candles and ritualized longing? After all this time would not existential resignation be more honest and ennobling? . . . And then sometimes, some blessed times, we have worked in us such Advent alchemy that our own hearts stir to feel the stirring of God. Not yet so powerful, not yet quite visible, but more, we think, than just imagined. While the sky appears opaque and silent, seeds quicken in the dark soil. A child stirs in the womb.

John Stendahl

*Living by the Word: Meditations from The Christian Century*

## 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. Worship also can be heard through the "T" setting of hearing aids.

**If your infant or small child needs care** during the worship service, you may leave the sanctuary and return as you wish. The worship service audio can be heard in Stone Chapel, where you and your child are also welcome. 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.

**A church tour** begins at 12:15 p.m., starting at the back of the sanctuary.

**We invite you to stop by Coffee Hour** after worship for fellowship, conversation, and information about church programs and volunteer opportunities.

**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 4 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.; Saturday, December 9 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon; or Monday, January 8 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 Ali Trowbridge, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care, at 312.573.3360 (atrowbridge@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

## 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) Savior of the Nations, Come *Johann Sebastian Bach*  
Come Thou Now, Jesus, Down from Heaven *J. S. Bach*  
“Sleepers, Wake!” A Voice Astounds Us *J. S. Bach*

**INTROIT** “Prepare the Way of the Lord” *Richard Proulx*  
Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight  
his paths. Rejoice, the Lord is at hand!

**\*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)

**Eternal God, 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.  
We confess that we prefer the darkness.  
We fail daily to love our neighbors,  
we use the resources of the good earth thoughtlessly,  
we neglect to thank you for all you have given.  
In this season of expectancy,  
we hope for little and overlook your gracious love,  
which is always coming into the life of the world.  
Forgive us, merciful God.  
Renew us in faith and hope that we may welcome  
Christ again to rule our lives and claim our love. Amen.**

### **DECLARATION OF PARDON**

Minister: Friends, believe the good news.

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

*\*Stand as you are able.*

**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**

“Jesus Christ the Apple Tree” Elizabeth Poston  
The tree of life my soul hath seen, laden with fruit and always green. The trees of nature, fruitless, be compared with Christ the apple tree. His beauty doth all things excel, by faith I know, but never can tell the glory which I now can see in Jesus Christ the apple tree. For happiness I long have sought, and pleasure dearly I have bought. I missed of all, but now I see 'tis found in Christ the apple tree. I'm weary with my former toil; here I will sit and rest awhile; under the shadow I will be of Jesus Christ the apple tree. This fruit doth make my soul to thrive. It keeps my dying faith alive, which makes my soul in haste to be with Jesus Christ the apple tree.

**PSALTER**

Psalm 25:1–10 (*responsively*) (page 475, O.T.)

**\*GLORIA PATRI**

(The Hymnal, 579)

**SCRIPTURE LESSON**

Luke 1:5–25 (page 52, N.T.)

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

by John M. Buchanan

**ZECHARIAH AND ELIZABETH**

“How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years.”

Luke 1:18 (NRSV)

**\*HYMN 14**

“Savior of the Nations, Come”

*Tune:* NUM KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND

**\*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"

*Camille Saint-Saëns*

##### OFFERING

##### OFFERTORY SOLO (8:00)

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

O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, get thee up into the high mountain. O thou that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up thy voice with strength. Lift it up; be not afraid. Say unto the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" Arise, shine, for thy light is come and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

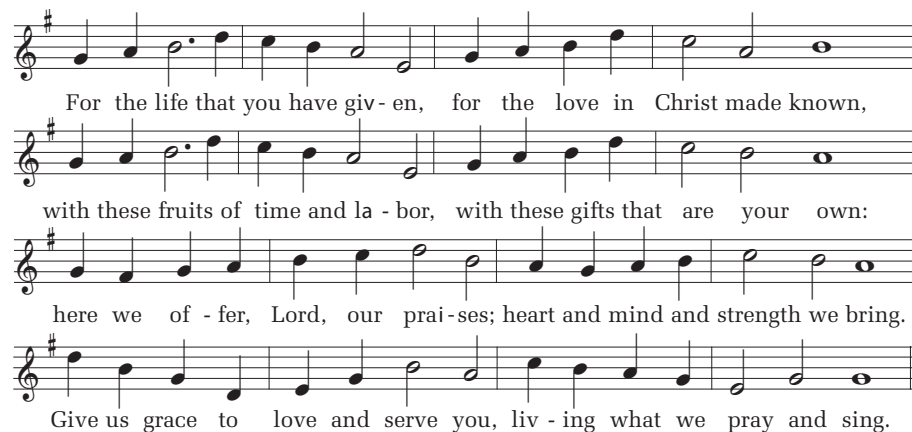
##### OFFERTORY ANTHEM (9:30 and 11:00)

"Lo, In the Time Appointed"

*Healey Willan*

Lo, in the time appointed the Lord will come. The mountains and the hills shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands; for the Lord God shall come into his everlasting kingdom and upon the throne of David shall he reign forever. Alleluia.

**\*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. Used by permission.

**\*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 that you continue to come into the life of the world.**

**Fill us with gratitude overflowing for all your gifts,  
that we may share life and love in praise to you, in the  
gracious name of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.**

**\*HYMN 1**

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

*Tune: STUTTGART*

**BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE**

**POSTLUDE**

On Jordan’s Bank 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.

**The children being baptized at the 9:30 worship service are**

*Jacob Walter Bennett, son of David and Nancy Bennett  
Katherine Elle Clausen, daughter of Eric and Nicole Clausen  
David Stephen Ho, son of David and Laura Ho  
Stuart Sinclair Lippincott, son of David and Katharine Lippincott  
Lydia Douglass Muldoon, daughter of Paul and Samantha Muldoon*

**The children being baptized at the 11:00 worship service are**

*Anya Wen Donicht, daughter of John Donicht and Kay Allison  
Penelope Constance Marquez, daughter of Albert and Megan Marquez  
Sophia Morgan Nuciforo, daughter of Chris and Jacquelynn Nuciforo  
Henry Thomas Zwingli Ramsey, son of Thomas and Lara Ramsey  
Lucy Tate Warner, daughter of Andrew and Kelly Warner*

## Worship Leaders

8:00 a.m.	Hardy Kim, Dana Ferguson, John M. Buchanan
9:30 a.m.	John H. Boyle, Dana Ferguson, John M. Buchanan
11:00 a.m.	Thomas C. Rook, Alice M. Trowbridge, John M. Buchanan

## Lighting the Advent Wreath

9:30 a.m.	David, Elizabeth, Grace, and Kate Crawford
11:00 a.m.	Barbara and Blake Anderson

## The Music Today

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

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

## Worship Notes

**The Christmas Offering 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 composer of today’s postlude, Aaron David Miller** (b.1972), was the Associate Organist at Fourth Presbyterian Church from 1999 to 2001. He is currently the Organist and Director of Music at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Minneapolis, Minnesota and is gaining a reputation as one of America’s leading composers of sacred music.

**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 B. Andrews**, Parish Associate  
**John H. Boyle**, Parish Associate  
**Patrick Daymond**, Pastoral Resident  
**Adam Fronczek**, Associate Pastor for Adult Education and Worship  
**Donna Gray**, Minister for Children and Families  
**Keith C. Harris**, Associate Pastor for Community Ministry  
**Hardy Kim**, Pastoral Resident  
**Catherine Knott**, Pastoral Resident  
**Martha Langford**, Pastoral Resident  
**Calum I. MacLeod**, Associate Pastor for New Members and Young Adult Ministry  
**Thomas C. Rook**, Parish Associate  
**Joyce Shin**, Minister for Congregational Activities  
**Alice M. Trowbridge**, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care  
**John W. Vest**, Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry  
**David A. Donovan**, Associate Pastor Emeritus