

For those who believe in the transcendence and total otherness of God, it radically diminishes him. For those who do not believe in God, it is the ultimate absurdity. For those who stand somewhere between belief and unbelief, it challenges credulity in a new way. It is not a theory that can be tested rationally because it is beyond reason and it is not a theory, not something theologians have thought their way to. The claim is, instead, that it is something that has happened, and reason itself is somehow tested by it, humankind's whole view of what is possible and real. Year after year the ancient tale of what happened is told—raw, preposterous, holy—and year after year the world in some measure stops to listen.

Frederick Buechner
"Emmanuel" from *A Room Called Remember*

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.

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 7 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.; Saturday, January 19 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon; or Sunday, January 27 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

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)

“Sleepers, Wake!” A Voice Astounds Us *Jacobus Kloppers*

PRELUDE
(9:30 and 11:00)

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel *Daniel Pinkham*
Comfort, Comfort, You My People *Paul Manz*
“Sleepers, Wake!” A Voice Astounds Us *Jacobus Kloppers*
Gabriel’s Oboe *Ennio Morricone*
Savior of the Nations, Come *Paul Manz*

INTROIT

“The King of Glory Comes” *Israeli folk song
arr. Robert Battistini*

The King of glory comes; the nation rejoices. Open the gates
before him; lift up your voices. Who is the King of glory?
How shall we meet him? He is Emmanuel, the promised of ages.

***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 22**

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory” *Tune: REGENT SQUARE*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION
(*unison*)

**Who are we, Lord God, that you should come to us?
Yet in Jesus Christ, you have been born among us.
As we prepare again to celebrate his birth, forgive us
for failing so often to recognize him in the world.
Forgive us for failing to see light shining in the darkness,
for expecting little of you and hoping for less.
Forgive our doubt, renew our hope,
and give us courage to live in the light of your great love
revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Minister: Friends, believe the good news.
People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM
(9:30)

**Stand as you are able.*

UNISON PRAYER
(9:30)

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

PSALTER

Psalm 96 (*responsively*) (page 520, O.T.)
(*for those seated in Anderson Hall, page 550, O.T.*)

ANTHEM
(8:00)

“Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding” *Eric H. Thiman*
Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding. “Christ is nigh,” it seems to say. “Cast away the dreams of darkness, O ye children of the day!” Wakened by the solemn warning, let the earthbound soul arise; Christ, her sun, all ill dispelling, shines upon the morning skies. Lo! The lamb so long-expected comes with pardon down from heaven. Let us haste, with tears of sorrow, one and all to be forgiven, that when next he comes in glory and the world is wrapped in fear, with his mercy he may shield us and with words of love draw near. Christ, to thee be endless glory, from all on earth be praise, who from heaven wilt come to save us and redeem from sinful ways. Honor, glory, might, and blessing to the Father and to the Son, with the everlasting Spirit, while eternal ages run. Amen.

ANTHEM
(9:30 and 11:00)

“Jesus Comes” *Donald James*
Jesus comes with all his grace, comes to save a fallen race.
Object of our glorious hope, Jesus comes to lift us up.
Let the living stones cry out; let the sons of Abraham shout.
Praise we all our lowly King, give him thanks, rejoice, and sing.
We shall gain our calling’s prize; after God we all shall rise
filled with joy and love and peace, perfected in holiness.

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 7:10–14 (page 598, O.T.)
(*for those seated in Anderson Hall, page 636, O.T.*)

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

***GLORIA PATRI**

(The Hymnal, 579)

SECOND LESSON

Matthew 1:18–25 (page 1, N.T.)
(*for those seated in Anderson Hall, page 1, N.T.*)

SERMON

by John M. Buchanan

WONDER

“Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel”

Isaiah 7:14 (NRSV)

***HYMN 53**

“What Child Is This”

Tune: GREENSLEEVES

***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”

Richard Warner

OFFERING

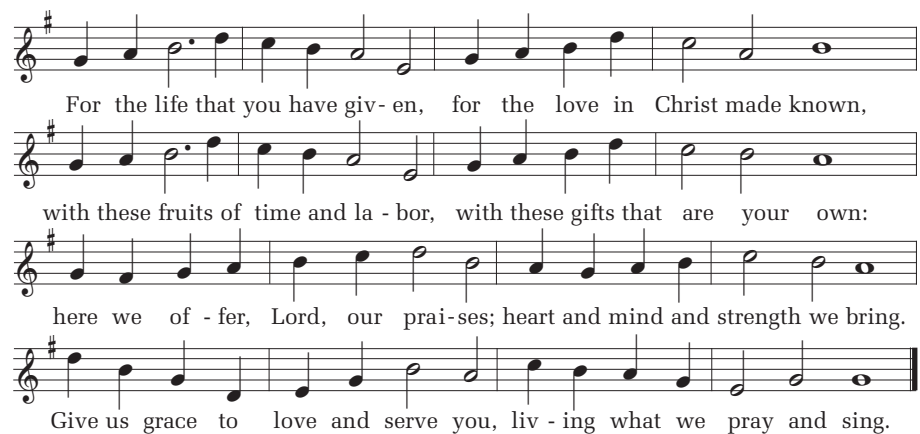
OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“I Wonder as I Wander”

*Appalachian carol
arr. John Jacob Niles*

I wonder as I wander, out under the sky, how Jesus the Savior
did come for to die, for poor ornery people like you and
like I, I wonder as I wander, out under the sky. When Mary
birthed Jesus, 'twas in a cow's 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 the wing, or all of God's angels in heaven for
to sing, he surely could have it, 'cause he was the King.

***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: **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.**

***HYMN 40**

“Joy to the World!”

Tune: ANTIOCH

BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

POSTLUDE
(8:00)

The King Shall Come

Michael Burkhardt

POSTLUDE
(9:30 and 11:00)

“Sleepers, Wake!” A Voice Astounds Us *Sigfrid Karg-Elert*

Christmas Worship

at Fourth Presbyterian Church

Christmas Eve — Monday, December 24 in the sanctuary

All four services are candlelight services.

4:00 p.m.

Children's Pageant

6:00 p.m.

Family Service

Calum I. MacLeod 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 — Tuesday, December 25 in the sanctuary

11:00 a.m.

John W. Vest preaching

A traditional Christmas dinner in Anderson Hall will be served at 12:30 p.m. Dinner tickets are available during Coffee Hour following 9:30 and 11:00 worship.

New Year's Eve — Monday, December 31 in the sanctuary

7:30 p.m.

Ecumenical service

Alice M. Trowbridge preaching

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. Gifts can also be made at the table in the hallway leading from the sanctuary to Westminster House. Details about this giving opportunity are available in the literature racks and at www.fourthchurch.org.

Worship Leaders

8:00 a.m.	Calum I. MacLeod, Dana Ferguson, John M. Buchanan
9:30 a.m.	Adam Fronczek, Joyce Shin, John M. Buchanan
11:00 a.m.	Calum I. MacLeod, Dana Ferguson, John M. Buchanan

Lighting the Advent Wreath

8:00 a.m.	Blair and Kristina Eklund
9:30 a.m.	William and Sonja Bowen
11:00 a.m.	Francis and Melanie and Djameno, Koumani, and Jani Ntowe-Fankam

The Music Today

8:00 a.m.	The Chancel Choir; Mark Eldred, tenor soloist
9:30 a.m.	The Morning Choir; Mark Eldred, tenor soloist; Jelena Dierks, oboe soloist
11:00 a.m.	The Morning Choir; Mark Eldred, tenor soloist; Jelena Dierks, oboe soloist

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

Worship Notes

The children being baptized this morning during 9:30 worship are Jenna Grace and Tara Lynn Bracken, daughters of Linda Bracken, and John Wesley Griffin, son of Kenneth and Anne Griffin.

Fourth Church welcomes Jelena Dierks to 9:30 and 11:00 worship. Jelena, a member of Fourth Church who plays with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, is assisting with the prelude this morning.

Fourth Church expresses its thanks and appreciation to Morgan Simmons, who has made several visual contributions to the sanctuary. When construction shortened the south transept, Morgan created two wall hangings to mirror the windows in the north transept. The second of these two hangings, which is located on the east side of the south transept doors, was hung last week.

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
Adam Fronczek, Associate Pastor for Adult Education and Worship
Donna Gray, Minister for Children and Families
Calum I. MacLeod, Associate Pastor for Evangelism and Young Adults
Joyce Shin, Associate Pastor for Congregational Life
Alice M. Trowbridge, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care
John W. Vest, Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry
Elizabeth B. Andrews, Parish Associate
John H. Boyle, Parish Associate
Thomas C. Rook, Parish Associate
Hardy Kim, Pastoral Resident
Martha Langford, Pastoral Resident
David A. Donovan, Associate Pastor Emeritus