# MORNING WORSHIP

The beginning of the prelude is a call to silent, personal preparation for the worship of God.

**Prelude** Savior of the Nations, Come Dieterich Buxtehude

Come Thou Now, Down from Heaven Johann Sebastian Bach
Comfort, Comfort You My People Henry Woodward

Introit "Prepare the Way of the Lord" Richard Proulx

Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight his paths.

Rejoice, the Lord is at hand!

\*Doxology (The Hymnal, 592)

#### \*LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Leader: In a hopeful time, a time like Advent, the psalmist declares, "Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for God will speak peace to God's people." (Psalm 85:8–9)

People: "Surely salvation is at hand for those who fear God, that God's glory may dwell in our land."

Leader: We light a second candle on the Advent wreath to remind us that God's presence is becoming brighter in our world.

People: The light of Christ reminds us to move beyond fear to caring, beyond self to neighbor, beyond protection to growth.

Leader: A voice cries out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."

People: Soon the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken it.

\*HYMN 11 "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?"

Tune: Valet Will Ich Dir Geben

## PRAYER OF THE DAY (unison)

God of our salvation, you straighten the winding ways of our hearts and smooth the paths made rough by sin.

Give us grace that we may greet with joy him whose coming is certain, whose day draws near; your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

<sup>\*</sup>Stand as you are able.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God of the future, you are coming in power

to bring all nations under your rule.

We confess that we have not expected your kingdom, for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment.

We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors,

abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace.

In your mercy, forgive us.

Grant us wisdom to welcome your way and to seek things that will endure

when Christ comes to judge the world. Amen.

## **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

Anthem "Vox Clamantis in Deserto" Juan Esquivel

The voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Prepare the way

of the Lord; make his paths straight."

**PSALTER** Psalm 96 (responsively) (page 520, O.T.)

\*GLORIA PATRI (The Hymnal, 579)

Scripture Lesson Luke 1:68–79 (page 54, N.T.)

Minister: The Word of the Lord. People: **Thanks be to God.** 

SERMON JOHN M. BUCHANAN

Keep Calm and Carry On

"By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness

and in the shadow of death." Luke 1:78-79 (NRSV)

\*Hymn 2 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" Tune: Hyfrydol

\*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"

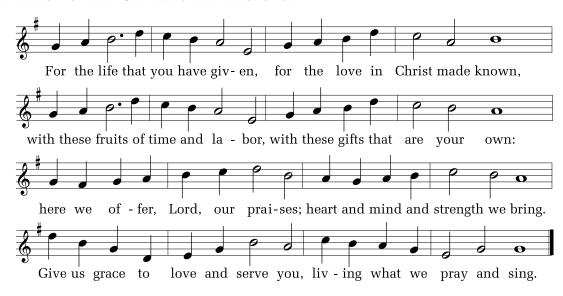
**OFFERING** 

Offertory Anthem "Canite tuba in Sion" Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina

Sound the trumpet in Sion, for the day of the Lord is at hand; see, God comes to save us. Crooked paths shall be made straight and rough ways smooth. Come, Lord, and delay not. Alleluia. Drop down, ye heavens, from above and let the skies pour down righteousness; let the earth open up and bring forth a Savior. Show us, Lord, thy mercy, and give us thy salvation. Come, Lord, and delay not. Alleluia.

Thomas Tallis

#### \*Presentation of the Offering and Response



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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: 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. By your Spirit, open our eyes to the generosity of your hand. 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 your Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

## \*HYMN 14 "Savior of the Nations, Come"

Tune: Nun Komm, Der Heiden Heiland

## BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

**POSTLUDE** On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry 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)

NE SUNDAY A 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

Lyla Jade Baldwin, daughter of Shay and Kerri Baldwin
Sophie Mei Xiang Kasper, daughter of Mike Kasper and Laura Liu
Christian Brody Nunez, son of Raul and Raiti Nunez
Peter Karlson Pinto, son of Perry and Jennifer Pinto
Ethan Joseph Wynne, son of Christopher and Pamela Wynne

## Those being baptized at the 11:00 worship service are

Ariana Juliet Blake, daughter of Rick Blake and Andrea Cummings
Lillian Lynd Corley, daughter of Scott and Melissa Corley
Willa Fay Crosby, daughter of David and Cara Crosby
Isabel Katherine Evans, daughter of Tim Evans and Ruth Arreguin
Amelie Abigail Mugg, daughter of Steve Mugg and Lisa Metzger-Mugg
Anderson Philip Mugg, son of Steve Mugg and Lisa Metzger-Mugg
Henry Alexander Simpson, son of Bill and Holly Simpson

## WORSHIP LEADERS

9:30 a.m. John W. Vest, Victoria G. Curtiss, John M. Buchanan 11:00 a.m. John H. Boyle, Victoria G. Curtiss, John M. Buchanan

#### LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

9:30 a.m. B.H. Gerald, May, and Bert Rogers 11:00 a.m. Chris Horsman and Marc Miller

## THE MUSIC TODAY

9:30 a.m. The Morning Choir11:00 a.m. The Morning Choir

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

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

## WORSHIP NOTES

The "Light Up a Life" offering is being received throughout December. 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.

**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.

**John Buchanan's Advent sermons** will be based on favorite Advent hymns and Christmas carols.

December 13: "O Come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine Advent here. . . . Rejoice, rejoice!" (O Come, O Come, Emmanuel)

December 20: "What I can I give him: give my heart." (In the Bleak Midwinter)

December 24: "Come to Bethlehem and see." (Angels We Have Heard on High)

#### PASTORAL STAFF

John M. Buchanan, Pastor
Calum I. MacLeod, 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
Linda C. Loving, Minister for Evangelism
Joyce Shin, Associate Pastor for
Congregational Life

Alice M. Trowbridge, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care John W. Vest, Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry John H. Boyle, Parish Associate Thomas C. Rook, Parish Associate Jocelyn C. Cadwallader, Pastoral Resident Sarah A. Johnson, Pastoral Resident

Joann H. Lee, Pastoral Resident

David A. Donovan, Associate Pastor Emeritus