

MORNING WORSHIP

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

PRELUDE	Savior of the Nations, Come	<i>Johann Sebastian Bach</i>
	Savior of the Nations, Come	<i>Wilhelm Friedemann Bach</i>
	“Sleepers, Wake!” A Voice Astounds Us	<i>Johann Krebs</i>
	Comfort, Comfort You My People	<i>Paul Manz</i>
	Creator of the Stars of Night	<i>John Barr</i>

INTROIT (9:30)	“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”	<i>Michael Praetorius</i>
	Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung, of Jesse's lineage coming, by faithful prophets sung. It came a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night. Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind; with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind. To show God's love aright she bore for us a savior, when half spent was the night.	

INTROIT (11:00)	“Ding-Dong! Merrily on High!”	<i>French carol</i> <i>arr. Ruth Artman</i>
	Ding-dong! Merrily on high, in heaven the bells are ringing. Ding-dong! Verily the sky is filled with angel singing. Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis! Ding-dong! Merrily they ring; the weary world rejoices. Ding-dong! Verily they sing, now join the angel voices. Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis!	

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

***LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

Leader: In expectation of her child, Mary sang out for joy:

“My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God
my Savior, for he has looked with favor upon the lowliness
of his servant.”

People: **“Surely, from now on all generations will call us blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for us, and holy
is God's name.”**

Leader: The third candle on the Advent wreath stands for joy.
It reminds us to be thankful that God's presence is becoming
brighter in our world.

People: **The light reminds us that God's child is coming to bring joy
to the world.**

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 1**

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

Tune: STUTTGART

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

**Lord, we have not kept watch for you.
We have occupied ourselves with our own concerns.
We have not waited to find your will for us.
We have not noticed the needs of the people around us.
We have not acknowledged the love
that has been shown to us.
Forgive us for our lack of watchfulness.
Help us to wait to know your will.
Help us to look out for the needs of others.
Help us to work and watch for your coming. Amen.**

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Minister: Friends, believe the good news.

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

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

(11:00)

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

PSALTER

Psalm 23 (*responsively*)

(page 474, O.T.)

ANTHEM

"To Thee, O Lord, Have I Lifted up My Soul" *Gerald Near*

To thee, O Lord, have I lifted up my soul; O God, in thee have I put my trust. Let me never be ashamed, nor let my enemies laugh at me. Show me thy ways, O Lord, and teach me thy paths.

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 28:10–13, 15

(page 24, O.T.)

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

***GLORIA PATRI**

(The Hymnal, 579)

SECOND LESSON

Matthew 1:18–23

(page 1, N.T.)

The Promise

“Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go.”
 Genesis 28:15 (NRSV)

***HYMN 48**

“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”

Tune: ES IST EIN' ROS'

***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”

Eric DeLamarter

OFFERING

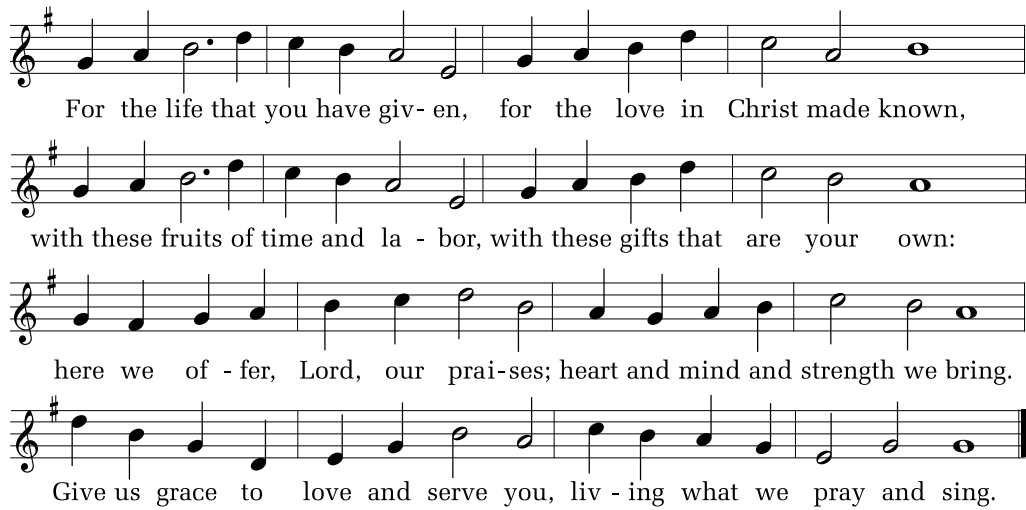
OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“O Thou, the Central Orb”

Charles Wood

O thou, the central orb of righteous love, pure beam of the most high, eternal light of this, our wintry world, thy radiance bright awakes new joy in faith; hope soars above. Come, quickly come, and let thy glory shine, gilding our darksome heaven with rays divine. Thy saints with holy luster 'round thee move, as stars about thy throne set in the height of God's ordaining counsel, as thy sight gives measured grace to each thy power to prove. Let thy bright beams disperse the gloom of sin; our nature all shall feel eternal day in fellowship with thee, transforming day to souls erewhile unclean, now pure within. Amen.

***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: **Eternal God, as you led your people in ages past,
you direct our journey into the future.**

**We give you thanks that you came to us in Jesus Christ,
and we eagerly await his coming again
that his rule may be complete and
your righteousness reign over all the world.**

**Open our eyes to the generosity of your hand
and to the miracles of love all around us.**

**Fill us with gratitude and expectancy and hope,
in the name of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.**

Amen

***HYMN 12**

“People, Look East”

Tune: BESANÇON

BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

People, Look East

Barbara Harbach

Advent and Christmas Worship

AT FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

■ **Festival Service of Advent Lessons and Carols** ■

Sunday, December 12 at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary
Cookies-and-cocoa reception to follow in Anderson Hall

■ **Christmas Cantata** ■

Magnificat by Aaron David Miller

with the Fourth Church Morning Choir, Tower Brass, and organ
Sunday, December 19 during 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. worship

■ **Blue Christmas Service** ■

Wednesday, December 22 at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary

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

■ **Four Christmas Eve Candlelight Services** ■

Friday, December 24 in the sanctuary

4:00 p.m. *Children's Pageant*

6:00 p.m. *Family Service* ♦ John W. Vest preaching

8:30 p.m. *Lessons and Carols* ♦ John Buchanan preaching

11:00 p.m. *Lessons and Carols* ♦ John Buchanan preaching

■ **Christmas Day Service** ■

Saturday, December 25 in the sanctuary

11:00 a.m. ♦ Victoria G. Curtiss preaching

A traditional Christmas dinner in Anderson Hall will be served at 12:30 p.m. Dinner tickets are available during Coffee Hour and at the reception desk during the week.

■ **Sunday Worship with Christmas Hymns and Readings** ■

Sunday, December 26 in the sanctuary

9:30 and 11:00 a.m. ♦ (No 8:00 a.m. or 4:00 p.m. services)

WORSHIP LEADERS

9:30 a.m. Sarah A. Johnson, John W. Vest, John Buchanan

11:00 a.m. Sarah A. Johnson, John W. Vest, John Buchanan

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

9:30 a.m. Eran Wade

11:00 a.m. Monica Brown

THE MUSIC TODAY

9:30 a.m. The Youth Choir; the Morning Choir; Laura Perkett, oboist

11:00 a.m. The Children's Choir; the Morning Choir; Laura Perkett, oboist

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

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist and Handbell Director

Katy Sinclair, Associate Director of Music for Children and Youth

WORSHIP NOTES

This morning's Prayer of Confession is from *The Worship Sourcebook* (Calvin Institute of Christian Worship).

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.

The bulletin cover quote is from "Emmanuel" in Frederick Buechner's *Secrets in the Dark*.

PASTORAL STAFF

John M. Buchanan, Pastor

Calum I. MacLeod, Executive Associate Pastor

Victoria G. Curtiss, Associate Pastor for Mission

Adam H. 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

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