



Gathering

Second Sunday of Advent

Gathering Music

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.

*Passing of the Peace

Leader: As we gather together for worship, let us not be strangers,
but sisters and brothers in Christ. As God's forgiven people,
please stand and 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 and remain standing for the Call to Worship.

* Stand as you are able

***Call to Worship** (*Isaiah 11:1–10*)

Leader: A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

People: **The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.**

Leader: His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;

People: **but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.**

Leader: Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

People: **The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.**

Leader: The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together,
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

People: **The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.**

Leader: They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

***Song** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading Mark 1:1–6

(page 32, N.T.)

Musical Reflection

Prayer of Confession (*Psalms 51:1–10*)

Leader: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;

People: **according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.**

Leader: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

Silence

Leader: For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

People: **Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight,**

Leader: so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.

People: **Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me.**

Silent prayers of confession

Leader: You desire truth in the inward being;
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

People: **Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.**

Leader: Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.

People: **Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.**

All: **Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.**

Song "Comfort, Comfort You My People"

Hearing and Proclaiming the Word

Scripture Reading Matthew 3:1–12

(page 2, N.T.)

Sermon by John W. Vest

The Awkward Part of the Wait

Musical Reflection

Sealing the Word

Sharing of Gifts

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

Offertory Solo

"Do You Hear What I Hear?"

Gloria Shayne Baker

*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

Stephen Rush

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 Solo “It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”

Richard S. Willis

Prayer after Communion (*unison*)

Gracious God, at this sacred meal,
you draw us into communion with you and with each other.
As your forgiven people, we have gathered around this table
to be fed by your love and grace.
Filled with your Spirit, help us to be more and more like Christ,
even as you send us out to be the body of Christ in the world. Amen.

Sending

***Song** “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

***Benediction**

Sending Music

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

John W. Vest

Associate Pastor

Kerri N. Allen

Pastoral Resident

Andrea Pokrefke

Song Leader

Kevin Cline Jazz Trio

Acknowledgments:

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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

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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 Sarah Johnson, Minister for Congregational Care, at 312.981.4034 (sjohnson@fourthchurch.org).

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Advent and Christmas at Fourth Church

Festival of Advent Lessons and Music

Sunday, December 12, 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Featuring the combined choirs of Fourth Church,
this service celebrates the season through scripture and song
A cookies-and-hot-cocoa reception follows in Anderson Hall.



Christmas Cantata

Sunday, December 19 in the Sanctuary

During 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. worship
Featuring the world premiere of *Magnificat* by Aaron David Miller
with the Fourth Church Morning Choir, Tower Brass, and organ



Blue Christmas Service

Wednesday, December 22 at 6:30 p.m. in Blair Chapel

For those for whom the Christmas celebration is made difficult by loss and sadness



4 Candlelight Services on Christmas Eve

Friday, December 24 in the Sanctuary

4:00 p.m. Children's Pageant
6:00 p.m. Family Service with John W. Vest preaching
8:30 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.
Service of Lessons and Carols with John Buchanan preaching



Christmas Day Service

Saturday, December 25 at 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

with Victoria G. Curtiss preaching



Sunday Worship with Christmas Hymns and Readings

Sunday, December 26 at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

(No 8:00 a.m. or 4:00 p.m. services on December 26)

News and Opportunities

Advent and Christmas

Over 400 gift requests still need to be picked up and fulfilled for our annual gift drive for children who might not otherwise receive presents this Christmas. Wish lists are available by calling Anne Ellis at 312.573.3369. Gifts will be collected through Sunday, December 12 at the reception desk or during morning Coffee Hour.

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

“Operation Christmas Gift Bag” provides holiday gifts for Sunday Night Supper guests. Instructions and a bag, to decorate and fill, are available by contacting Jill Keiser at 312.981.3590 (jkeiser@fourthchurch.org). Filled bags are to be returned to the reception desk by Monday, December 6.

“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” offering envelopes are available in the pew racks and brochures are being mailed to member homes. For more information, contact Kathryn Johnson at 312.640.2576.

Christmas Day dinner tickets are available at the reception desk.

The annual Festival of Advent Lessons and Music will be held Sunday, December 12 at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. A cookies-and-hot-cocoa reception hosted in Anderson Hall by Women@Fourth Connect will follow.

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.

Memorialize or honor loved ones by contributing to the purchase of Christmas flowers and garlands for the sanctuary. A list of those remembered will be printed in the Christmas bulletin. Contributions can be made by completing the forms available in the literature racks. **Completed cards must be returned by this Friday, December 10** for names to appear in the bulletin.

Feelings of grief, loss, loneliness, sadness, and anxiety can become more pronounced during the holidays. The Counseling Center is available to offer support (call 312.787.8425), and the “Blue Christmas” Service on Wednesday, December 22 provides a Christmas worship opportunity for those who may find it difficult to share in the traditional celebrations on December 24 and 25.

This year’s Christmas Cantata will be sung Sunday, December 19 during 9:30 and 11:00 worship and will feature the world premiere of *Magnificat* by Aaron David Miller, as performed by the Morning Choir, with organ and Tower Brass.

Worship

Morning Prayer is held each weekday at 9:30 a.m., except Tuesdays, when it is 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.

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.

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.

News and Opportunities

Enrichment

Weekly Bible Study opportunities:

John Knox, Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

Noonday, Wednesdays at 12:10 p.m.

CLL, Fridays at 10:30 a.m.

Men's Bible Study will be held this Tuesday, December 7 at 7:30 a.m. in the Loop. For details, contact Deanna Fedaj at 312.573.3364 (dfedaj@fourthchurch.org).

"This I Believe," an evening with Bob Edwards, public radio host, will be held this Wednesday, December 8 at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. John Buchanan will be among those reading essays that evening. Tickets are available at www.wbez.org (enter FPC for discount).

"Women, Food, and God," a discussion group focusing on issues raised in this book by Geneen Roth, is underway. For details, call the "Women, Food, and God" Infoline at 312.787.2729, ext. 375.

Books by Women will meet Tuesday, December 14 at 6:00 p.m. in the Manse to discuss Jacqueline Winspear's *Maisie Dobbs*.

A Nia "Splash Out" session will be held Saturday, December 18 at 10:00 a.m. in Anderson Hall. Call the Nia Infoline at 312.787.2729, ext. 371 to register.

Children, Youth, and Family

Sunday school classes for children meet Sunday mornings at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Fourth Church youth meet each Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m.: Elevation (grades 6–7) meets in the Manse basement, Fourth Church Rising (grade 8) meets in the Page Smith Room, and Senior Highs (grades 9–12) meets in the Crow's Nest.

The annual La Posada Family Night will be Friday, December 17 at 5:30 p.m. at the church. Contact Melissa Scanlan at 312.640.2578 for more details.

Fellowship

An Advent book study of *Watch for the Light*, hosted by ThirtiesForties and Young Adults, meets Sundays prior to Christmas at 12:30 p.m. in the Randolph Room.

Fourth Dimension, a fellowship opportunity for individuals forty-seven and older, will meet for a Christmas social on Friday, December 10. For details, contact Anne Ellis at 312.573.3369.

Carl Grapentine of WFMT-98.7 will host a holiday program for the Men's Group breakfast on Saturday, December 11 at 8:00 a.m. in the Dining Room. To RSVP, call 312.878.4570 by Wednesday, December 8 at 12:00 noon.

The ThirtiesForties fellowship group will have their Christmas luncheon on Sunday, December 19. For details or to RSVP, contact Anne Ellis at 312.573.3369.

A Young Adults Christmas party will be held Tuesday, December 21 at 6:00 p.m. in the Manse. For details, contact Matt Helms at 312.981.4034 (mhelms@fourthchurch.org).

News and Resources

Project Second Century (P2C) construction work is underway: being built in the Garth is a temporary ramp to facilitate handicap access to the church when the 126 E. Chestnut entrance is demolished in early 2011 and the new building construction work begun. The Garth will remain closed to the public while the ramp is built. For details about P2C, see www.fourthchurch.org/P2C.html.

Deacons and pastoral staff will be conducting visits to members who are homebound and cannot make it to worship this Advent. Names of those who are unable to attend worship are being collected by the Pastoral Care Office; to submit a name, contact Sarah Johnson at 312.573.3360.

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 Sarah Johnson of the pastoral staff.

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

Adam H. Fronczek, Associate Pastor for
Adult Education and Worship
Kerri N. Allen, Pastoral Resident
Matthew J. Helms, Pastoral Resident
John W. Vest, Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry

Please turn off all cell phones when in the sanctuary.

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.

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/sermons.html.

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, December 6 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.; Saturday, December 11 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon; or Monday, January 10 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. For information, contact Jo Preuninger, Interim Director of Evangelism, at 312.981.3399 (jpreuninger@fourthchurch.org).