

## MORNING WORSHIP

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

PRELUDE	Advent Fanfare	<i>Aaron David Miller</i>
	O Come, O Come, Emmanuel	<i>George Schafer</i>
	From Heaven Above to Earth I Come	<i>Johann Pachelbel</i> <i>arr. Christine Worthing</i>
	Jesus Comes with Clouds Descending	<i>Alan Ridout</i>
	The Angel Spoke to the Shepherds	<i>Heinrich Schütz</i> <i>arr. Gary Olson</i>

INTROIT	“Our King and Savior Now Draws Near”	<i>Iain Quinn</i>
	Our King and Savior now draws near; come let us adore him. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.	

\*DOXOLOGY (The Hymnal, 592)

### \*LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Leader: In the coming of Christ, we hear God’s message to us: “I have exalted one chosen from the people. I have found my servant David; with my holy oil I have anointed him; my hand shall always remain with him.” (Psalm 89:19–20, 26)

People: **We shall cry out to Christ, “You are my God, the Rock of my salvation!”**

Leader: The fourth candle on the Advent wreath reminds us that our Savior has almost come. He will bring light to the darkness and hope to the world.

People: **We are called into God’s house to bear witness to the light. We are sent from God’s house to take light into the world.**

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 56 “The First Nowell” *Tune: THE FIRST NOWELL*

*\*Stand as you are able.*

**PRAYER OF THE DAY** *(unison)*

**Who are we, Lord God, that you should come to us?  
Yet you have visited your people and redeemed us  
in your Son. As we prepare to celebrate his birth,  
make our hearts leap for joy at the sound of your word  
and move us by your Spirit to bless your wonderful works.  
We ask this through 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.**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** *(unison)*

**God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came  
among us as light shining in darkness.  
We confess that we have not welcomed the light,  
or trusted good news to be good.  
We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst,  
expecting little and hoping for less.  
Forgive our doubt and renew our hope,  
so that we may receive the fullness of your grace  
and live in the truth of Christ the Lord. Amen.**

**DECLARATION OF PARDON**

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

**CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH**

**PSALTER** Psalm 95:1–7 *(responsively)* (page 520, O.T.)

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

**SCRIPTURE LESSON** Luke 2:1–7 (page 54, N.T.)

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

**SERMON** Measured by Love JOHN M. BUCHANAN

**\*HYMN 36** “In the Bleak Midwinter” *Tune: CRANHAM*

**\* 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”

*Vincent Persichetti*

**OFFERING**

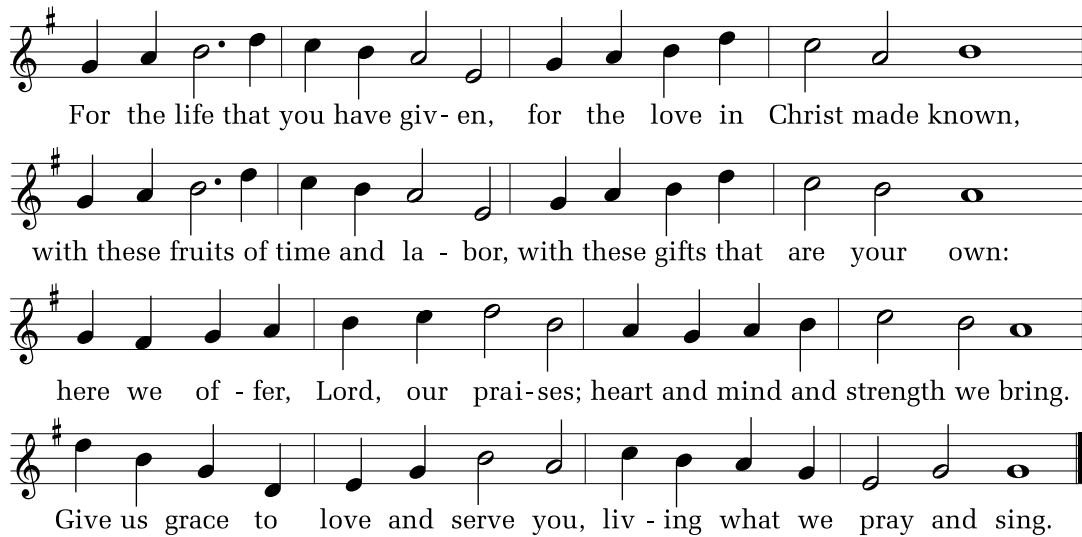
**OFFERTORY CANTATA**

“Friede auf Erden”

*Arnold Schönberg*

When the shepherds left their flocks and brought the angels' words through the lowly doorway to the mother and her child, the heavenly servants continued to sing in the starry expanse, kept the heavens ringing, “Peace, peace on earth!” Since the angels thus sang, O, how many bloody deeds have been committed in strife by armed men on wild horses. O, how many holy nights has the chorus of spirits fearfully sung, urgently imploring, and softly accusing, “Peace, peace on earth!” Still it is an eternal hope that the weak shall not forever fall prey to every bold murderous act. Something like justice moves and acts through murder and horror, and it will build a kingdom that will seek for peace on earth. Slowly it will form itself, its sacred charge to carry out. Forging nonviolent weapons, flaming swords for the righteous, a line of strong people will arise whose bright trumpets shall sound forth, “Peace, peace on earth!”

**\*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 mystery 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 your Holy Spirit, now and forever.  
Amen.**

**\*HYMN 31**

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

*Tune: MENDELSSOHN*

**BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE**

**POSTLUDE**

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

*Michael Praetorius  
arr. A. D. Miller*

# *Christmas Worship*

## AT FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

### ■ A “*Blue Christmas*” Service ■

**Wednesday, December 23**

6:30 p.m. ♦ Blair Chapel

*A time of worship for those in need of comfort or healing or who because of grief, loss, or other reasons find it difficult to participate in the joy-filled celebrations on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.*

### ■ Four Christmas Eve Candlelight Services ■

**Thursday, December 24**

4:00 p.m. *Children’s Pageant*

6:00 p.m. *Family Service* ♦ Linda C. Loving 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 Service ■

**Friday, December 25**

11:00 a.m. ♦ Adam Fronczek preaching

*A traditional Christmas dinner in Anderson Hall will be served at 12:30 p.m. Dinner tickets are available during Coffee Hour and at the reception desk during the week.*

### ■ New Year’s Eve Taizé Service ■

**Thursday, December 31**

7:30 p.m. ♦ Sanctuary

## *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 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.

## WORSHIP LEADERS

9:30 a.m. Calum I. MacLeod, Alice M. Trowbridge, John M. Buchanan

11:00 a.m. Calum I. MacLeod, Alice M. Trowbridge, John M. Buchanan

## LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

9:30 a.m. S.L. and Lilly Van der Zanden

11:00 a.m. The Bracken Family

## THE MUSIC TODAY

9:30 a.m. Tower Brass; the Morning Choir; Cole Seaton, tenor soloist

11:00 a.m. Tower Brass; the Morning Choir; Cole Seaton, tenor soloist

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

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

Matthew Comerford, Artistic Director of Tower Brass

## WORSHIP NOTES

**Tower Brass, Fourth Church's brass octet**, assists in worship leadership this morning.

Tower Brass participates in 9:30 and 11:00 worship each third Sunday of the month during the academic year.

**Today's Christmas Cantata, "Friede auf Erden,"** was written in 1907 by Arnold Schönberg in a late-romantic style full of harmonic experimentation. The text was chosen by Schönberg because of his commitment to peace and justice. The text returns to the song the angels sang on Christmas night, "Peace, peace on earth." But rather than being a sentimental version of that angelic song, "Friede auf Erden" considers how hard and elusive that peace really is and challenges listeners to seek justice where it is not found, to bring peace on earth in and through their lives.

**John Buchanan's Advent sermons** have been based on favorite Advent hymns and Christmas carols. His Christmas Eve sermon will be based on "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

This worship bulletin is printed on recyclable paper that contains recycled post-consumer waste and is acid free. The printing is done with inks having low volatile organic compounds and formulated with soy and vegetable oils. All bulletins and inserts left in the baskets by the doors are recycled.