

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace—all these curious and forbidding terms that Christians keep on using in their attempt to express in language one thing and one thing only: that in this child, in the man he grew up to be, there is the power of God to bring light into our darkness, to make us whole, to give a new kind of life to anybody who turns toward him in faith, even to such as you and me. . . . How do we know? *Adeste fidelis*. Come and behold him. Speak to him or be silent before him. In whatever way seems right to you and at whatever time, come to him with your empty hands. The great promise is that to come to him who was born at Bethlehem is to find coming to birth within ourselves something stronger and braver, gladder and kinder and holier, than ever we knew before or than ever we could have known without him.

Frederick Buechner
“Come and See,” *Secrets in the Dark*

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, 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).

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).

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

ANTHEM "En Natus est Emanuel" *Michael Praetorius*
Behold, Emmanuel is born, Christ the Lord, foretold by
Gabriel, Christ the Lord, the savior of the world.
He lieth in a manger bed, Christ the Lord, wondrous
little boy he is, Christ the Lord, the savior of the world.
The light appeareth on this day, Christ the Lord, born of
Mary, virgin maid, Christ the Lord, the savior of the world.

FIRST LESSON Isaiah 9:2-7 (page 600, O.T.)
Minister: The Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

***GLORIA PATRI** (The Hymnal, 579)

SECOND LESSON Luke 2:1-7 (page 54, N.T.)

SERMON by John M. Buchanan
A PARTRIDGE IN A PEAR TREE
"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)

***CAROL 36** "In the Bleak Midwinter" *Tune: CRANHAM*

***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”

John Stainer

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

Harold Darke

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan, earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone. Snow had fallen, snow on snow, in the bleak midwinter long ago. Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain. Heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign. In the bleak midwinter, a stable place sufficed the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ. Enough for him, whom cherubim worship night and day, a breast full of milk and a manger full of hay; enough for him, whom angels fall down before, the ox and ass and camel, which adore. What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb. If I were a wise man, I would do my part. Yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

***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.

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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: **God of mercy and might,
we praise you and worship you,
for you came in silence, while all lay sleeping,
to enter our world as a child of humble birth.
We thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ,
born of your handmaid Mary.
In his face we behold your glory, for in his life
as in his death is your gift of salvation.
By your Spirit, make our hearts burn with thanksgiving,
that we may give as we have received.
Let our whole lives be gifts of praise to you,
God of love and peace, in the gracious name of
Jesus Christ, your Son, by the power of the Holy Spirit,
now and forever. Amen.**

***CAROL 38**

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

Tune: CAROL

BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Noël

José Jesús Estrada

Christmas Worship

at Fourth Presbyterian Church

Christmas Eve – Sunday, December 24 in the sanctuary

4:00 p.m.

Children's Pageant

6:00 p.m.

Christmas Meditation and Children's Message
John W. Vest preaching

8:30 p.m.

Lessons and Carols
John M. Buchanan preaching

11:00 p.m.

Lessons and Carols
John M. Buchanan preaching

Christmas Day – Monday, December 25 in the sanctuary

11:00 a.m.

Calum I. MacLeod preaching

A traditional Christmas dinner in Anderson Hall will be served at 12:30 p.m. Dinner tickets are available during Coffee Hour and at the reception desk.

New Year's Eve – Sunday, December 31 in the sanctuary

9:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Alice M. Trowbridge preaching
Please note that there will be no 8:00 a.m. worship service.

7:30 p.m.

Interfaith New Year's Eve Service

Light Up a Life through Joyous Giving!

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 the envelopes in the pew racks 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.

Worship Leaders

9:30 a.m. John W. Vest, Dana Ferguson, John M. Buchanan
11:00 a.m. Adam Fronczek, Dana Ferguson, John M. Buchanan

Lighting the Advent Wreath

9:30 a.m. Roger Wilson
11:00 a.m. The Doak Family

The Music Today

9:30 a.m. The Morning Choir; Marnie Pomeroy and Alexia Kruger,
soprano soloists; Cole Seaton, tenor soloist
11:00 a.m. The Morning Choir; Marnie Pomeroy and Alexia Kruger,
soprano soloists; Cole Seaton, tenor soloist

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

Worship Notes

This morning's postlude, "Noël," was composed by José Jesús Estrada (1898–1980). Estrada was one of Mexico's finest composers of organ and choral music. He was Professor of Organ at the National Conservatory in Mexico City and influenced many leading organists of Mexico.

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