

---

## MORNING WORSHIP

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

### PRELUDE

Four Advent Pieces

*Robert J. Powell*

Prepare the Way, O Zion

People Look East

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers

### INTROIT

“Prepare the Way of the Lord”

*Richard Proulx*

Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight his paths.

Rejoice, the Lord is at hand!

### \*DOXOLOGY

(The Hymnal, 592)

### \*LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Leader: In a hopeful time, a time like Advent,  
the psalmist declares, “Let me hear what God  
the Lord will speak, for God will speak peace  
to God’s people.” (Psalm 85:8–9)

People: **“Surely salvation is at hand for those who fear God,  
that God’s glory may dwell in our land.”**

Leader: We light a second candle on the Advent wreath  
to remind us that God’s presence is becoming  
brighter in our world.

People: **The light of Christ reminds us to move beyond  
fear to caring, beyond self to neighbor,  
beyond protection to growth.**

Leader: A voice cries out in the wilderness: “Prepare the  
way of the Lord, make his paths straight.”

People: **Soon the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,  
and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth  
of the Lord has spoken it.**

### \*HYMN 13

“Prepare the Way”

*Tune: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN*

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*unison*)

**Merciful God, we live too much in darkness.  
We place our trust in shadows.  
We rush headfirst with no sense of direction.  
Lord, illumine our lives.  
Help us to see the difference  
between what is real and what is false.  
Give us direction when we are turned around.  
Show us where there are stumbling blocks so that  
we can make clear paths for ourselves and others.  
We await your light, O Lord.  
Amen.**

**DECLARATION OF PARDON**

Minister: Friends, believe the good news.  
People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

**CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH**

**PSALTER** Psalm 72:1–7, 18–19 (*responsively*) (page 504, O.T.)

**ANTHEM** “Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding” *Eric H. Thiman*  
Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding: “Christ is nigh,”  
it seems to say, “Cast away the dreams of darkness,  
O ye children of the day.” Wakened by the solemn warning,  
let the earthbound soul arise; Christ, her sun, all ill  
dispelling, shines upon the morning skies. Lo, the Lamb,  
so long expected, comes with pardon down from heaven.  
Let us haste with tears of sorrow, one and all to be forgiven;  
that when next he comes with glory and the world is  
wrapped in fear, with his mercy he may shield us and with  
words of love draw near. Christ, to thee be endless glory,  
from all on earth be praise, who from heaven wilt come  
to save us and redeem from sinful ways. Honor, glory,  
might, and blessing to the Father and the Son, with the  
everlasting Spirit, while eternal ages run. Amen.

**FIRST LESSON** Isaiah 11:1–10 (page 602, O.T.)

Minister: The Word of the Lord.  
People: **Thanks be to God.**

**\*GLORIA PATRI**

(The Hymnal, 579)

**SECOND LESSON**

Matthew 3:1–12

(page 2, N.T.)

**SERMON**

JOYCE SHIN

In the Meantime

*“On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as  
a signal to the peoples.”* Isaiah 11:10 (NRSV)

**\*HYMN 3**

“Comfort, Comfort You My People” *Tune: PSALM 42*

**\*APOSTLES’ CREED**

*(unison)*

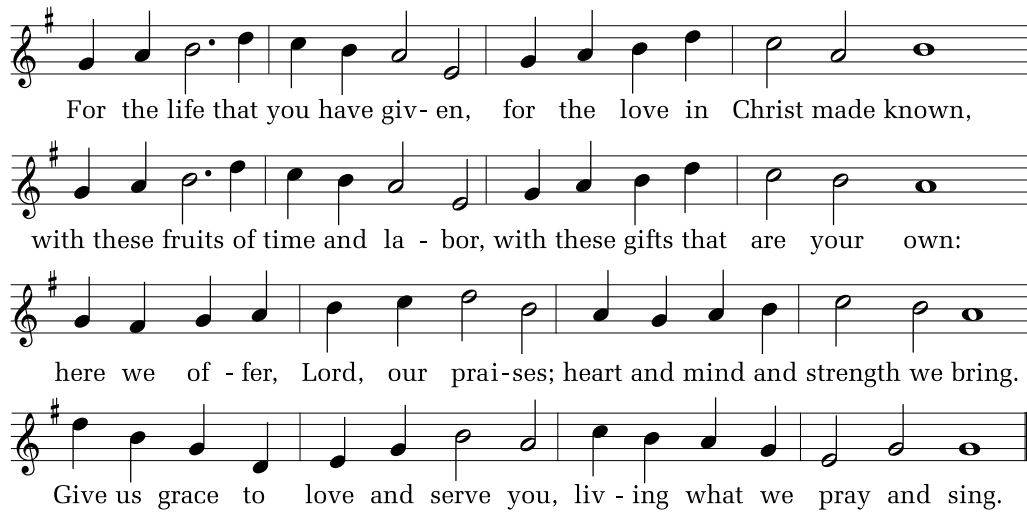
**I believe in God the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried;  
he descended into hell;  
the third day he rose again 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.**

**OFFERTORY SOLO** “How Beautiful Are the Feet” from *Messiah*

*George Frideric Handel*

How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the  
gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things.

## \*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.

Words: Carl P. Daw Jr. ©1987; Music: Morgan Simmons ©1990, 1992 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission.

## 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.**

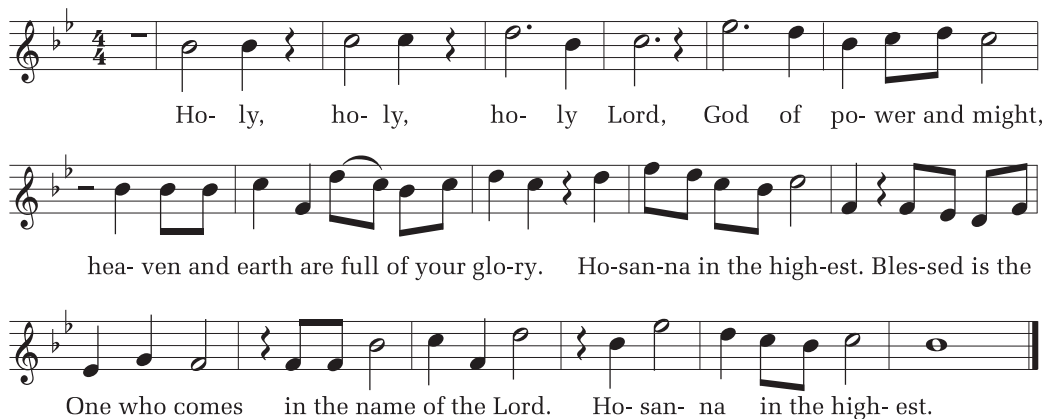
Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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**

“Rorate Coeli”

*Christopher Tye*

Drop dew ye heavens from above and let the clouds break  
forth in showers upon the righteous ones in rain upon  
the just. And let the earth be opened and blossom forth  
with heavenly fruit, a Savior.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION** (*unison*)

**From you, O Lord,  
we have received all that restores us,  
heals us, and sustains us.  
In the bread and wine of communion,  
we have come to know  
the sufficiency of your love for us.  
We could not ask for more,  
for your son has made known to us  
a love that saves us.  
We give you thanks.  
In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.**

**\*HYMN 508**

“For the Bread Which You Have Broken”

*Tune: KINGDOM*

**BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE**

**POSTLUDE**

On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry

*Aaron David Miller*

## WORSHIP LEADERS

Kerri N. Allen, Thomas C. Rook, Joyce Shin

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Stanley Smith

## THE MUSIC TODAY

The Chancel Choir; Carol Carpenter, flutist

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

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist and Handbell Director

## WORSHIP NOTES

**This morning's Offertory Anthem** is from the oratorio *Messiah*, which was composed by George Frideric Handel in 24 days during the summer of 1741. The two-hour long *Messiah* tells the story of Jesus' birth, death, and resurrection. As Handel wrote it, he said, "I did think I saw all heaven before me and the great God himself."

**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.

## 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

**Sarah A. Johnson**, Minister for Congregational Care

**Linda C. Loving**, Minister for Evangelism

**Joyce Shin**, Associate Pastor for Congregational Life

**John W. Vest**, Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry

**John H. Boyle**, Parish Associate

**Thomas C. Rook**, Parish Associate

**Kerri N. Allen**, Pastoral Resident

**Matthew J. Helms**, Pastoral Resident

**David A. Donovan**, Associate Pastor Emeritus

This worship bulletin is printed on recyclable paper  
that contains recycled post-consumer waste and is acid-free.  
All bulletins and inserts left in the baskets by the doors are recycled.