

## WORSHIP LEADERS

John H. Boyle Parish Associate  
Martha Langford Pastoral Resident  
Thomas Gouwens Associate Organist  
The Vespers Choir

**Daily Advent devotions**, written by Fourth Church members and staff, are available by e-mail from [devotions@fourthchurch.org](mailto:devotions@fourthchurch.org) and in printed booklets from the church literature racks.

**Inquirers' Class** offers an opportunity to explore Presbyterian history and beliefs. This one-session class is also a prerequisite for membership. Attend Monday, January 8 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.; Saturday, January 20 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon; or Sunday, January 28 from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. For information about membership, contact Calum MacLeod, Associate Pastor, at the church at 312.981.4025 ([cmacleod@fourthchurch.org](mailto:cmacleod@fourthchurch.org)).

**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](mailto:atrowbridge@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.

**Parking is available** Sundays at 900 North Michigan (access from Rush or Walton Street) at the rate of \$6.25 after 5:00 p.m.

### The Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago

John M. Buchanan, Pastor

Church office: 126 E. Chestnut Street, Chicago, IL 60611.2014; [www.fourthchurch.org](http://www.fourthchurch.org)  
312.787.4570; Staff extensions: 312.787.2729; Fax: 312.787.4584

**Fourth Presbyterian Church**  
**Sunday, December 17, 2006**  
**6:30 p.m.**

# vespers

**PRELUDE** Savior of the Nations, Come *Dieterich Buxtehude*  
Comfort, Comfort You My People *Henry Woodward*

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
who made heaven and earth.

People: **Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.**

Leader: O give thanks, for the Lord is good.

People: **God's steadfast love endures forever.**

**\*HYMN 2** "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" *Tune: HYFRYDOL*

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*(unison)*

**Forgiving God, we confess not only our sin  
but our need for your grace.**

**We seek your guidance yet act contrary to your purpose.  
We seek your freedom yet cling to our particular bondage.  
We seek to know your will but continue to pursue  
our selfish desires. We hear your call of service to others  
yet connive for our own comfort.**

**We say we want the abundant life you promise yet we  
go away sorrowful when you tell us to give up our idols.  
Forgive us, dear God,  
and strengthen our resolve to love you more and  
to do your work of peace and justice in the world. Amen.**

## DECLARATION OF PARDON

Leader: Friends, believe the good news.

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

## CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**

Zephaniah 3:14–20 (*responsively*) (page 475, O.T.)

**ANTHEM** “The King of Glory”

*Israeli folk song*  
*arr. Robert Batastini*

**SCRIPTURE LESSONS**

Luke 3:7–17 (page 56, N.T.)

Philippians 4:4–7 (page 187, N.T.)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**COMMUNION MEDITATION**

THE POINT OF IT ALL

by John H. Boyle

**\*HYMN 10** “On Jordan’s Banks the Baptist’s Cry” *Tune: WINCHESTER NEW*

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:**

(*unison*)

**We are not alone, we live in God’s world.**

**We believe in God:**

**Who has created and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,  
to reconcile and make new,  
who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

**We trust in God.**

**We are called to be the church:**

**To celebrate God’s presence, to love and serve others,  
to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus,  
crucified and risen, our Judge and our Hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.**

**We are not alone. Thanks be to God.**

(*United Church of Canada*)

**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM** “Comfort, Comfort Now My People”

*Genevan Psalter, arr. Richard Proulx*

**\*DOXOLOGY** (The Hymnal, 592)

**THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER**

**INVITATION**

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.**

**THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Minister: . . . who forever sing to the glory of your name:

People: **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One  
who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

**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.**

**THE COMMUNION**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

(*unison*)

**Loving God, in this bread and with this cup  
you have given us of your brokenness and your blessing.  
In gratitude we offer you our lives to be broken  
for the sake of those in need, and to bless  
with our compassion those who suffer.  
So may we be a light in the midst of this world’s darkness,  
and instruments of your peace in this world’s strife. Amen.**

**\*HYMN 8** “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates” *Tune: TRURO*

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry *Bruce Neswick*