



Fourth Sunday of Advent

Christmas Music Sunday



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 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 people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

People: **You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.**

Leader: For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

People: **For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.**

Leader: For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

People: **His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.**

*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 Come, All Ye Faithful”

Hearing and Proclaiming the Word

First Lesson Micah 5:2–4

(page 815, O.T.)

***Hymn** “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Second Lesson Luke 1:26–35, 38

(page 53, N.T.)

Anthem “The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came”

Third Lesson Luke 2:1–12

(page 54, N.T.)

***Hymn** “What Child Is This”

Fourth Lesson Luke 2:13–20

(page 55, N.T.)

***Carol** “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

Sealing the Word

Sharing of Gifts

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

Offertory Music “O Holy Night”

Adolphe Adam

***Doxology**

Lucy Smith

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

The Great Thanksgiving

Leader: God of light, in whom there is no shadow,
your gifts to us are from the very beginning of time.

People: **They began with creation,
when your Spirit gave form to chaos,
when your word brought forth light on the face of the earth.**

Leader: They continued with our ancient ancestors,
like Noah, whom you saved and blessed,
sealing your promise with the sign of the rainbow.

People: **They continued with ancestors like Sarah and Abraham,
whom you blessed with a promised child,
whose descendants are as numerous as the stars,
shining lights for the people of the world.**

Leader: In the desert, you gave gifts of manna and living water,
leading faithful pilgrims by night and day.

People: **You made covenant with your people
and gifted them with laws,
sending prophets to speak your words
and priests to intercede on their behalf.**

Leader: When the time was right,
you sent your light into the world
in the form of a little child.

People: **Fragile and vulnerable,
like each one of us,
he grew to be our savior and lord.**

All: **We thank you, God,
that you have sent Jesus Christ to be our light.
As we lift to you our song of thanks,
help us to receive your gifts with joy and humility.**

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 "In the Bleak Midwinter"

Gustav Theodore Holst

Prayer After Communion (*unison*)

**We give you thanks, O God, that you have come to us through Jesus,
in a particular time and place so long ago, and in the timeless presence
of Christ among us even now. Send us out into the world rejoicing,
full of your Spirit, ready to share your love with the people we meet.
Amen.**



Sending

Fifth Lesson John 1:1–5

(page 86, N.T.)

***Closing Hymn** "Joy to the World!"

***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
Adam H. Fronczek	Associate Pastor
Lucy Smith Jazz Quartet	

Acknowledgments

Words—The Advent Reading is adapted from *Alternative Worship: Resources from and for the Emerging Church*. The Great Thanksgiving is adapted from *Flames of the Spirit: Resources for Worship*, edited by Ruth C. Duck (The Pilgrim Press, 1985).

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

Church office: 126 E. Chestnut Street, Chicago, IL 60611.2014; www.fourthchurch.org
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 Pastoral Care, at 312.573.3360 (jwatt@fourthchurch.org).

News and Opportunities

Advent and Christmas

Reflections by John Buchanan on his favorite Advent and Christmas memories are being posted online at www.facebook.com/fourthchurch throughout the season.

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.

A “Blue Christmas” Service, for those experiencing grief or loss, will take place on Thursday, December 22 at 6:30 p.m. in Anderson Hall.

Tickets for the annual Christmas Dinner held at 12:30 p.m. Christmas Day are available at the 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), at www.facebook.com/fourthchurch, and via Twitter (@FourthChicago).

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 take place at 11:00 a.m.; 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. worship will *not* be held that day.

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

The weekly 4:00 p.m. Jazz Service will not be held on Christmas Day, December 25, but will resume on Sunday, January 1.

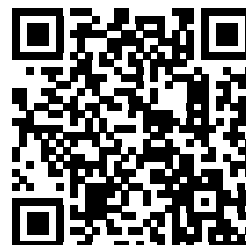
New Year’s Day worship will take place at 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.; 8:00 and 9:30 a.m. Sunday services will *not* be held that day.

Morning Prayer is held weekdays in the Sanctuary at 9:30 a.m., except Tuesdays, when it is at 9:00 a.m. All are invited to join staff for the opportunity to remember in prayer members of the Fourth Church congregation and those in need.

A service in the style of Taizé will be held on New Year’s Eve, Saturday, December 31 at 7:30 p.m. 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.



News and Opportunities

Children, Youth, and Family

Fourth Church youth, which usually 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, will not meet next Sunday, December 25 or Sunday, January 1.

Sunday School classes will not meet on December 25 or January 1. Classes will resume on January 8.

College-age youth, from eighteen to twenty-two, and their families are invited to a gathering on Christmas Eve from 9:30 to 10:30 p.m. in the Crow's Nest for refreshments and fellowship. For details, contact Kimberlee Frost at 312.981.4035 (kfrost@fourthchurch.org).

Moms' Groups for new moms and moms of six- to twelve-year-olds meet regularly. For details, contact Liz Nickerson at 312.573.3366 (lnickerson@fourthchurch.org).

Music and the Arts

Light, the new CD featuring the Fourth Church Choirs, is available by contacting Ryan Loeckel at 312.640.2570 (rloeckel@fourthchurch.org).

Duo pianists Brian Lee and William Phemister will perform this Friday's free Noonday Concert at 12:10 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Fellowship

Young Adults meets on Sundays at 12:30 p.m. at the 737 building for fellowship and an Advent discussion. Their Christmas party will take place this Tuesday, December 20 at 7:00 p.m. in the Manse. For details, contact Matt Helms at 312.981.4034 (mhelms@fourthchurch.org).

Cornerstones will gather for "History of Tap Dance," on Friday, January 6 at the 737 building. To register (required), call the Cornerstones Infoline at 312.787.2729, ext. 454 by Wednesday, January 4.

Enrichment

Join us in reading through the entire Bible in a year! Beginning on January 1, Fourth Church will launch a congregation-wide Bible study that will take us through the entire Bible by December 31. A weekly Bible study of the texts for the week will be offered in 2012 on Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m. and repeated on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. Daily devotions (available via Facebook, Twitter, the website, and in the literature racks) will also reflect on the daily readings. For more information, visit www.fourthchurch.org/bibleyear.html.

Men's Bible Study, which meets on the first and third Tuesdays of the month, will gather on Tuesday, December 20 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).

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

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

News and Resources

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.

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. 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.

John Buchanan's last Sunday as Pastor of Fourth Church will be January 29. He will preach at 8:00, 9:30, and 11:30 a.m. services that day. An open house reception for John and Sue will follow the 11:30 service and will be held at the Drake Hotel.

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 at the church 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 as a gift from the congregation.

Help us honor John Buchanan by raising \$800,000 by December 31—through 2011 pledge fulfillments and gifts to the annual operations of the church and to "Light Up a Life"—so that we can fulfill his hope that Fourth Church can begin 2012 with a balanced budget (www.fourthchurch.org/johnbuchananletter1211.html).

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. A receipt will be printed immediately, and gifts can be made anonymously or recorded to Fourth Church giving records.

Christmas Worship

at Fourth
Presbyterian
Church

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

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

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 Eve Taizé Service

Saturday, December 31 • 7:30 p.m.

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)

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 Pastoral 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 Pastoral 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, January 9 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.; Saturday, January 14 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon; or Sunday, January 29 from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. For membership information, contact Hardy Kim, Associate Pastor for Evangelism, at 312.981.3399 (hkim@fourthchurch.org).