

MORNING WORSHIP

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

PRELUDE Away in a Manger *Douglas Wagner*

INTROIT “Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light”
Johann Sebastian Bach

Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light, and usher in
the morning. You shepherds, shudder not with fright,
but hear the angel’s warning; this child, now weak
in infancy, our confidence and joy shall be, the power
of Satan breaking, our peace eternal making.

***DOXOLOGY AND INVOCATION** (The Hymnal, 592)

***HYMN 41** “O Come, All Ye Faithful” *Tune: ADESTE FIDELES*

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 148 (page 550, O.T.)

ANTHEM "To Us Is Born Emmanuel" *Michael Praetorius*

To us is born Emmanuel, Christ, the Lord, as proclaimed by Gabriel; Christ, the Lord, who is our blessed Savior. Here lieth in a manger small, Christ, the Lord, who was born to save us all; Christ, the Lord, who is our blessed Savior. He, very Light of very Light, Christ, the Lord, was of Mary born that night; Christ, the Lord, who is our blessed Savior.

FIRST LESSON Colossians 3:12–17 (page 190, N.T.)

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

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

SECOND LESSON Luke 2:41–52 (page 55, N.T.)

SERMON JOANN H. LEE

Belonging

"He said to them, 'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?'" Luke 2:49 (NRSV)

***HYMN 40** "Joy to the World!" *Tune: ANTIOCH*

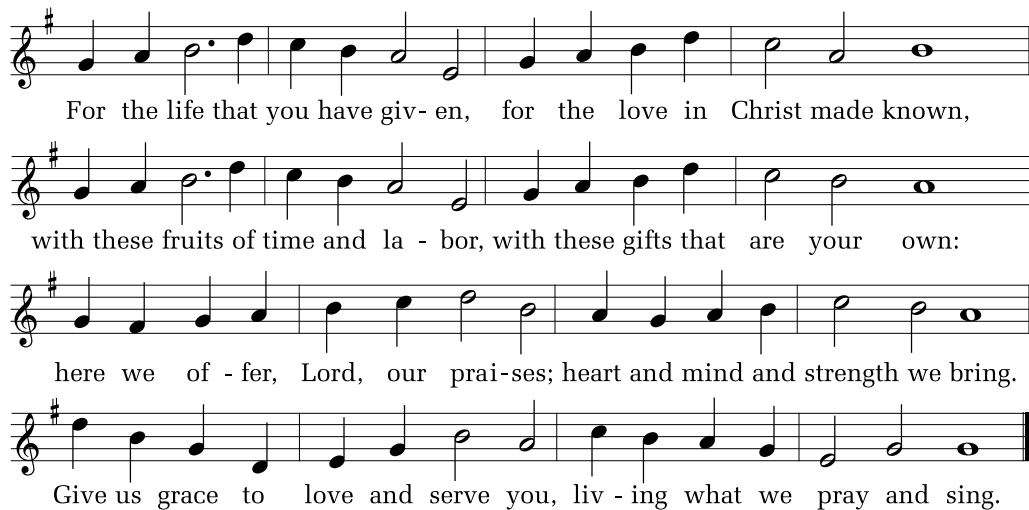
***APOSTLES' CREED** *(unison)*

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.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY SOLO "O Holy Night" *Adolphe Adam*

*OFFERTORY 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.

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THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

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.**

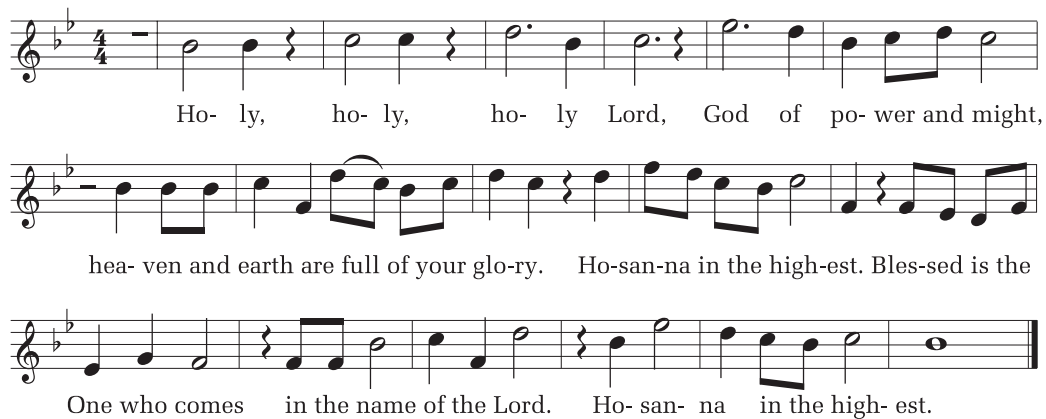
Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PRAYER

Minister: It is truly right and our greatest joy . . .

. . . who forever sing to the glory of your name:



Ho- ly, ho- ly, ho- ly Lord, God of po- wer and might,
hea- ven and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the high-est. Bles-sed is the
One who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho- san- na in the high- est.

Music: John W.W. Sherer; © 1997. Used by permission.

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 ANTHEM "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*)

**Gracious God, we thank you for the love
that brings us food from heaven,
gives us the life of your dear Son,
and assures us that we belong to the company of
all God's faithful people in heaven and on earth.
Grant that we, strengthened by this fellowship
and by the power of the Holy Spirit,
may continue Christ's work in the world,
until we come to the glory of your eternal kingdom;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

***HYMN 29**

"Go, Tell It on the Mountain"

Tune: GO TELL IT

The Lord's Supper at Fourth Presbyterian Church

"Do this in remembrance of me." Luke 22:19 (NRSV)

The Lord's Supper is the sign and seal of eating and drinking in communion with the crucified and risen Lord. In this act, we remember that during his earthly ministry, Jesus shared meals with his followers and sat at dinner tables as a sign of acceptance of the sinner and the outcast. In the act of remembering that is the Lord's Supper, we receive and trust the love of Christ present to us and to the world. Through it, we are renewed and empowered to be the church, the body of Christ, in the world.

The invitation to the Lord's Supper is not just for Presbyterians or "members of the church." All who confess Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord are invited to partake of the Lord's Supper. Access to the Table is not a right conferred upon the worthy but a privilege given to the undeserving who come in faith, repentance, and love. Even one who doubts or whose trust is wavering may receive the bread and grape juice (in place of wine) in order to be assured of God's love and grace in Jesus Christ.

This morning, Communion is served by intinction. The congregation will come forward by the center aisle to receive the bread, which they will then dip into the chalice of grape juice. Worshipers will return to their pews by the side aisles.

Fourth Presbyterian Church celebrates the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper each Sunday at 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. worship and at all morning services on the first Sunday of even-numbered months.

"I am the bread of life."

John 6:35 (NRSV)

Portions of the text above adapted from *The Book of Order*

WORSHIP LEADERS

Calum I. MacLeod, John H. Boyle, Joann H. Lee

THE MUSIC TODAY

The Chancel Choir; Drew Duncan, tenor soloist

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.

Printed copies of sermons recently preached at Fourth Church are available in the literature racks outside the South Transept doors (leading to Anderson Hall) and in the Narthex, at the back of the sanctuary. They are also available at www.fourthchurch.org.

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.

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

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