

## MORNING WORSHIP

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

PRELUDE	Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine	<i>Hieronymus Praetorius arr. Erich Peterson</i>
	Jesus Comes with Clouds Descending	<i>Alan Ridout</i>
	Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming	<i>Michael Praetorius arr. E. Peterson</i>
	O Come, O Come, Emmanuel	<i>George Schafer</i>
	Good Christian Friends, Rejoice	<i>M. Praetorius arr. Aaron David Miller</i>

INTROIT	“Our King and Savior Draweth Nigh”	<i>Leo Sowerby</i>
	Our King and Savior draweth nigh; O come, let us adore him.	

\*DOXOLOGY (The Hymnal, 592)

### \*LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Leader: In the coming of Christ, we hear God’s message to us:  
“I have exalted one chosen from the people.  
I have found my servant David;  
with my holy oil I have anointed him;  
my hand shall always remain with him.”

People: **We shall cry out to Christ, “You are my God,  
the Rock of my salvation!”**

Leader: The fourth candle on the Advent wreath  
reminds us that our Savior has almost come.  
He will bring light to the darkness and hope to the world.

People: **We are called into God’s house to bear witness to the light.  
We are sent from God’s house to take light into 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 41 “O Come, All Ye Faithful” *Tune: ADESTE FIDELES*

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Minister: Arise, shine: for your light has come.

People: **O God, we live as if the light had never defeated the darkness in the world or in us.**

Minister: And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

People: **We confess that we ignore the Christ you sent to be among us, to be in us.**

Minister: For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you.

People: **We've kept the birth of your Son confined to the Christmas season and do not yearn for his birth each moment in our waiting hearts.**

Minister: And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

People: **Lord, you came to us in the fullness of time.  
Forgive us for not opening our eyes to your coming.  
It's time that we prepare for your coming.  
Let the earth ring with song. Let the light break forth.  
Let us all rejoice in the miracle of love.  
Let Christ come into the fullness of our time. Amen.**

## DECLARATION OF PARDON

Minister: Friends, believe the good news.

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

## RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

(11:00)

## CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

**PSALTER** Psalm 89:1–4 (*responsively*) (page 516, O.T.)

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

**SCRIPTURE LESSON** Luke 2:1–20 (page 54, N.T.)

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON** The Gift JOHN BUCHANAN  
“Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place.” Luke 2:15 (NRSV)

**\*HYMN 25** “Away in a Manger” *Tune:* MUELLER

**\* 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.**

**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.**

**PRAYER RESPONSE**

“Alleluia, Amen”

*Parke S. Barnard*

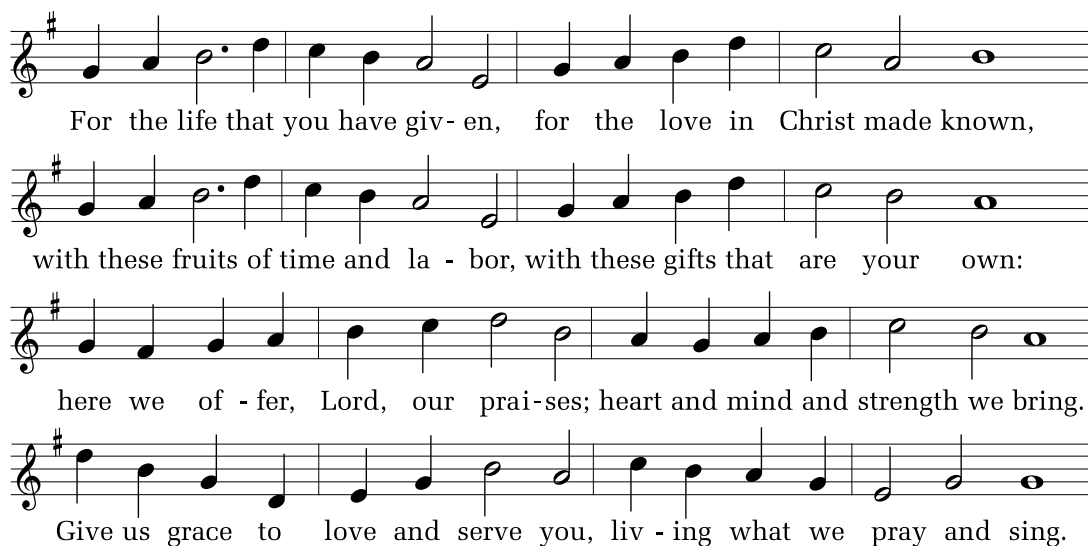
**OFFERTORY CANTATA**

“Gloria”

*John Rutter*

- I. Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
- II. Lord, Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father, receive our prayer.
- III. For you alone are the holy one, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the most high, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

## 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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## \*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

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.**

All: **God of mystery and might, we praise you and worship you, for you came in silence, while all lay sleeping, to enter our world as a child of humble birth. We thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ, born of your servant Mary. In his face we behold your glory, for in his life as in his death is your gift of salvation. By your Spirit, make our hearts burn with thanksgiving, that we may give as we have received. Let our whole lives be gifts of praise to you, God of love and peace, in the gracious name of Jesus Christ, your Son, by the power of your Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.**

## \*HYMN 31

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

*Tune:* MENDELSSOHN

## BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

### POSTLUDE

Final from *Noël*

*Marcel Dupré*

# Christmas Worship

## **Blue Christmas Service**

**Thursday, December 22**

6:30 p.m. in Anderson Hall

*For those for whom the  
Christmas celebration is made  
difficult by loss and sadness*

## **Christmas Day Service**

**Sunday, December 25**

11:00 a.m.

John Buchanan leading worship

*(No 8:00, 9:30 a.m.  
or 4:00 p.m. services)*

A traditional Christmas dinner in  
Anderson Hall will be served at  
12:30 p.m. Dinner tickets are  
available during Coffee Hour and at  
the reception desk during the week.

## **New Year's Day Services**

**Sunday, January 1**

11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

*(No 8:00 or 9:30 a.m. services)*

at Fourth  
Presbyterian  
Church

## **Four Christmas Eve Candlelight Services**

**Saturday, December 24**

4:00 p.m. *Children's Pageant*

6:00 p.m. *Family Service*

Adam H. Fronczek preaching

8:30 p.m. *Lessons and Carols*

John Buchanan preaching

11:00 p.m. *Lessons and Carols*

John Buchanan preaching

## **New Year's Eve Taizé Service**

**Saturday, December 31**

7:30 p.m.

## WORSHIP LEADERS

9:30 a.m. Victoria G. Curtiss, John W. Vest, John Buchanan

11:00 a.m. Victoria G. Curtiss, Hardy H. Kim, John Buchanan

## LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

9:30 a.m. The Ebie Family

11:00 a.m. Larry and Karen McCracken

## THE MUSIC TODAY

9:30 and 11:00 Tower Brass; The Morning Choir

Callie Thompson, Laura Perkett, and Elizabeth Anderson, soloists

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

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist and Handbell Director

Matthew Comerford, Artistic Director of Tower Brass

## 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.

**This morning’s Cantata, *Gloria***, was written in 1974 by English composer John Rutter (b. 1945). Set in Latin, it uses the traditional *Gloria in excelsis* text, which begins with the biblical words found in Luke 2:14. This ancient canticle is known as “the angels’ song” because of its opening sentence.

**The bulletin cover** photograph depicts a wreath and ribbon hanging in the Fourth Church chancel. The cover quote is from *The Collected Sermons of William Sloane Coffin: The Riverside Years*.

## 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 Pastoral 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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