

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Minister: Friends, believe the good news.

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

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

PSALTER Psalm 46 (*responsively*) (page 489, O.T.)

ANTHEM “The Three Kings” *Peter Cornelius*
Three kings came forth from an Eastern land; a bright star led them to Jordan’s strand; and when they came into Judah, the three asked where the newborn King should be. For gold and myrrh and frankincense they brought to lay before his innocence. The star shone high in the firmament and to a stable the three kings went, and when they looked on that child so sweet, the three kings bended then low at his feet. They brought a gift, was lovelier than gold or frankincense or myrrh. O child of man, take the pilgrim’s way; the three kings took it, do thou as they, the star of mercy, the star of love, shall light thy path to the Lord above. Leave frankincense and myrrh and gold; give him thy heart to have and hold. Give him thy heart.

FIRST LESSON John 1:1–18 (page 86, N.T.)

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

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

SECOND LESSON Jeremiah 31:7–14 (page 690, O.T.)

SERMON This One Goes Out to the Ones We’ve Left Behind
JOHN W. VEST

***HYMN 420** “God of Grace and God of Glory” *Tune: CWM RHONDDA*

***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"

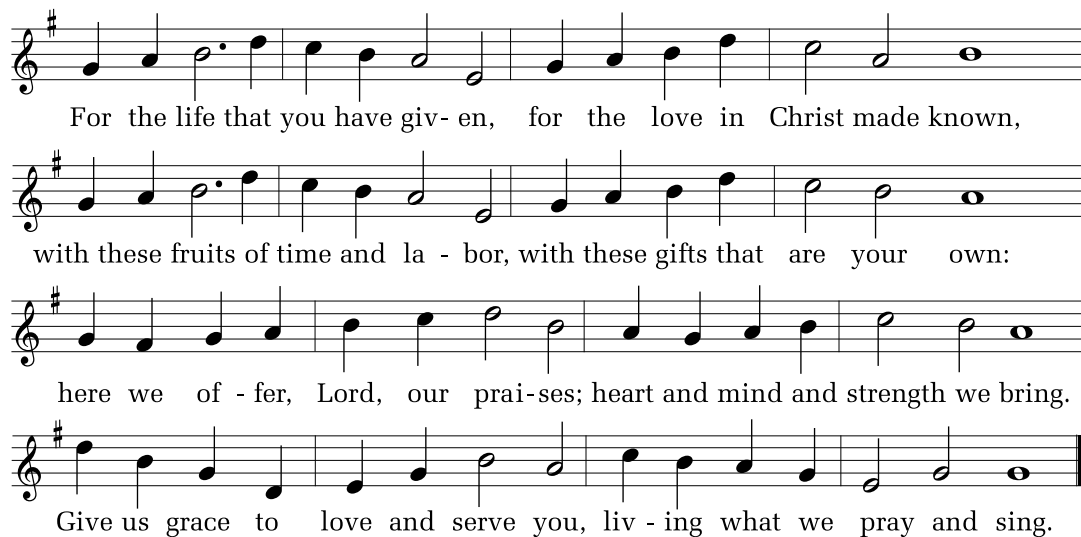
Orlando Gibbons

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM "O Nata Lux" from *Lux Aeterna* *Morten Lauridsen*

O born light of light, Jesus, redeemer of the world, mercifully deem worthy and accept the praises and prayers of your supplicants. Thou who once deigned to be clothed in flesh for the sake of the lost ones, grant us to be made members of your holy body.

*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.

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***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 majesty and light,
you hold the whole world in your hand.
So we give you our great praise that in Jesus Christ
all people may see your glory.
We thank you for revealing Jesus to be your Son and
for claiming our lives in baptism to be his glad disciples.
By your Spirit, may peace descend upon us
that we may follow him with grateful hearts.
Take us and all we have to be useful in your service,
God of all nations, in the gracious name of Jesus Christ,
your Son, by the power of your Holy Spirit, now and forever.
Amen.**

***HYMN 430**

“Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!”

Tune: DARWALL’S 148TH

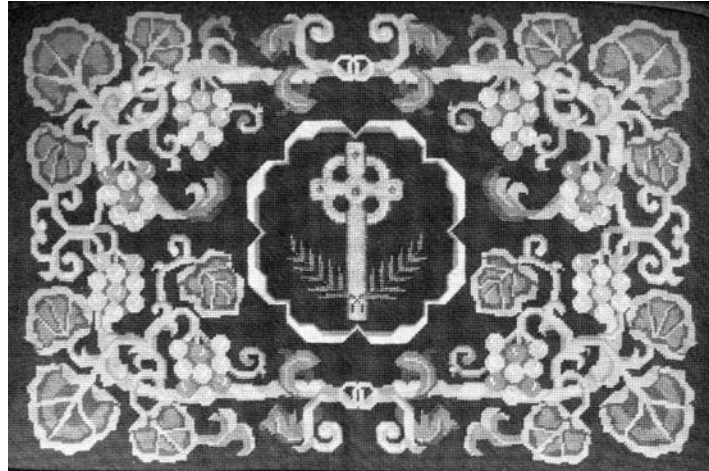
BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

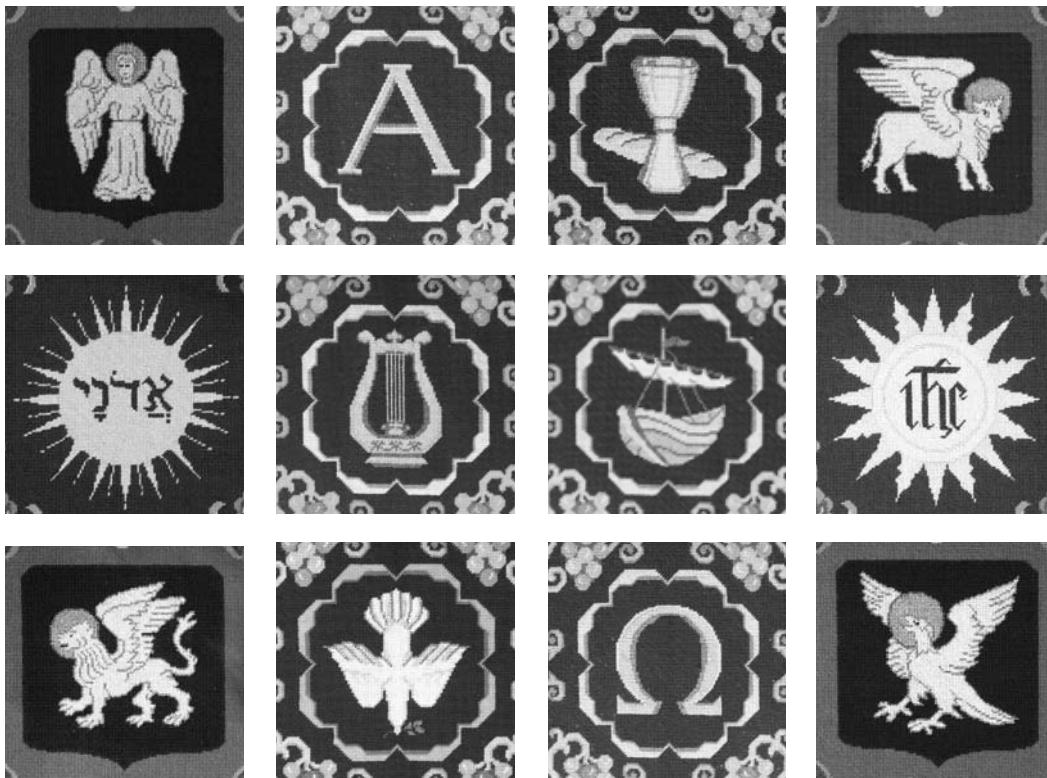
O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

Niels Gade

IN THE DETAILS



The needlepoint cushions in the chancel, faux carving, panels of wheat and grapes, and the gold cross, are the handiwork of Morgan Simmons, a member of this congregation and, from 1968 to 1996, organist and choirmaster of Fourth Church. The combined number of stitches for these works approaches 2 million, 169 per square inch. Central to each of the upper and lower chancel cushions is a religious symbol (shown here), surrounded by clusters of grapes, which echo the motif found in many of the chancel and pulpit carvings and in the stained glass windows.



WORSHIP LEADERS

9:30 a.m. Victoria G. Curtiss, Adam Fronczek, John W. Vest

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THE MUSIC TODAY

9:30 a.m. The Morning Choir; Mark Eldred, tenor soloist

11:00 a.m. The Morning Choir; Mark Eldred, tenor soloist

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

WORSHIP NOTES

The “Light Up a Life” offering is being received throughout the Christmas season.

“Light Up a Life” gifts support 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.

The Fourth Church website, www.fourthchurch.org, makes available audio of the previous Sunday morning’s 11:00 a.m. worship service, including the sermon. Also posted on the website is the text of all worship bulletins and “News and Opportunities” as well as information about upcoming worship services.

Fourth Church offers a variety of worship opportunities in addition to Sunday morning services. An afternoon Communion service is held each Sunday at 4:00 p.m. Each weekday morning, Morning Prayer is held in Stone Chapel as a time to remember in prayer members of the Fourth Church congregation and those in need (9:30 a.m. on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday; 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday). A Taizé service is held at 7:30 p.m. in Blair Chapel on the fourth Friday of each month (except in November and December).

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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All bulletins and inserts left in the baskets by the doors are recycled.