

December 7, 2008

Second Sunday of Advent

9:30 and 11:00 a.m.

WHAT IS IT that we are essentially doing in this building? The immediate answer is that we are worshiping God here. We are trying to speak to God here and to speak about God. We are trying to listen for God. We are searching for something of God's peace. But deep beneath all of this, in our innermost hearts, I think we are doing something else. . . . I think we are waiting . . . waiting for the advent of light. . . . If we take the words of Jesus as seriously as he asks us to take them, then the realest, truest, most authentic thing we can do as Christians is to wait—to wait with passion, to wait with hope.

Frederick Buechner
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.

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 for three hours 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 for 900 parking must be picked up during Coffee Hour or from the Chestnut Street reception desk. Hancock tickets must be validated in the Narthex, at the back of the sanctuary.

Inquirers' Class explores Presbyterian history and beliefs. This one-session class is also a prerequisite for membership. Attend Saturday, December 13 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon; Monday, January 5, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.; or Saturday, January 17, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. For information about membership, contact Calum MacLeod, Associate Pastor, at 312.981.4025.

Fourth Church Cares

To notify pastoral staff of personal concerns and anxieties, illnesses, hospitalizations, or deaths; to pass along a prayer request; 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

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Minister: Friends, believe the good news.

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

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

UNISON PRAYER **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 85 (*responsively*) (page 514, O.T.)

ANTHEM “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 with 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 the Son, with the everlasting Spirit while eternal ages run. Amen.

FIRST LESSON John 1:6–14 (page 86, N.T.)

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

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

SECOND LESSON Isaiah 64:1–4, 8 (page 652, O.T.)

SERMON by John M. Buchanan
DON’T MAKE ME COME DOWN THERE
“O that you would tear open the heavens and come down.”
Isaiah 64:1 (NRSV)

***HYMN 4** “Creator of the Stars of Night” *Tune: CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM*

*** 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

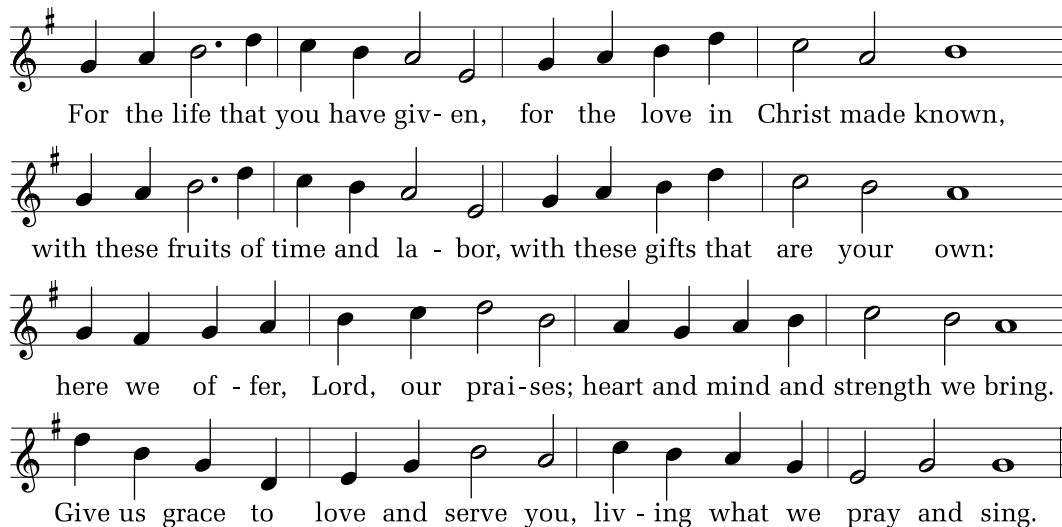
OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM "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 thyself?" 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. 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 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 the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

*HYMN 1

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Tune: STUTT GART

BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

The King of Glory Comes

*Israeli folk song
arr. 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)*

ONCE 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.

Those being baptized at the 9:30 worship service are

*Finnegan John Duzan, son of Jason and Laura Duzan
William Lowell Duzan, son of Jason and Laura Duzan
Jack Harris Mullman, son of Jeremy and Jennifer Mullman
Greta Oy-Ling Temple, daughter of Kevin Temple and Medora Lee*

Those being baptized at the 11:00 worship service are

*Owen Ford Anderson, son of Jason and Cindy Anderson
Jackson Ruff Demarest, son of Hank and Stowe Demarest
Ryan Quinn Mergen, son of William and Catherine Mergen
Kyra Quinn Mergen, daughter of William and Catherine Mergen
Samantha McCarthy Pilgrim, daughter of Jeff Pilgrim and Jill Ladendorf
Alexander Gillen Robinson, son of Walter and Mary Robinson*

WORSHIP LEADERS

9:30 a.m. John W. Vest, Alice M. Trowbridge, John M. Buchanan

11:00 a.m. Thomas C. Rook, Alice M. Trowbridge, John M. Buchanan

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

9:30 a.m. Jay Frey and Michael Hires

11:00 a.m. Brad Pierce and Melanie Oh

THE MUSIC TODAY

9:30 a.m. The Morning Choir; Andrew Duncan, tenor soloist

11:00 a.m. The Morning Choir; Andrew Duncan, tenor soloist

John W. W. Sherer, Organist and Director of Music

WORSHIP NOTES

The “Light Up a Life” offering is being received throughout Advent. 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 special offering envelopes found in the pew racks or by writing “Light Up a Life” on the memo line of a check made payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church.

During Advent, a midweek worship service is held on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. in Blair Chapel.

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 musical angels on the bulletin cover adorn a stained-glass window, by Charles J. Connick, located in the reception area west of Anderson Hall. Psalm 150 encourages us to join in praising God with trumpet, harp, and string.

PASTORAL STAFF

John M. Buchanan, Pastor

Calum I. MacLeod, Acting Executive Associate Pastor

Victoria G. Curtiss, Associate Pastor for Mission

Adam Fronczek, Associate Pastor for Adult Education and Worship

Donna Gray, Minister for Children and Families

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

Jocelyn Cadwallader, Pastoral Resident

Sarah A. Johnson, Pastoral Resident

Joann H. Lee, Pastoral Resident

David A. Donovan, Associate Pastor Emeritus