

at Fourth at Fourth at Fourth at Fourth

4:00 Order of Worship 12.20.09

Gathering

Gathering Music Noël
 Noël

*Claude Louis Daquin
Jean Langlais*

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: We have lit three candles—for hope, for peace, and for joy. Today we light the fourth candle—the candle of love. With this flame we signify the love of God that surrounds and fills us at all times but that we recognize in a special way in the Christmas story. There is no greater power than love. It is stronger than rulers and empires, stronger than grief or despair, stronger even than death. We love because God loves us.

***Song** "Candle of Hope"

All: **Loving God, we open ourselves to you this Christmas season.
As these candles are lit, light our lives with your imagination.
Show us the creative power of hope.
Teach us the peace that comes from justice.
Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained but must be shared.
Magnify your love within us.
Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you,
that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.**

***Song** "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

Silence

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

**Holy God, you have promised to send your Son
as the Light coming into the darkness,
but we confess that we have not followed the light of your Word.
We have not searched for signs of your love in the world
or trusted your good news to be good.
We have failed to praise your Son and refused his peace on earth.
We have expected little and hoped for less.
Forgive our doubt and renew in us all fine desires,
that we may watch and wait and once more hear
the glad story of our Savior, Jesus Christ, the Lord.
Amen.**

Assurance of Forgiveness

Leader: Friends, believe the good news.

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

Hearing and Proclaiming the Word

Scripture Lesson Luke 1:26–38 (page 53, N.T.)

Scripture Lesson Luke 1:39–45 (page 53, N.T.)

Sermon by Adam Fronczek
Can We Please Get Past Zechariah and Elizabeth?

***Song** “Silent Night”

Sealing the Word

Sharing of Gifts

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

Offertory Music “Gesu Bambino” *Pietro Yon*

*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 “Creator of the Stars of Night”

Plainsong
arr. Dale Wood

Creator of the stars of night, thy people’s everlasting light,
O Christ, thou savior of us all, we pray thee, hear us when we call.
To thee the travail deep was known that made the whole creation groan,
till thou, redeemer, shouldest free thine own in glorious liberty.
And when the world drew on toward night, thou camest,
not in splendor bright as monarch, but the humble child of Mary,
blameless mother mild. At thy great name of Jesus, now all knees must bend
all hearts must bow, and things celestial thee shall own, of things terrestrial,
Lord, alone. Come in thy holy might, we pray, redeem us for eternal day
from every power of darkness, when thou judgest all the sons of man.
To God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit, three in one,
laud, honor, might, and glory be from age to age eternally. Amen.

Prayer after Communion (*unison*)

**Almighty God, you have poured upon us
the new light of your incarnate Word:
grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts,
may shine forth in our lives,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.**

Sending

*Sending Song

“Joy to the World!”

*Benediction

Sending Music

Noël

Jean-François Dandrieu

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

Adam Fronczek	Associate Pastor
Sarah A. Johnson	Pastoral Resident
The Chamber Choir	
Donnie Norton	Saxophone Soloist
Thomas E. Gouwens	Associate Organist

Acknowledgments:

Words—The Prayer of Confession and Prayer after Communion are both from *The Worship Sourcebook*

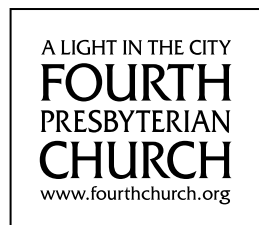
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The Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago

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

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. On Christmas Eve, nursery care is available between 3:30 and 7:15 p.m. only.

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

Feelings of grief, loss, loneliness, sadness, and anxiety can become more pronounced during the holidays. The Lorene Replogle Counseling Center is available to offer support (call the Center at 312.787.8425), and the "Blue Christmas" Service on Wednesday, December 23 provides a Christmas worship opportunity for those who may find it difficult to share in the traditional celebrations on December 24 and 25.

"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. "Light Up a Life" gifts can be made using the offering envelopes found in the pew racks. For details, pick up a brochure found in the pew or literature racks or visit www.fourthchurch.org.

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.

Chicago Lights Holiday Cards and ornaments, designed by Tutoring students, are available online at www.chicagolights.org, during morning Coffee Hour, and at the reception desk; all proceeds benefit the Tutoring program.

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 will be held Monday–Thursday at 9:30 a.m., except Tuesday, when it will be held at 9:00 a.m. All are invited to join staff for daily Morning Prayer, which takes place in Stone Chapel.

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

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.

An Epiphany labyrinth walk will be available on Saturday, January 9 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. in Anderson Hall.

Volunteers and Donations

Current Volunteer Needs

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

Candle sleavers on December 22 or 23 to prepare for Christmas Eve services

Servers for Christmas Day congregational dinner; 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Temporary data entry volunteer to assist Tutoring program; Monday–Thursday, 12:00 noon to 8:00 p.m.

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 at 312.981.3382.

News and Opportunities

Enrichment

A twelve-week Nia series will begin Wednesday, January 6. Classes are held Wednesday and Friday mornings at 10:00 a.m. at Fourth Church. Registration is required. For details or to register, call the Nia Infoline at 312.787.2729, ext. 371 or visit www.niachicago.com.

Books by Women will meet Tuesday, January 5 at 6:00 p.m. in the Manse to discuss *Olive Kittenridge* by Elizabeth Strout. All are welcome.

An eight-session T'ai Chi course for beginners will start Thursday, January 7 at 5:00 p.m. This low-impact exercise class utilizes slow, flowing movements and promotes proper breathing, balance, and relaxation. For more information or to register, call the T'ai Chi Infoline at 312.787.2729, ext. 388.

The Family-to-Family Education Program is a twelve-week course for families and friends of adults living with mental illnesses. The first session is Monday, January 25 at 6:00 p.m. in the Page Smith Room. Registration for this free course is required; call the Family-to-Family Infoline at 312.787.2729, ext. 375.

The Community Book Group will meet Tuesday, January 26 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss *Abraham: A Journey to the Heart of Three Faiths* by Bruce Feiler. Joyce Shin will lead the conversation.

The Fourth Church website, www.fourthchurch.org, makes available audio (including podcasts) of the 11:00 a.m. services; sermon transcripts from all worship services; the text of worship bulletins and News and Opportunities; devotional resources; and programming information.

The Fourth Church Cycling Club gathers for monthly bike rides and occasional educational sessions. For information, email cyclists@fourthchurch.org.

News and Resources

Thank you to those who have already fulfilled their 2009 pledge. There is still \$824,000 in outstanding pledges from 820 households that is needed before year-end, so the Resource Development Committee asks those who have not fulfilled their 2009 pledge to please do so in the next two weeks.

Year-end gifts of stock: Many people choose to make year-end gifts of stock to Fourth Church but have questions about how to do so. Information is available in the literature racks, at www.fourthchurch.org, and by contacting Kathryn Johnson at 312.640.2576. Information is also available about tax advantages that are possible for **those 70-1/2 and older who make charitable gifts from IRAs.**

Including Fourth Church in your estate plans will help ensure that the mission and ministry of Fourth Church and Chicago Lights will continue for generations to come. For details about how to include the church in estate plans, contact Kathryn Johnson at 312.640.2576 (kjohnson@fourthchurch.org).

The Project Second Century Steering Committee recently reported to the Session and Trustees that basic concepts have been outlined for a new four-story building and that proposals from architects are currently being reviewed, with the intent of bringing final designs and plans to the congregation in June 2010. For more details, visit www.fourthchurch.org/P2C.html or contact Rob Holben at 312.274.3821 (rhoblen@fourthchurch.org).

Fourth Presbyterian Church, a member congregation of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians, is committed to being a fully inclusive community. To learn more about Covenant Network, visit www.covenantnetwork.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. There is also an area in the side aisle where your child can play quietly.

Worship folders, containing quiet activities and a bulletin designed for children, are available from an usher.

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, January 4 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.; Saturday, January 16 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.; or Sunday, January 24 from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. For information, contact Linda Loving, Minister for Evangelism, at 312.981.3399 (lloving@fourthchurch.org).