

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 *Nikolaus Vetter*
Savior of the Nations, Come *Dieterich Buxtehude*
Come Thou Now, Down from Heaven *Johann Sebastian Bach*
Comfort, Comfort You My People *Henry Woodward*

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 quiet time of hope,
the prophet Isaiah called out to the Lord,
“O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil.”

People: **We light candles on the Advent wreath
to remind us of a time of waiting and watching,
a time of hope,
a time to bring the light of Christ into the world.**

Leader: The light is for us all—
to heal and to challenge,
to break down injustice and to build up love.

People: **In the face of the uncertainties of our world,
God is coming to make all things new.**

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 9** “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” *Tune: VENI EMMANUEL*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(unison)*

God of the future, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom, for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace. In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world. Amen.

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Minister: Friends, believe the good news.

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

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

PSALTER Psalm 85:1–2, 8–13 *(responsively)* (page 514, O.T.)

***GLORIA PATRI** (The Hymnal, 579)

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 1:18–25 (page 1, N.T.)

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON Jesus Had a Father JOHN BUCHANAN
“Joseph, . . . do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife.”
Matthew 1:20 (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.

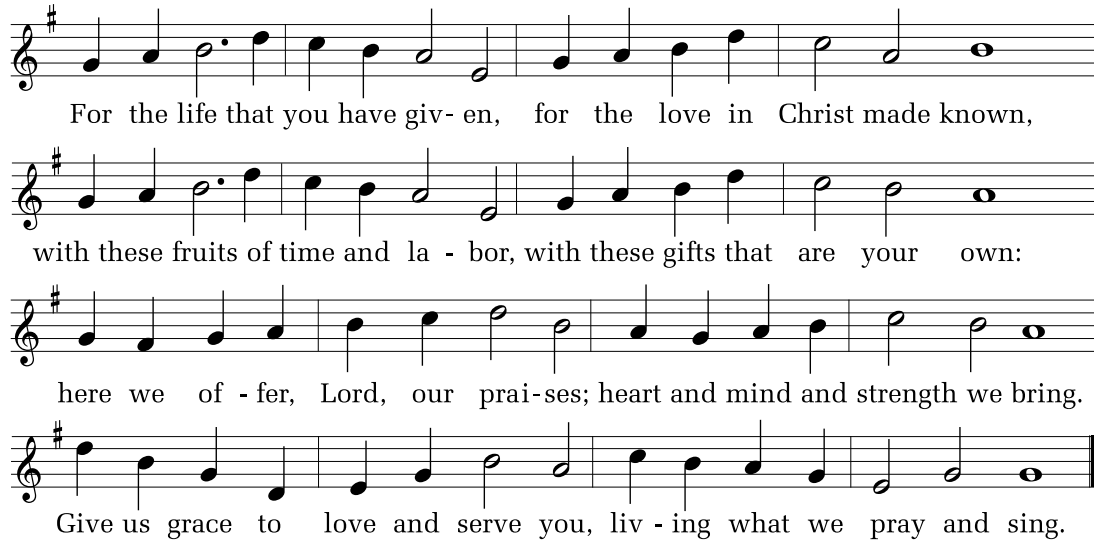
OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM “Vox Clamantis in Derserto”

Juan Esquivel

A voice cries out: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.”

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.

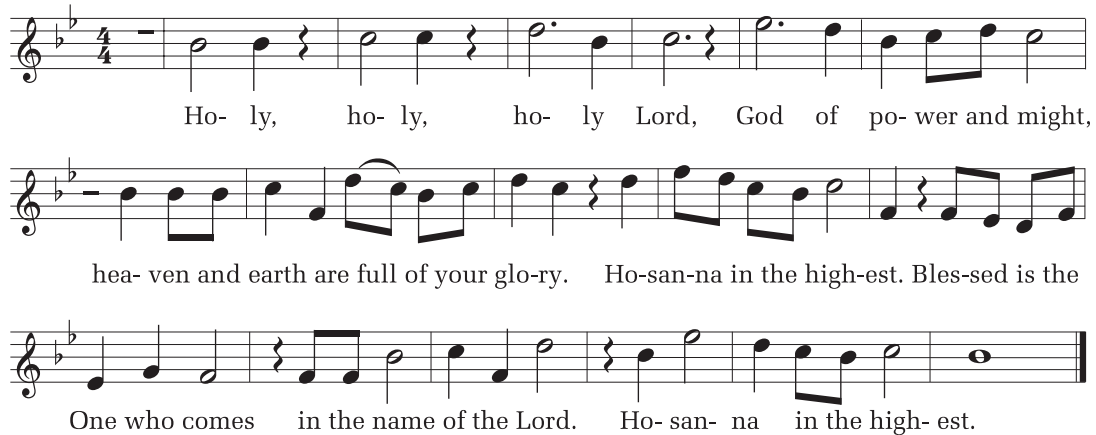
People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

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.

Minister: . . . Great is the mystery of faith:

People: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Minister: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit . . .

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 ANTHEMS

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” *Edward C. Bairstow*

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and stand with fear and trembling, and lift itself above all earthly thought. For the King of kings and Lord of lords, Christ our God, cometh forth to be our oblation and to be given for food to the faithful. Before him come the choirs of angels, with every principality and power; the cherubim with many eyes, and winged seraphim, who veil their faces as they shout exultingly the hymn, Alleluia.

“Comest Thou, Light of Gladness?”

Heinrich von Herzogenberg

Comest thou, light of gladness? Ay, thou wilt and waitest not.
Thou dost know, how sad our lot. O thou mighty stay in sadness,
Jesu, all my heart to thee I will open. Jesu, come to me.

PSALM 23 (*recited in unison after all have received the cup*)

**The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures,
he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul;
he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his
name’s sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the
shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me;
thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me. Thou preparest
a table before me in the presence of mine enemies;
thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of
my life; and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (*unison*)

**Gracious God, you have made us one
with all your people in heaven and on earth.
You have fed us with the bread of life
and renewed us for your service.
Help us who have shared Christ’s body and received his cup,
to be his faithful disciples so that our daily living
may be part of the life of your kingdom,
and our love be your love reaching out into the life
of the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

***HYMN 3**

“Comfort, Comfort You My People”

Tune: PSALM 42

BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry

Aaron David Miller

The Lord’s Supper at Fourth Presbyterian Church

All who confess Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord are invited to partake of the Lord’s Supper. The congregation is served in the pews by elders and deacons.

Worshippers take the bread and grape juice from the plate held by their neighbor and then they take the plate and serve the neighbor on their other side. Empty glasses are placed in the ringed holes in the pew racks.

WORSHIP LEADERS

9:30 a.m. Adam H. Fronczek, Joyce Shin, John Buchanan

11:00 a.m. Adam H. Fronczek, Joyce Shin, John Buchanan

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

9:30 a.m. The Love Family

11:00 a.m. Nan Birmingham

THE MUSIC TODAY

9:30 a.m. The Chancel Choir; The Morning Choir

11:00 a.m. The Chancel Choir; The Morning Choir

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

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist and Handbell Director

WORSHIP NOTES

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 Advent banners, in the form of wings, convey the idea of Advent stillness and of waiting in the presence of angels. They were designed and painted by Eliza Linley of Berkeley, California.

The white candle on the bulletin cover is the Christ candle at the center of the Fourth Church Advent wreath; it is lit each Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. The quote is from Anne Porter’s poem “Here on Earth” in her book *An Altogether Different Language: Poems*.

PASTORAL STAFF

John 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

Hardy H. Kim, Associate Pastor for Evangelism

Joyce Shin, Associate Pastor for Congregational Life

John W. Vest, Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry

Judith L. Watt, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care

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. The printing is done with inks having low volatile organic compounds and formulated with soy and vegetable oils. All bulletins and inserts left in the baskets by the doors are recycled.