

at Fourth at Fourth at Fourth at Fourth

4:00 Order of Worship 12.06.09

Gathering

Gathering Music

Savior of the Nations, Come
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Max Reger
Robert Lau

We invite you to complete the prayer card found in this worship bulletin and to place it in the plate during the sharing of gifts. Information about the prayer cards is printed on the outside back cover of the bulletin.

Welcome

Inspired by the radical hospitality of Jesus Christ, Fourth Presbyterian Church welcomes all of God's children into the life of the church regardless of gender, age, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, physical limitation, educational background, or economic situation.

Lighting the Advent Candle

One: . . . And even when there is war and discord, whether between countries, within families, or within our own hearts, God is present, gently leading us to new possibilities.

***Song** "Candle of Hope"

All: **Loving God, in this time of preparation and planning, we thank you for the hope and peace you unfailingly offer us. Show us the creative power of hope. Teach us the peace that comes from justice. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, so that we may walk in the light of Christ.**

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 peace, 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. Lord, have mercy upon us; heal and forgive us. Set us free to serve you in the world as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Leader: Friends, believe the good news.

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

***Passing of the Peace**

Leader: As God's forgiven people, let us greet one another with the peace of Christ.

The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

All are invited to stand and share the peace of Christ with one another.

Hearing and Proclaiming the Word

Scripture Lesson Malachi 3:1–4 (page 838, O.T.)

Song “Comfort, Comfort You My People”

Scripture Lesson Luke 1:67–80 (page 54, N.T.)

Sermon by John W. Vest
Gospel of a Madman?

***Song** “O for a World”

Sealing the Word

Sharing of Gifts

Please place gifts and prayer cards in the plate as it is passed.

Offertory Music “Who at My Door Is Standing?”

*English folk song
arr. K. Lee Scott*

Who at my door is standing, there patiently drawing near, who entrance is demanding?
Whose is the voice I hear? Sweetly the tones are falling: “Now open the door for me!
If thou wilt heed my calling, I will abide with thee.” Within, the rooms are darkened,
all filled with dust and sin; how shameful, how unworthy for Christ to enter in.
Yet, the tones are falling: “Now open the door for me! If thou wilt heed my calling,
I will abide with thee.” Door of my heart, I hasten! Thee will I open wide. Though he
rebuke and chasten, he shall with me abide. Sweetly the tones are falling: “Now open
the door for me!” Lord God, I hear thee calling, come now, abide with me. Dear Lord,
abide with me!

*Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

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!**

Sanctus

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.**

The Communion

Communion Music "When Came in Flesh"

George Guest

When came in flesh the incarnate Word, the heedless world slept on, and only simple shepherds heard that God had sent his Son. When comes the Savior at the last, from east to west shall shine. The awful pomp and earth aghast shall tremble at the sign. Then shall the pure of heart be blest, as mild he comes to them, as when upon the virgin's breast, he lay at Bethlehem. Lord, who could dare see thee descend in state, unless he knew thou art the sorrowing sinner's friend, the gracious and the true. Dwell in our hearts, O Savior blest, so shall thine Advent's dawn 'twixt us and thee, our bosom guest, be but the veil withdrawn.

Prayer after Communion (*unison*)

**Eternal God, you have graciously accepted us
as living members of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his body and blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage to love and
serve you with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**



Sending

***Sending Song** "Prepare the Way"

***Benediction**

Sending Music O for a World *Paul Manz*

A note on inclusive language

Incorporating ancient and contemporary traditions in this service, God will be named corporately in a variety of ways that are gender neutral. This allows for your personal expressions as you are led to name the Holy in ways meaningful to you.

Worship Leaders

John W. Vest	Associate Pastor
Sarah A. Johnson	Pastoral Resident
Louise Gram	Liturgist
Fourth at Four Ensemble	
The Chamber Choir	
Cole Seaton	Soloist
John W. W. Sherer	Organist and Director of Music

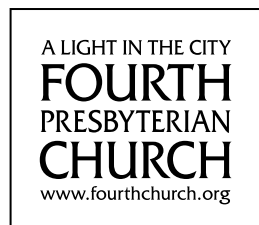
Acknowledgments:

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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



Fourth Church Cares

To notify pastoral staff of personal concerns, illnesses, hospitalizations, or deaths; to pass along a prayer request; or to arrange homebound Communion with a Deacon, contact Ali Trowbridge, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care, at 312.573.3360 (atrowbridge@fourthchurch.org).

News and Opportunities

Advent and Christmas

Memorialize or honor loved ones by contributing to the purchase of Christmas flowers and garlands for the sanctuary. A list of those remembered will be printed in the Christmas bulletin. Contributions can be made by completing the forms available in the literature racks. Completed cards must be returned by *this Friday, December 11* for names to appear in the bulletin.

Chicago a cappella will perform their annual holiday concert at Fourth Church on Friday, December 11 at 8:00 p.m. For ticket information, call 773.755.1628 or visit www.chicagoacappella.org.

The annual Festival of Advent Lessons and Music will be Sunday, December 13 at 4:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. A cookies-and-cocoa reception hosted in Anderson Hall by Women@Fourth Connect will follow. Contact Anne Ellis at 312.573.3369 for more details.

The “Christmas Wishes” gift project collects gifts for more than 700 children who might not otherwise receive them. Gifts will be collected through Sunday, December 13 at the reception desk or during Coffee Hour. Wish lists are available by contacting Anne Ellis at 312.573.3369 (aellis@fourthchurch.org).

An Advent book study of G.K. Chesterton’s *Advent and Christmas Wisdom*, hosted by ThirtiesForties, meets on Sundays at 12:30 p.m. For details, contact Anne Ellis at 312.573.3369.

Christmas Day dinner tickets are available during Coffee Hour and at the reception desk during the week. This dinner will be served in Anderson Hall at 12:30 p.m. on Christmas Day.

“Operation Christmas Gift Bag” provides holiday gifts for Sunday Night Supper guests. Instructions and a bag, to decorate and fill, are available at the reception desk. Filled bags are to be returned to the church no later than Wednesday, December 16.

“Light Up a Life” this holiday season! Gifts to this year-end giving campaign will make a difference in the lives of those touched by Fourth Church and Chicago Lights while also serving as a meaningful gift and way to honor the special people in your life.

The annual Christmas Cantata will be sung on Sunday, December 20 during 9:30 and 11:00 worship, featuring Arnold Schönberg’s *Freide auf Erden*.

Daily Advent devotions, written by Fourth Church members and staff, are available in printed booklets that can be found in the church literature racks, by email (send email addresses to devotions@fourthchurch.org), and at www.fourthchurch.org.

Worship

Special prayer requests are included in intercessory prayer in Stone Chapel on Sunday mornings. Individuals can place their prayer requests, written on paper, in one of the prayer boxes, which are located outside Stone Chapel, in the Narthex, and in Anderson Hall.

Morning Prayer is held each weekday at 9:30 a.m., except Tuesdays, when it is held at 9:00 a.m. All are invited to join staff for daily Morning Prayer, which takes place in Stone Chapel.

A midweek Advent service is held at 6:30 p.m. in Blair Chapel each Wednesday of Advent.

Sunday morning worship services are held at 8:00 (Communion) and at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.

There will be four candlelight services on Christmas Eve—4:00 (Children’s Pageant), 6:00, 8:30, and 11:00 p.m.—and an 11:00 a.m. service on Christmas Day.

A New Year’s Eve service in the style of Taizé will be held on Thursday, December 31 at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary.

News and Opportunities

Enrichment

Weekly Bible Study opportunities:

Women, Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

John Knox, Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

Noonday, Wednesdays at 12:10 p.m.

CLL, Fridays at 10:30 a.m.

Those age sixty and over are invited to attend a Metropolitan Opera matinee presentation at the movies on Saturday, December 19. To enrich the broadcast, the CLL is offering a lecture and discussion on Thursday, December 17. For details, contact Sergio Soltero at 312.981.3386.

Books by Women will meet Tuesday, January 5 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss *Olive Kittenridge*.

A 12-week Nia exercise series will begin Wednesday, January 6 at 10:00 a.m. in Anderson Hall. Nia combines dancing, martial arts, vocal sounds, and more for a dynamic, hour-long workout. For details and to register, call the Nia Infoline at 312.787.2729, ext. 371 or visit www.niachicago.com.

An eight-session T'ai Chi course for beginners will start Thursday, January 7 at 5:00 p.m. T'ai Chi helps participants develop balance and achieve relaxation. For more details or to register, call the T'ai Chi Infoline at 312.787.2729, ext. 388.

Children, Youth, and Family

Sunday school classes for children meet Sunday mornings at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Fourth Church youth meet each Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m.: Elevation (grades 6–7) meets in the Manse basement, Fourth Church Rising (grade 8) meets in the Page Smith Room, and Senior Highs (grades 9–12) meets in the Crow's Nest.

The annual La Posada Family Night will be Friday, December 18 at 6:00 p.m. at the church. Contact Melissa Scanlan at 312.640.2578 for more details.

Fellowship

The Gathering, a fellowship opportunity for those age twenty-two to thirty-five, meets on Sundays at 12:15 p.m. in the Randolph Room. The Young Adults will also gather for a Christmas party on Tuesday, December 15 at 6:00 p.m. in the Manse. For more information about Young Adult Ministry at Fourth Church, contact Liz Nickerson at enickerson@fourthchurch.org.

Fourth Dimension, a fellowship opportunity for individuals forty-seven and older, will meet for a Christmas celebration on Friday, December 11 from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. in the Manse. To register (required), contact Anne Ellis at 312.573.3369 by Wednesday, December 9.

The Men's Group will host a holiday breakfast this Saturday, December 12 at 8:00 a.m., during which Fourth Acts will perform *A Child's Christmas in Wales*. To RSVP, call 312.787.4570 before noon on Friday, December 11.

Volunteers and Donations

Current Volunteer Needs

Chamber Choir singers and instrumentalists to help lead 4:00 p.m. worship

Reading and math tutors for elementary children at Cabrini-Green schools; 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., several afternoons a week

Sunday School teachers for 11:00 a.m. classes; alternate Sundays

Church members to assist with the Book Nook during Coffee Hour

Current Donation Needs

Greeting cards and stamps for guests of the Sunday and Monday Night Suppers

For details and a list of additional needs, contact Larry Nicholson, Director of Volunteer Ministry, at 312.981.3382 (lnicholson@fourthchurch.org).

During Today's Worship

All are encouraged to use the prayer card, found in this worship bulletin, to offer joys and/or concerns. The cards will be collected during the Sharing of Gifts (simply place the card in the offering plate as it is passed). The prayers will then be incorporated into this afternoon's Prayers of the People.

If you have a prayer you would rather not share during worship, you are invited to complete a prayer card found by one of the prayer boxes in the Narthex, at the back of the sanctuary, and it will be passed on to Ali Trowbridge, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care.

All, including children, are invited to the Lord's Table to receive Communion, which is served by intinction. The congregation will come forward by the center aisle to receive the bread (gluten-free bread is available in the paper "cup" within the basket of bread), which they will then dip into the chalice of nonalcoholic grape juice. Worshipers will return to their pews by the side aisles.

Pastoral Staff for 4:00 Worship

Victoria G. Curtiss, Associate Pastor for Mission
Adam Fronczek, Associate Pastor for
Adult Education and Worship
Linda C. Loving, Minister for Evangelism
John W. Vest, Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry
Jocelyn C. Cadwallader, Pastoral Resident
Sarah A. Johnson, Pastoral Resident
Joann H. Lee, Pastoral Resident

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.

The large banners hanging in the middle of the Sanctuary were created by liturgical artist Shawna Bowman during the 4:00 worship service and are artistic representations of our worship experience.

Large-print Bibles 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.

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.

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 the community meal or the Loggia (through the doors to your left as you face the front of the sanctuary) after worship for fellowship, conversation, and information about church programs and volunteer opportunities.

Sunday parking is available at 900 North Michigan (access from Rush or Walton Streets) at the rate of \$7.75. Validation tickets must be picked up from

the 126 E. Chestnut St. reception desk. There is no discounted afternoon parking at the Hancock garage.

Inquirers' Class explores Presbyterian history and beliefs. This one-session class is also a prerequisite for membership. Attend Monday, December 7 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.; Saturday, December 12 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.; or Monday, January 4 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. For membership information, contact Linda Loving, Minister for Evangelism, at 312.981.3399 (lloving@fourthchurch.org).