

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)*

God of life, in deep gratitude for this moment, this meal, these people, we give ourselves to you. Take us out to live as changed people because we have shared the living bread and cannot remain the same. Ask much of us, expect much from us, enable much by us, encourage many through us. God of light, may we live to your glory, both as inhabitants of earth and citizens of the commonwealth of heaven. Amen.

***HYMN 40** “Joy to the World!” *Tune: ANTIOCH*

BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

POSTLUDE In Thee Is Joy *J. M. Michel*

WORSHIP LEADERS

Jocelyn C. Cadwallader Pastoral Resident
Sarah A. Johnson Pastoral Resident
Adam Fronczek Associate Pastor
The Vespers Choir
John W. W. Sherer Organist and Director of Music

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

vespers

6:30 p.m. Sunday January 4, 2009

A LIGHT IN THE CITY
FOURTH
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
www.fourthchurch.org

PRELUDE O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright
Johann Pachelbel
We Praise Thy Holy Beam *Sigfrid Karg-Elert*
See the Eastern Star *Puerto Rican carol*
arr. Michael Burkhardt
We Three Kings *Johannes Matthias Michel*
Star of Hope *Richard Keys Biggs*

INVOCATION

***HYMN 38** “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” *Tune: CAROL*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(unison)*

Merciful God, in your gracious presence we confess our sin and the sin of this world. Although Christ is among us as our life and light, we are a people divided against ourselves as we cling to the values of a broken world. The profit and pleasures we pursue lay waste the land and pollute the seas. The fears and jealousies that we harbor set neighbor against neighbor and nation against nation. We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom, of intellect and reason, and have turned them into bonds of oppression. God, have mercy upon us; heal us and forgive us. Set us free to serve you in the world as agents of your reconciling love in Christ. Amen.

DECLARATION OF PARDON

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

**Stand as you are able.*

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

ANTHEM “Saw You Never in the Twilight” *Harold Friedell*

PSALTER Psalm 146 (*responsively*) (page 549, O.T.)

SCRIPTURE LESSON John 1:1–18 (page 86, N.T.)

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

COMMUNION MEDITATION by Jocelyn C. Cadwallader
TRACK LIGHTING

***HYMN 31** “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” *Tune: MENDELSSOHN*

***PROFESSION OF FAITH** (*unison*)

In life and in death, we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church. In a broken world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of people long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we

strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth praying, “Come, Lord Jesus!”

—from A Brief Statement of Faith, PCUSA

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM “Midnight Stars Make Bright the Sky”
Chi-fang Liang

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

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

INVITATION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.**

PRAYER

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

People: **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,**
(sung) **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