
MORNING WORSHIP

*The beginning of the prelude is a call to silent,
personal preparation for the worship of God.*

PRELUDE O Come, O Come, Emmanuel *Robert Lau*

INTROIT “Our King and Savior Draweth Nigh” *Stephen Sturk*
Our King and Savior draweth nigh;
O come, let us adore him.

***DOXOLOGY** (The Hymnal, 592)

***LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

Leader: In expectation of her child,
Mary sang out for joy:
“My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor upon
the lowliness of his servant.”

People: **“Surely, from now on all generations
will call us blessed; for the Mighty One
has done great things for us,
and holy is God’s name.”**

Leader: The third candle on the Advent wreath stands
for joy. It reminds us to be thankful that God’s
presence is becoming brighter in our world.

People: **The light reminds us that God’s child
is coming to bring joy to the world.**

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 12** “People, Look East” *Tune: BESANÇON*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

O God, we seek to find favor with you, yet we go our own ways and not yours. We are anxious people, too often shaped by our fears, not by faith. Our thoughts have been so dominated by the past and the future that we have failed to live fully in the present. Our lives are filled with discontent and self-protective pursuits. We have not trusted you, nor let you give birth to Love in the world through us. Forgive us. Change us. Inspire our caring and doing so we may bear fruit as your forgiven people. Amen.

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Minister: Friends, believe the good news.

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

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

PSALTER Psalm 126 (*responsively*) (page 541, O.T.)

ANTHEM “Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding”
Eric H. Thiman

Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding, “Christ is nigh,” it seems to say; “cast away the dreams of darkness, O ye children of the day!” Wakened by the solemn warning, let the earthbound soul arise; Christ, her sun, all ill dispelling, shines upon the morning skies. Lo, the Lamb, so long expected, comes with pardon down from heaven; let us haste, with tears of sorrow, one and all to be forgiven; that when next he comes with glory and the world is wrapped in fear, with his mercy he may shield us and with words of love draw near. Christ, to thee be endless glory, from all on earth be praise, who from heaven wilt come to save us, and redeem from sinful ways. Honor, glory, might, and blessing, to the Father and the Son, with the everlasting Spirit, while eternal ages run. Amen.

FIRST LESSON Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11 (page 650, O.T.)

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

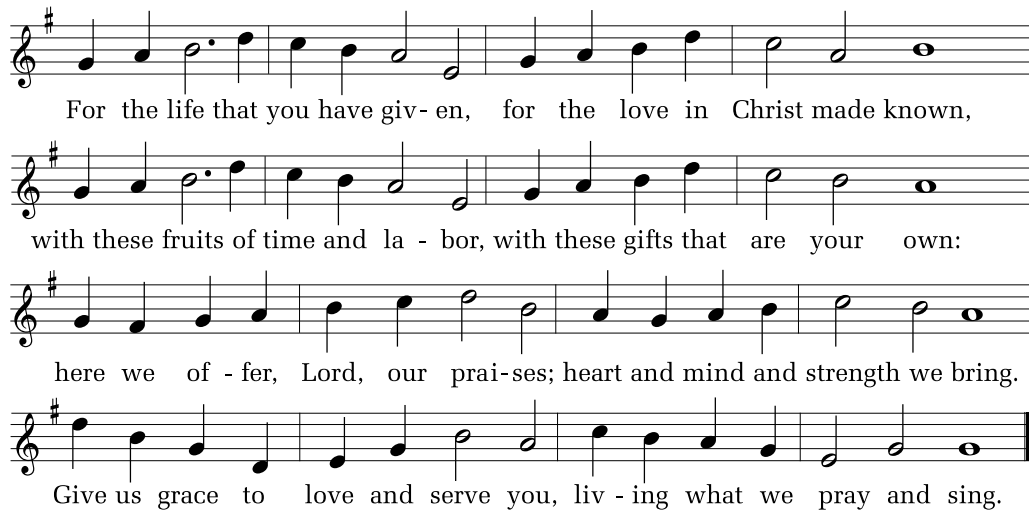
People: **Thanks be to God.**

- *GLORIA PATRI** (The Hymnal, 579)
- SECOND LESSON** Luke 1:26–38 (page 53, N.T.)
- SERMON** Saying Yes to God VICTORIA G. CURTISS
- *HYMN 19** “To a Maid Engaged to Joseph” *Tune: ANNUNCIATION*
- *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 SOLO** “The People That Walked in Darkness” from *Messiah*
George Frideric Handel
- The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light, and they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.

*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.

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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.**

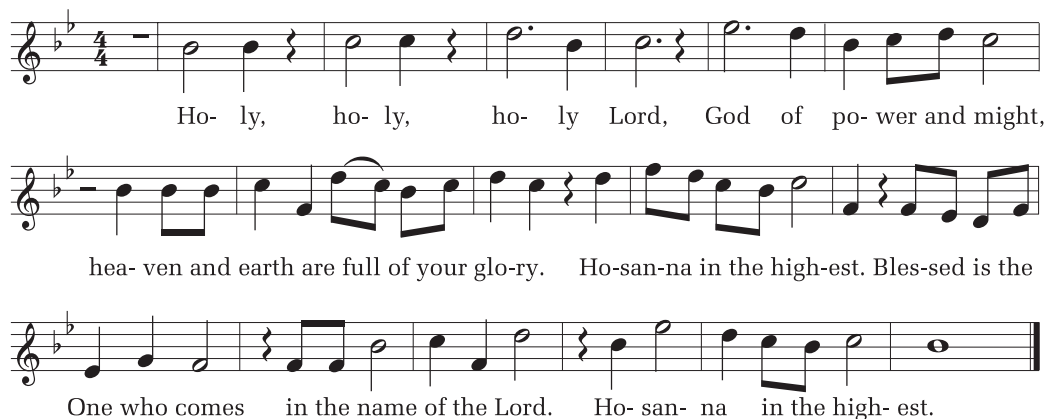
Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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.

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 ANTHEM "Come, Kingdom of Our God" *George Brandon*

Come, kingdom of our God. Sweet reign of light and love, shed peace and hope and joy abroad and wisdom from above. Come, kingdom of our God and make the broad earth thine; stretch over the lands and isles the rod that flowers with grace divine. Soon may all tribes be blest with fruit from life's glad tree and in its shade like children rest, all of one family.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (*unison*)

God incarnate, whom we have glimpsed in Christ Jesus and celebrated around this table, extend your revelation to us today. Draw us deeper into covenant with you, sustaining us by your steadfast love and faithfulness. Accomplish through our efforts to be faithful that which is impossible by human design alone. Amen.

***HYMN 11**

"O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?"

Tune: VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry *Bruce Neswick*

The Lord's Supper at Fourth Presbyterian Church

This morning, Communion is served by intinction. The congregation will come forward by the center aisle to receive the bread, which they will then dip into the chalice of grape juice. (Gluten-free bread is available in a small tumbler in each basket of bread.) Worshipers will return to their pews by the side aisles. All who confess Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord are invited to partake of the Lord's Supper.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Matthew J. Helms, Hardy H. Kim, Victoria G. Curtiss

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Michael Kazanjian

THE MUSIC TODAY

The Chancel Choir; Jerry Johnson, soloist

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.

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

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