



Fourth Sunday of Advent

Gathering

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 7:10–16*)

Leader: The Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, “Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. “

People: **But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.”**

Leader: Then Isaiah said: “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also?

People: **Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.**

Leader: He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.

People: **For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.”**

***Song** “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Musical Reflection

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Gracious God, we come before you a little embarrassed and seeking your forgiveness, because we have forgotten the true meaning of Christmas. Our minds and hearts have been consumed with all we still must do, gifts we must buy, preparations we must make, but we have not made the most important preparation: we have not prepared our hearts for the coming of Jesus. Hear us as we confess in silence the ways we have fallen short and need your help.

Silent prayers

Forgive us Lord. Help us to slow down and remember the true wonder of the Christmas season. Help us to remember Jesus’ love, and help us to love one another as he loved us. Amen.

Musical Reflection

Hearing and Proclaiming the Word

Psalter Psalm 80:1–7, 17–19 (page 511, O.T.)

Scripture Reading Matthew 1:18–25 (page 1, N.T.)

Sermon by Adam Fronczek
An Unbelievable Promise

Musical Reflection

***Song** “Silent Night”

Sealing the Word

Sharing of Gifts

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

Offertory Solo “Sweet Little Jesus Boy” *African American spiritual*

***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

Prayer after Communion (*unison*)

God, we thank you for this meal that strengthens us in our weakness. We thank you for this table where we find forgiveness in the midst of our flaws. We thank you for this community, where we wait together for Jesus Christ and prepare ourselves for his coming. Send us out into the world prepared to live with faith and confidence the life you have given us, inspired by your love, and challenged by your truth. Amen.

Sending

*Song

"Joy to the World!"

*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

Adam H. Fronczek

Associate Pastor

Kerri N. Allen

Pastoral Resident

Jerry Johnson

Song Leader

Kevin Cline Jazz Trio

Acknowledgments:

Words— “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” by Thomas Helmore, copyright © 1937 Church Publishing Incorporated; “Silent Night, Holy Night” by Joseph Mohr, copyright © 2003 International Liturgy Publications. All rights reserved. Used with permission. OneLicense.net. License A-712340.

Music— “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” to the tune of “Veni Emmanuel”; “Silent Night, Holy Night” by Franz Xaver Gruber to the tune of “Stille Nacht”; “Joy to the World!” by Isaac Watts to the tune of “Antioch.” Used with permission. LicensingOnline. License L18227.

Words and Music— “Blues Sanctus” by Stephen Rush, copyright © 2008 Church Publishing Incorporated.

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).

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Advent and Christmas at Fourth Church

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



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)



New Year's Eve Taizé Service

Friday, December 31 at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

News and Opportunities

Christmas

A Blue Christmas Service will be held Wednesday, December 22 at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary and provides a Christmas worship opportunity for those who may find it difficult to share in the traditional celebrations on December 24 and 25.

There will be four candlelight services on Christmas Eve: 4:00 (Children's Pageant), 6:00, 8:30, and 11:00 p.m. On Christmas Eve, nursery care is available between 3:30 and 7:15 p.m. only.

The Christmas Day service will be held at 11:00 a.m. in the sanctuary.

Christmas Day dinner will be served in Anderson Hall at 12:30 p.m. on Christmas Day. A limited number of tickets will be available at the door that day.

On Sunday, December 26 there will not be a 4:00 p.m. or 8:00 a.m. worship service. Worship will be held at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. that day. The 8:00 and 4:00 services will resume on Sunday, January 2.

Daily Advent and Christmas 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.

"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" gifts can be made using the offering envelopes found in the pew racks. For details, pick up a brochure found in the literature racks or visit www.fourthchurch.org.

Music and the Arts

No Friday Noonday concerts will be held on December 24 and 31. This free concert series will resume on Friday, January 7 with clarinetist Jennifer Woodrum-Hogg performing at 12:10 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Millikin University Choir will be in concert at Fourth Church on Friday, January 14 at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Those who would like to receive *Music Notes*, a weekly email newsletter about music at Fourth Church, are invited to subscribe by sending email addresses to music@fourthchurch.org.

Fellowship

Those age twenty-two to thirty-five are invited to a Young Adults Christmas party on Tuesday, December 21 at 6:00 p.m. in the Manse. For details, contact Matt Helms at 312.981.4034 (mhelms@fourthchurch.org).

The life and work of architect Frank Lloyd Wright will be the topic of a Friday, January 7 gathering of Cornerstones, a fellowship group for adults over fifty, including couples, partners, and their spouses. Fourth Church member Betty Bergstrom will give the presentation. For more information or to RSVP, call the Cornerstones Infoline at 312.787.2729, ext. 454. Preregistration is required by Monday, January 3.

Avid cyclists are invited to participate in the Fourth Church Cycling Club. This common connection group gathers for group bike rides, seminars, and fellowship. For more details, email cyclists@fourthchurch.org or visit www.fourthchurch.org/cyclists.html.

Volunteers

Current Volunteer Needs

Clothes sorters on Mondays and Thursdays

Social Service Center helpers on the first Friday of each month to help with clothes distribution

Volunteers to participate in various service projects on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Saturday, January 15 between 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Current Donation Needs

Men's seasonal sturdy clothes, especially jeans and other pants, long-sleeved shirts, and underwear in larger sizes

For details, contact Larry Nicholson, Director of Volunteer Ministry, at 312.981.3382 (lnicholson@fourthchurch.org).

Worship

Morning Prayer is held weekdays at 9:30 a.m. except Tuesdays, when it is at 9:00 a.m. All are invited to join staff for daily Morning Prayer, which takes place in Stone Chapel and offers opportunity to pray for those in need.

Sunday morning worship services are held at 8:00 (Communion) and at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. There will not, however, be an 8:00 service on Sunday, December 26.

A service in the style of Taizé will be held on New Year's Eve at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Special prayer requests are included in intercessory prayer in Stone Chapel on Sundays. 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.

Enrichment

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

A twelve-week Nia series will begin on Wednesday, January 5. Nia is a personal growth, body-mind-spirit fitness and lifestyle practice fusing dance, yoga, martial arts, healing arts, vocal sounding, and self-expression into a dynamic hour-long routine. For registration details, call 312.787.2729, ext. 371 or visit www.niachicago.com.

Books by Women will meet Tuesday, January 11 at 6:00 p.m. in the Manse to discuss *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot.

A Center for Life and Learning Jazz Winter Party will be held Thursday, January 20 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Celebrated jazz pianist Erwin Helfer will be the guest musician. For tickets, contact Patricia Amis at 312.981.3387 (pamis@fourthchurch.org).

"Eat, Pray, Love" is the theme of the Fourth Church women's retreat, which will be held Saturday, January 29. For more information, contact Anne Ellis at 312.573.3369 (aellis@fourthchurch.org).

"How to Do Good Grief" will be the topic of the Lorene Replogle Counseling Center's annual Midwinter Conference, to be held at the church on Saturday, February 5. The symposium will address the experience of loss, which can take many forms and is a natural part of life. For information, call the Counseling Center at 312.787.8425.

A Fourth Church study tour of the Holy Land will be led by Adam Fronczek and John Vest June 20–29. For information and an application (due February 11), contact Adam Fronczek at 312.640.5398 (afronczek@fourthchurch.org).

News and Opportunities

News and Resources

P2C Gift Intention forms are available in the pew racks. Gift intentions can also be made online at www.fourthchurch.org/P2C.html. Pledges to Project Second Century support the new addition, on which construction will begin in 2011, and thus help Fourth Church build for the future. For more details about supporting P2C, contact Lisa Radetski at 312.981.3380.

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 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. Upon completion of the new building, the Garth will be returned to its original beauty. For details, visit www.fourthchurch.org/P2C.html.

Year-end gifts of stock: Many people choose to make year-end gifts of stock to Fourth Church but have questions about how to do so. Information is available in the literature racks, online at www.fourthchurch.org, and by contacting Kathryn Johnson at 312.640.2576.

The Fourth Church website, www.fourthchurch.org, makes available audio (including podcasts) of the 11:00 a.m. services; sermon transcripts from all worship services; the text of worship bulletins; devotions; and programming information.

Mission and Outreach

In observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, members of the Fourth Church community are invited to participate in Saturday, January 15 service projects coordinated by the Multicultural Initiatives and Resources Committee at Fourth Church. For more details or to sign up, contact Nancy Davis at 312.274.3815 (ndavis@fourthchurch.org).

Chicago Shares voucher booklets offer a way to give to those in need on the streets while knowing that the \$1 gift will be redeemed at a participating grocery store or restaurant (but not for liquor or tobacco). For information or to purchase a \$5 booklet, contact Natasha Holbert at 312.274.3831 (nholbert@fourthchurch.org).

Information about 2011 mission trips to Tennessee, Lakota Reservations, Cameroon, and Northern Ireland is available in the global mission booklets in the literature racks and online at www.fourthchurch.org/missiontrips.html.

Children and Family

Sunday School classes and youth meetings will resume on January 9. (There will be no Sunday School or youth meetings on December 26 or January 2.)

A fellowship group for mothers with children ages 5–12 will begin on Sunday, January 9 at 9:10 a.m. at the Oak Tree restaurant (900 N. Michigan) The first chapter of Linda Dillow's *Calm My Anxious Heart* will be the topic for discussion. For more information, contact Liz Nickerson at 312.573.3366 (enickerson@fourthchurch.org).

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).