



Second 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.

Call to Worship “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Advent Reading

Advent Candle Lighting

Instead of lighting a traditional Advent Wreath, during the Sundays of Advent the congregation is invited to come forward and light a prayer candle of their own.

Your candle may signify something special that you are waiting for during this season, a confession of sin, someone you are holding in prayer, a joy or a concern, an openness to listen for God’s voice, or anything that you feel moved to offer.

Leader: Life is an indescribable gift.
Our worship is a celebration of that gift
and of the giver.
In our worship we rediscover
God’s marvelous affirmation of life.

Tonight we invite you to bring all you are into worship
your struggles and failures,
your joys and fears,
your faith and your doubts,
your culture,
your sensuality,
your whole self.

Bring yourself and be at home now.
God is here and all are welcome.

People: **Thanks be to God for the Coming of Christ.**

***Passing of the Peace**

Leader: We are the light of the world. We are children of God. Therefore, let us not be strangers to one another, but sisters and brothers in Christ. 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.

***Opening Hymn** “O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?”

Hearing and Proclaiming the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Luke 2:21–40, 52

(page 55, N.T.)

Sermon The Child Grew and Increased in Wisdom
Part of the Advent Sermon Series “Who Is Jesus?”

Adam H. Fronczek

Musical Reflection

Sealing the Word

Sharing of Gifts

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

Offertory Music “Jesus Gonna Be Here”

Tom Waits

***Doxology**

Lucy Smith

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

The Great Thanksgiving

Leader: Jesus of Bethlehem and Nazareth and Calvary,
we are expecting you.

People: **Come and be born in us.**

Leader: Jesus of the manger and the inn,
Jesus of the workshop and the temple,
Jesus of the lakeside and the city,
Jesus of the fireside and the roadside,
we are expecting you.

People: **Come and be born in us.**

Leader: Jesus of Mary and Joseph,
Jesus of shepherds and angels,
Jesus of children and animals,
Jesus of fishermen and priests,
Jesus of women and men disciples,
Jesus of tax collectors and prostitutes,
Jesus of all who will receive you,
we are expecting you.

People: **Come and be born in us.**

Leader: Look and see,
we have brought our bread and cup
to be your body for us.
Look and see,
we have brought our flesh and blood
to be your body for you.
Look and see,
the same Spirit which lived in your flesh
is living in your people here.
Look at us and let us look at you
and see you now.
We are expecting you.

People: **Come and be born in us.**

Sanctus

Lucy Smith

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 Music "Hold to God's Unchanging Hand"

F. L. Eiland

Prayer After Communion (*unison*)

**Eternal God, keep us awake and alert in this season of Advent.
Make us strong in faith, so that when Christ comes,
we may see him for who he is and accept his offer to change our lives
as we grow in love. Amen.**



Sending

***Closing Song** "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

***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

John W. Vest

Associate Pastor

Lucy Smith Jazz Quartet

Acknowledgments

Words—The Advent Reading and Great Thanksgiving are adapted from *Alternative Worship: Resources from and for the Emerging Church*.

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The Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago

John Buchanan, Pastor

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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 Judith Watt, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care, at 312.573.3360 (jwatt@fourthchurch.org).

News and Opportunities

Advent and Christmas

The “Christmas Wishes” Wrapping Party is today until 7:00 p.m. on the 19th floor of the 737 building. The “Christmas Wishes” gift project collects gifts for more than 700 children who might not otherwise receive them.

“A Chanticleer Christmas” concert will take place this Tuesday and Wednesday, December 6 and 7, at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Tickets are only available at www.cso.org.

Chicago a cappella’s holiday concert will be held this Friday, December 9 at 8:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Tickets are available at www.chicagoacappella.org.

Friday is the last day to make Christmas flower gifts to memorialize or honor loved ones and have the names of those being remembered printed in the Christmas bulletin. Contributions can be made by completing the forms in the literature racks or by calling Wydetta Carter at 312.274.3833.

Gift bags for Social Service Center guests are due next Sunday, December 11 at the church reception desk.

The annual Festival of Advent Lessons and Music will be next Sunday, December 11 at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Fourth Church’s Children’s, Youth, Chancel, and Morning Choirs will sing anthems of the season. A cookies-and-hot-cocoa reception in Anderson Hall hosted by Women@Fourth Connect will follow.

The “Christmas with Tower Brass” concert will take place on Saturday, December 17 at 2:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

The “Light Up a Life” holiday giving program is underway. “Light Up a Life” gifts can be given to honor or remember someone special while also helping neighbors whose needs are great this holiday season. Gifts can be made using the brochures in the literature racks or online at www.fourthchurch.org.

Tickets for the annual Christmas Dinner, which will take place on Sunday, December 25 at 12:30 p.m. in Anderson Hall, are available at the church reception desk during the week.

Mission and Outreach

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. To purchase a \$5 booklet, contact Nancy Davis at 312.274.3815 (ndavis@fourthchurch.org).

Worship

Morning Prayer is held weekdays in the Sanctuary at 9:30 a.m., except Tuesdays, when it is at 9:00 a.m.

Special prayer requests are included in intercessory prayer in Stone Chapel on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. Individuals are invited to pray there with a Deacon at that time.

A service in the style of Taizé is held at 7:30 p.m. each fourth Friday of the month, except in November and December. The next service will be on New Year’s Eve, Saturday, December 31.

Fellowship

Young Adults meet on Sundays at 12:30 p.m. on the 19th floor of the 737 building for fellowship and an Advent discussion. Their Christmas Party will take place on Tuesday, December 20 at 7:00 p.m. in the Manse.

A fibromyalgia support group will meet on Monday, December 5 at 6:00 p.m. on the 19th floor of the 737 building.

Fourth Dimension will meet for a holiday party, including a dinner buffet and gift exchange, this Friday, December 9 at 6:00 p.m. on the 19th floor of the the 737 building. RSVP to Julia Bergen at 312.573.3369.

The Men's Group will gather for breakfast and a program of seasonal music, led by Carl Grapentine of WFMT, this Saturday, December 10 at 8:00 a.m. in the Dining Room. RSVP with Carol Allerton at 312.640.5548 (callerton@fourthchurch.org) by Wednesday, December 7.

ThirtiesForties will meet for their Christmas Open House next Sunday, December 11 from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. at a member's home. To RSVP, call Julia Bergen at 312.573.3369.

Books by Women will celebrate its twentieth anniversary on Tuesday, December 13 at 6:00 p.m. on the 19th floor of the 737 building when they will also discuss *Burning Bright* by Tracy Chevalier.

Enrichment

Men's Bible Study, which meets on the first and third Tuesdays of the month, will gather on Tuesday, December 6 at 7:30 a.m. at 300 N. LaSalle in the Kirkland and Ellis Office. For details, contact Deanna Fedaj at 312.573.3364 (dfedaj@fourthchurch.org).

Inquirers' Class offers opportunity to learn more about Fourth Church as well as Presbyterian history and beliefs. This one-session class, which is a prerequisite for membership, next meets this Monday, December 5 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. in the Randolph Room.

The Center for Life and Learning Bible Study meets Fridays at 10:30 a.m.

The "Religion in Interfaith Homes" series will discuss "Dealing with Your In-Laws" next Sunday, December 11 at 12:30 p.m. at Chicago Sinai Congregation (15 W. Delaware Pl.). Fourth Church Associate Pastor Joyce Shin and Reform Rabbi David Levinsky will lead the class.

Changing Conversations, a discussion group that explores issues affecting gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (GLBTQ) persons, will host a conversation about Chris Glaser's book *Come Home! Reclaiming Spirituality and Community as Gay Men and Lesbians*, led by Carol Allen, on Friday, December 16 at 7:00 p.m. at the 737 building. For details, call Julia Bergen at 312.573.3369.

News and Opportunities

Children, Youth, and Family

Sunday school classes meet at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. in the Dining Room.

Fourth Church youth meet on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. on the 19th floor of the 737 building, with Elevation (grades 6–7) in the Knox Room, Fourth Church Rising (grade 8 confirmation) in the Calvin Room, and Senior Highs (grades 9–12) in the Multipurpose Space.

Volunteers and Donations

Current Volunteer Needs

Tutors for children from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. on Thursdays at Fourth Church

Assistants at the Chicago Lights Urban Farm at Art Club on Mondays from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. and at cooking classes on Fridays from 3:30 to 6:00 p.m.

Gift gatherers for the silent auction for Carnaval 2012

Current Donation Needs

Men's clothing, especially pants, for the Elam Davies Social Service Center

Double paper/plastic bags from Treasure Island for the Elam Davies Social Service Center

For details or to volunteer, contact Larry Nicholson at 312.981.3382 (lnicholson@fourthchurch.org).

News and Resources

Notes, letters, memories, and photos for John and Sue Buchanan, thanking them for their ministry among us and wishing them well post-retirement, are being collected through January 15. They can be mailed to the church, dropped off during Coffee Hour or at the reception desk, or emailed to memorybox@fourthchurch.org. These private expressions of gratitude, shared memories, and well wishes will be collected and presented to John and Sue in late January.

The fiscal year for Fourth Church and Chicago Lights ends on December 31. The Resource Development Committee asks members to please complete 2011 Annual Appeal pledge payments by that date. Those who have not yet pledged for 2011 are invited to either make a pledge or a gift before year end.

Save the date! Carnaval 2012, the annual Mission Benefit, will be Friday, March 2.

A giving kiosk in the Narthex makes it possible to use credit or debit cards to give to Fourth Church or Chicago Lights.

Music and the Arts

Soprano Laura Perkett will perform this Friday's free Noonday Concert in the Sanctuary.

Help us double our number of Facebook friends!

If you've not yet "Liked" Fourth Church on Facebook (www.facebook.com/fourthchurch), please do so today—and invite your friends to like us too. You can access Advent and Christmas resources there, see the latest photos, and ensure you're up-to-date on Fourth Church news and events.



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 Judy Watt, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care.

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

John W. Vest, Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry

Judith L. Watt, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care

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 Anderson Hall (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 Street) 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, December 5 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.; Saturday, December 17 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon; or Monday, January 9 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. For membership information, contact Hardy Kim, Associate Pastor for Evangelism, at 312.981.3399 (hkim@fourthchurch.org).