



## Third 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: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

God of our lives, with expectant hearts  
we your people await Christ’s coming.  
As he once came in humility,  
so now may he come in glory  
that he may make all things perfect.

People: **Amen.**

Leader: In the midst of darkness in our world,  
Christ’s light can never be extinguished.  
We are given the privilege of bearing that light.  
We invite you to come forward, to offer a  
prayer of joy or regret, thanksgiving or request,  
and then to light a candle as a remembrance of  
the forgiving power of the light of Christ in your  
life and in the world.

God is here  
and all are welcome.

People: **Thanks be to God for the Light 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 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"**

## **Hearing and Proclaiming the Word**

### **Prayer for Illumination**

**Scripture** John 1:6–9, 19–28 (page 86, N.T.)  
Hebrews 2:17–18 (page 205, N.T.)

**Sermon** He Had to Become Like His Brothers and Sisters in Every Respect  
*Part of the Advent Sermon Series "Who Is Jesus?"* Judith L. Watt

### **Musical Reflection**

## **Sealing the Word**

### **Sharing of Gifts**

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

**Offertory Music** "People Get Ready" Curtis Mayfield

**\*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.**

**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** "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ" *Jamaican Folk Melody*  
*adapt. Doreen Potter and Fred Kaan*

**Prayer After Communion** (*unison*)

**Eternal God, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way  
for the coming of Christ. Give us the wisdom to see your purpose,  
and openness to your will, that we too may prepare the way for Christ.  
Thank you for the meal we have shared and especially for the One  
who invites us to be fed, over and over and over again. 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**

**Judith L. Watt**

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*.

*Music*—“New Doxology” by Lucy Smith, copyright © 2010. All rights reserved. “Gospel Sanctus” by Lucy Smith, copyright © 2011. All rights reserved.

### **The Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago**

John Buchanan, Pastor

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

# News and Opportunities

## Advent and Christmas

**The annual Festival of Advent Lessons and Music** takes place today 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.

**Reflections by John Buchanan** on his favorite Advent and Christmas memories are being posted online at [www.facebook.com/fourthchurch](http://www.facebook.com/fourthchurch) throughout the season.

**Filled and decorated gift bags for the Chicago Lights Elam Davies Social Service Center guests** are due today and may be dropped off at the church reception desk.

**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](http://www.fourthchurch.org).

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

**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.

**Daily Advent devotions**, written by Fourth Church members and staff, are available in the church literature racks, by email (send email addresses to [devotions@fourthchurch.org](mailto:devotions@fourthchurch.org)), at [www.facebook.com/fourthchurch](http://www.facebook.com/fourthchurch), and via Twitter (@FourthChicago).

**A Christmas Cantata**, featuring John Rutter's *Gloria*, will be sung by the Morning Choir next Sunday, December 18 during 9:30 and 11:00 worship.

**There will be four candlelight services on Christmas Eve:** 4:00 p.m. (Children's Pageant); 6:00 p.m. (Family Service); and 8:30 and 11:00 p.m. (Service of Lessons and Carols). The Christmas Day service will be at 11:00 a.m.; 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., and 4:00 p.m. worship will *not* be held on Sunday, December 25.

## 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](mailto: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 at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

# News and Opportunities

## 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.

**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

**At a Michigan Avenue Forum honoring John Buchanan, Walter Brueggemann** will speak about Christianity—“where it’s been and where it’s going.” A panel of Chris Chakoian, Patrick Daymond, Bill Golderer, Jeannine Oakes, and John Vest will respond to Dr. Brueggemann’s comments at this special January 19 event to be held in the Sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. All are invited to attend.

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

**Changing Conversations** will host a discussion 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. on the 19th floor of the 737 building.

**Inquirers’ Class** offers opportunity to learn more about Fourth Church as well as Presbyterian history and beliefs. This one-session class, which next will meet Saturday, December 17 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon in the Randolph Room, is also a prerequisite for membership.

## Children, Youth, and Family

**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.

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

**LaPosada Family Night** will be held on Friday, December 16, with younger children beginning their “journey” at 5:30 p.m. in the Manse and arriving at a Christmas party in Anderson Hall. Older children may arrive at 6:00 p.m. with dinner served at 6:15 p.m. To RSVP, contact Daniel Holladay at 312.640.2578 (dholladay@fourthchurch.org).

**Moms’ Morning Out**, which will allow time for shopping near Fourth Church, will take place this Saturday, December 17 from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. Childcare for children through four years will be available in the Page Smith Room. To RSVP, contact Liz Nickerson at 312.573.3366 (lnickerson@fourthchurch.org).

**A rehearsal for children and youth participating in the Christmas Eve Pageant** will be held next Sunday, December 18 in the Sanctuary following the 11:00 a.m. worship service.



# News and Opportunities

## Volunteers and Donations

### **Current Volunteer Needs**

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

**Volunteers to put drip sleeves** on candles on December 22 and 23 for the Christmas Eve services

**Gift gatherers** for the silent auction for Carnaval 2012

### **Current Donation Needs**

**Men's sturdy winter clothes** in larger sizes for the Chicago Lights Elam Davies Social Service Center

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

**Microwave oven** for a family in need

*For details or to volunteer, contact Larry Nicholson at 312.981.3382 ([lnicholson@fourthchurch.org](mailto:lnicholson@fourthchurch.org)).*

## News and Resources

**Recommendations of individuals to serve on the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC)** are being collected through December 31. Recommendations can be made using the cards in the literature racks or by emailing names to [transitionteam@fourthchurch.org](mailto:transitionteam@fourthchurch.org). An eleven-member PNC will be elected by the congregation at the February 12 Annual Meeting and will then begin the search for a new Pastor.

**To ensure we begin 2012 with a balanced budget,** 2011 Annual Appeal pledge fulfillments along with additional gifts—together totaling \$800,000—are needed by December 31. Gifts can be made to Fourth Church, Chicago Lights, or through “Light Up a Life.”

**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 church reception desk, or emailed to [memorybox@fourthchurch.org](mailto: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.

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

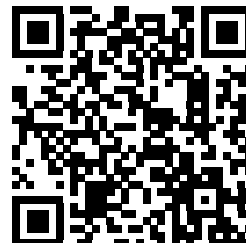
## Music and the Arts

**The Wicker Park Choral Singers** will perform Christmas music for this Friday's free Noonday Concert in the Sanctuary.

**Lakeside Singers,** with a band serving as accompaniment, will perform a holiday concert of both classical and popular music this Friday, December 16 at 8:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Tickets are available at the door and online at [www.lakesidesingers.com](http://www.lakesidesingers.com).

### **Help us double our number of Facebook friends!**

If you've not yet “Liked” Fourth Church on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/fourthchurch](http://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](http://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 Saturday, December 17 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon; Monday, January 9 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.; or Saturday, January 14 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. For membership information, contact Hardy Kim, Associate Pastor for Evangelism, at 312.981.3399 ([hkim@fourthchurch.org](mailto:hkim@fourthchurch.org)).