



Gathering

Third 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 35:1–10*)

Leader: The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus

People: **it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.**

Leader: Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.

People: **Say to those who are of a fearful heart, “Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you.”**

Leader: Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

People: **then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing
for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in
the desert;**

Leader: the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

People: **A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall
not travel on it, but it shall be for God’s people; no traveler, not even fools,
shall go astray.**

Leader: No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.

People: **And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.**

***Song** “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading Psalm 146:5–10

(page 549, O.T.)

Musical Reflection

Prayer of Confession (*Psalm 32*)

Leader: Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

People: **Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

Leader: While I kept silence, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long.

People: **For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

Silence

All: **Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord", and you forgave the guilt of my sin.**

Silent prayers of confession

Leader: Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.

People: **You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.**

Silent prayers of thanksgiving

Leader: I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you. Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding, whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not stay near you. Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord. Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

Song "Comfort, Comfort You My People"

Hearing and Proclaiming the Word

Scripture Reading Matthew 11:2–11

(page 10, N.T.)

Sermon by John W. Vest
Do You See What I See?

Solo "Do You Hear What I Hear?"

Response

Leader: Friends, what do you see?

People: **Those who were blind are able to see.**

Leader: Those who were crippled are walking.

People: **People with skin diseases are cleansed.**

Leader: Those who were deaf now hear.

People: **Those who were dead are raised up.**

Leader: The poor have good news proclaimed to them.

People: **The oppressed receive justice.**

Leader: The hungry are fed.

People: **Prisoners are set free.**

Leader: Those who were bowed down are lifted up.

People: **Strangers are cared for.**

Leader: Orphans and widows are upheld.

People: **Happy are those whose help is God, whose hope is the Lord!**

Sealing the Word

Sharing of Gifts

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

Offertory Solo

"Let There Be Peace on Earth"

Jill Jackson-Miller and Sy Miller

*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 "Fill My Cup"

Isaiah Jones Jr.

Prayer after Communion *(unison)*

Gracious God, at this sacred meal you draw us into communion with you and with each other. You have given us a vision of your kingdom that will sustain us as we go from this table into the waiting world. Help us to have faith in the good news of Jesus and hope that the amazing things we have heard will indeed become a reality. Help us to follow in the way of Christ and to be his body for the world, loving others as you love us. Amen.

Sending

***Song** "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

***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

Matthew J. Helms

Pastoral Resident

Lucy Smith Jazz Quartet

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



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).

News and Opportunities

Advent and Christmas

“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 loved ones. “Light Up a Life” offering envelopes are available in the pew racks, and brochures have been mailed to member homes. For more information, contact Kathryn Johnson at 312.640.2576 (kjohnson@fourthchurch.org).

More than 130 gift requests still need to be picked up and fulfilled for the Christmas Wishes gift drive for children who might not otherwise receive presents this Christmas. Wish lists are available by contacting Anne Ellis at 312.573.3369.

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.

Christmas Day dinner tickets are available at the reception desk.

This year’s Christmas Cantata will be sung next 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.

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.

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.

Music and the Arts

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

The Lakeside Singers Holiday Concert will be Monday, December 13 at 8:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. Tickets are available at www.lakesidesingers.com (847.382.5085).

Fourth Church Organist and Director of Music John Sherer will perform this Friday’s Free Noonday Concert at 12:10 p.m. in the sanctuary.

The annual Christmas with Tower Brass concert will be Saturday, December 18 at 5:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Worship

Morning Prayer is held each weekday at 9:30 a.m., except Tuesdays, when it is held at 9:00 a.m.

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.

There will be four candlelight services on Christmas Eve: 4:00 (Children’s Pageant), 6:00, 8:30, and 11:00 p.m. The Christmas Day service will be at 11:00 a.m. On Sunday, December 26, there will be 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. worship; 8:00 a.m. and **4:00 p.m. worship will not be held that Sunday.**

A New Year’s Eve service in the style of Taizé will be held on Friday, December 31 at 7:30 p.m.

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.

“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*. Those attending are invited to bring a potluck appetizer.

A Nia “Splash Out” will be held Saturday, December 18 at 10:00 a.m. in Anderson Hall; those attending are asked to bring new socks or good condition tennis shoes for Deborah’s Place. A twelve-week Nia series will begin Wednesday, January 5. For registration details, call 312.787.2729, ext. 371 or visit www.niachicago.com.

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. Families will reenact Mary and Joseph’s search for lodging by traveling around the building; families with younger children are invited to arrive at 5:30 p.m. and families with older children may arrive at 6:15 p.m. There will also be cards, games, a piñata, and dinner. To RSVP, contact Melissa Scanlan at 312.640.2578 (mscanlan@fourthchurch.org).

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.

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).

Mission and Outreach

Mission trip applications for the March 26–April 2 trip to Colombia are due Wednesday, December 15. Details are available in the mission trip booklets in the literature racks, online at www.fourthchurch.org/missiontrips.html, or by contacting Vicki Reynolds at 312.981.3384.

News and Resources

Thank you to those who have already fulfilled their 2010 pledge. The Resource Development Committee asks those who have not fulfilled their 2010 pledge to please do so in the next three weeks before year-end.

A temporary ramp is being built in the Garth to facilitate handicap access to the church when the 126 E. Chestnut entrance is demolished in early 2011 and the Project Second Century new building construction work is begun. A temporary exit stairway is also being built from the Dining Room. The Garth will remain closed to the public while the work is being done. For details, visit www.fourthchurch.org/P2C.html.

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, January 10 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.; Saturday, January 15 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon; or Sunday, January 23 from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. For information, contact Jo Preuninger, Interim Director of Evangelism, at 312.981.3399 (jpreuninger@fourthchurch.org).