

# at Fourth at Fourth at Fourth at Fourth

4:00 Order of Worship 12.27.09

## Gathering

**Gathering Music**      Variations on a Noël

*Marcel Dupré*

*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.*

### **Call to Worship**

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

People: **The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.**

Leader: Those who dwell in the land of deep darkness, on them has the light shined.

People: **We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son of the Father.**

Leader: For to us a child is born; to us a Son is given.

People: **In him was life and the life was the light of all people.**

**\*Carol**      “The First Nowell”

**Prayer of Confession** (*unison*)

**We bring our prayers to you, gracious God, sensing that  
there is more to life than the ways we have known.  
We are drawn to the manger,  
yet we shrink from following where faith leads.  
We are afraid of what we might lose if we are guided by the Bethlehem star.  
We are reluctant to let down our guard.  
Forgive our arrogance and keep alive in us  
the vulnerability and spirit of Christmas.  
As you grant us your mercy, increase our trust and gratitude.  
In the name of the Christ child we dare to pray,  
and in silence offer our sins and sorrows . . .**

**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**

Colossians 3:12–17

(page 190, N.T.)

**Readings**

from *The Glorious Impossible* by Madeleine L’Engle

**\*Song**

“The Snow Lay on the Ground”

# Sealing the Word

## Sharing of Gifts

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

## Offertory Anthem "In the Bleak Midwinter"

*Harold Darke*

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan, earth stood hard as iron,  
water like a stone. Snow had fallen snow on snow in the bleak midwinter,  
long ago. Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain.  
Heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign.  
In the bleak midwinter, a stable place sufficed, the Lord God almighty,  
Jesus Christ. Enough for him, whom cherubim, worshiping night and day,  
a breast full of milk and a manger full of hay. Enough for him,  
whom angels fall down before, the ox and ass and camel, which adore.  
What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a wise man, I would do my part, yet what I can I give him, give my heart.

## \*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** "Under the Stars"

*George Reynolds*

Under the stars one holy night, a little babe was born. Over his head  
a star shone bright and glistened till the morn. And wise men came  
from far away and shepherds wandered where he lay upon the lowly bed of hay,  
under the stars one night. Under the stars one blessed night, the Christ child  
came to earth. And through the darkness broke the light of morning at his birth.  
And sweet hosannas filled the air and guardian angels watched him where the  
virgin mother knelt in prayer, under the stars one night. Under the stars this  
happy night, we wait for him once more and seem to see the wondrous sight  
the shepherds saw of yore. O baby born in Bethlehem, come to us as you came  
to them and crown us with love's diadem, under the stars one night.

**Prayer after Communion** (*unison*)

**All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world  
has made the darkness vanish. Stirred by this wondrous season  
and fed at this mysterious feast, we offer our thanksgiving;  
we offer ourselves. We join with the shepherds long ago  
who returned to their work glorifying and praising you  
for all they had seen and heard. Amen.**



## Sending

**\*Sending Song** "Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow"

**\*Benediction**

**Sending Music** Finale from *Variations on a Noël*

*Marcel Dupré*

### **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**

<b>Linda C. Loving</b>	Minister for Evangelism
<b>Joann H. Lee</b>	Pastoral Resident
<b>Sue Pellowe</b>	Coordinator of Visual Arts
<b>Jean Marie Koon</b>	Reader
<b>The Chamber Choir</b>	
<b>Thomas E. Gouwens</b>	Associate Organist

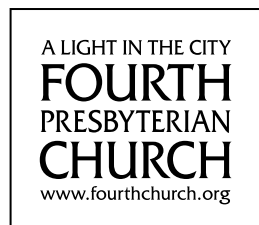
#### ***Acknowledgments:***

*Music*— “The First Nowell” by David Willcocks, copyright © 1961 Oxford University Press, Inc. All rights reserved. Used with permission. OneLicense.net. License A-712340; “The Snow Lay on the Ground” to the tune of “Venite Adoremus.” All rights reserved. Used with permission. LicensingOnline. License L18227.

### **The Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago**

John M. Buchanan, Pastor

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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](mailto:atrowbridge@fourthchurch.org)).

# News and Opportunities

## Fellowship

**The Gathering**, a fellowship opportunity for young adults, meets today at 12:15 p.m. in the Randolph Room.

**The Fourth Church Cycling Club** will gather for their monthly ride on Saturday, January 2 at 9:00 a.m. Bike-riders will meet where the Oak Street underpass comes up to the lakefront bike trail. Helmets are required and riders are asked to sign a safety waiver before biking. For details, especially weather cancellation updates, call the Cycling Club Infoline at 312.787.2729, ext. 409.

**Fourth Dimension**, a fellowship group for individual adults in their late forties and older, will meet on Friday, January 8 for a presentation by Dirk Ficca, Executive Director of the Parliament of the World's Religions. For details or to register, contact Anne Ellis at 312.573.3369.

**India will be the topic of a January 15 gathering for Cornerstones**, a fellowship group for adults over fifty, including couples, partners, and their spouses. For more information or to RSVP, call the Cornerstones Infoline at 312.787.2729, ext. 454.

**"Seasons of Friendship"** is the theme of the Fourth Church women's retreat, which will be held the weekend of January 22–23. For information, contact Anne Ellis at 312.573.3369 (aellis@fourthchurch.org).

## Music and the Arts

**The free Friday Noonday concert series will resume** Friday, January 8 with flutist Mark Alan Longo performing at 12:10 p.m. in the sanctuary. (There will be no Noonday Concert January 1.)

**The St. Olaf Choir** will perform at Fourth Church on Saturday, January 30 at 4:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. For ticket information, visit [www.stolaftickets.com](http://www.stolaftickets.com).

## 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 assist in leading 4:00 p.m. worship

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

**Reading and math tutors** for elementary children at two Cabrini-Green schools

### *Current Donation Needs*

**Greeting cards and stamps** for guests of the Sunday and Monday Night Suppers, which serve those who are hungry or homeless

**Men's seasonal sturdy clothes** in larger sizes, especially pants, belts, and shoes

*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](http://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.

**Live webcasts of noontime lectures from Calvin College's award-winning January Series** will be shown weekdays at Fourth Church January 6–26 (except January 18) at 11:30 a.m. and are being hosted by the Academy for Faith and Life. Lecture titles and details are available at [www.calvin.edu/january2010](http://www.calvin.edu/january2010).

**A foreign film series**, hosted by the Center for Life and Learning, will take place on Wednesday mornings beginning January 6. For details, contact Sergio Soltero at 312.981.3387.

## News and Resources

**Fourth Church is counting on 2009 pledges** to be fulfilled this week in order to finish the budget year positively. Thus the Resource Development Committee asks those who have not yet fulfilled their 2009 pledge to please do so before year end. To all who have already fulfilled their 2009 pledge, thank you! For information about pledges and pledge fulfillment, please contact Lisa Radetski, Director of Individual and Planned Giving, at 312.981.3380 ([lradetski@fourthchurch.org](mailto:lradetski@fourthchurch.org)).

**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](http://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.**

**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](http://www.fourthchurch.org/P2C.html) or contact Rob Holben at 312.274.3821 ([rholben@fourthchurch.org](mailto:rholben@fourthchurch.org)).

**There's still time to "Light Up a Life"!** Gifts to this giving campaign 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 racks or visit [www.fourthchurch.org](http://www.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. 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).