**Morning Worship**

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

**Prelude**
The Old Year Has Passed Away  
*Johann Sebastian Bach*  
Annum per Annum  
*Arvo Pärt*

**Introit**
“A New Year Carol”  
*Paul Stetsenko*

Here we bring new water from the well so clear,  
for to worship God with, this happy new year.  
Sing levy dew, the water and the wine;  
the seven bright gold wires and the bugles that do shine.  
Sing reign of fair maid, with gold upon her toe,  
open you the west door and turn the old year go;  
open the east door and let the new year in.

**Doxology and Invocation**  
(The Hymnal, 592)

**Hymn 308**
“O Sing a Song of Bethlehem”  
*Tune: Kingsfold*

**Prayer of Confession**  
(unison)

God of new beginnings,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you  
with our whole heart and mind and strength.  
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
In your mercy forgive what we have been  
and help us amend what we are.  
On this first day of a new year,  
give us the opportunity for a fresh start.  
Guide us in your ways  
that we may delight in your will,  
now and forever. Amen.

**Declaration of Pardon**

Minister: Friends, believe the good news.  
People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**Concerns of the Church**

*Stand as you are able.*

Minister: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM  “Nunc Dimittis”  Benjamin P. Simmons

O Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word, for mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; to be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

PSALTER  Psalm 8 (responsively)  (page 466, O.T.)

*GLORIA PATRI (The Hymnal, 579)

SECOND LESSON  Revelation 21:1–6a  (page 244, N.T.)

SERMON  What This New Year Holds in Store  John W. Vest

*HYMN 472  “O Sing to the Lord”  Brazilian folk song

*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 “To My Humble Supplication” Louis Bourgeois
To my humble supplication, Lord,
give ear and acceptation; save thy servant
that hath none help nor hope but thee alone. Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM “Now Is the Old Year Passed Away” Michael Praetorius
Now is the old year passed away,
let us begin the new this day,
praising our God who here on earth
kept us in quietness and mirth!
O, like the glad new year may we wholly
renewed this day be, praising our God eternally.
Child of our love, O Jesu dear,
thou who art still our Savior here,
thee do we pray with all heart,
evermore leave us nor depart.
Save us from war, from hate and fear;
keep us in peace together here.
Grant us a tranquil, joyous year.
Gladly together then will we,
O highest God of heaven,
to thee bring through the year our songs of praise;
and evermore through endless days,
here while on earth our time shall be;
and then through all eternity,
singing with joyful hearts to thee!
**Presentation of the Offering and Response**

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: Eternal God,
   who makes all things new,
   we thank you for good gifts of life.
   Help us to begin this year in your faith
   and to continue it in your grace.
   Guided by you in all our doings,
   we dedicate our lives to your service.
   Use us, and these gifts we bring,
   to proclaim the good news of your kingdom
   in Jesus Christ our Lord.
   Amen.

*Hymn 275*  
“God of Our Life”  
*Tune: Sandon*

**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: Eternal God,
   who makes all things new,
   we thank you for good gifts of life.
   Help us to begin this year in your faith
   and to continue it in your grace.
   Guided by you in all our doings,
   we dedicate our lives to your service.
   Use us, and these gifts we bring,
   to proclaim the good news of your kingdom
   in Jesus Christ our Lord.
   Amen.

*Hymn 275*  
“God of Our Life”  
*Tune: Sandon*

**Benediction and Response**

**Postlude**  
Fanfare for the New Year  
*Calvin Hampton*
The needlepoint cushions in the chancel, including thirteen cushions, faux carving, panels of wheat and grapes, and the gold cross, are the handiwork of Morgan Simmons, a member of this congregation and, from 1968 to 1996, organist and choirmaster of Fourth Church. The combined number of stitches for these works approaches 2 million, 169 per square inch. Central to each of the upper and lower chancel cushions is a religious symbol (shown here), surrounded by clusters of grapes, which echo the motif found in many of the chancel and pulpit carvings and in the stained glass windows.
Worship Leaders
11:00 a.m.  Adam H. Fronczek, Joyce Shin, John W. Vest

The Music Today
11:00 a.m.  The Morning Choir

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

Worship Notes

Today’s first anthem, “Nunc Dimittis” was composed by Benjamin Simmons, the grandson of Morgan and Mary Simmons, and the piece is dedicated to them. Morgan Simmons was Organist and Choirmaster at Fourth Church from 1968 to 1996 and Mary was Associate Organist during that same time. Benjamin Simmons is currently a student at St. Olaf College in Minnesota. The St. Olaf Choir will be in concert at Fourth Church on Friday, February 10 at 7:30 p.m. (Tickets are available from St. Olaf at www.stolaftickets.com; 800.363.5487.)

Fourth Church offers a variety of worship opportunities each week. On Sunday mornings throughout the year, there are three services: 8:00 Communion, 9:30, and 11:00 a.m. An afternoon jazz service with Communion is also held on Sundays. On weekday mornings, Morning Prayer is held in the Sanctuary as a time to remember in prayer members of the Fourth Church congregation and those in need (9:00 a.m. on Tuesday; 9:30 a.m. on Monday—except tomorrow, January 2—Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday). A Taizé service is held at 7:30 p.m. on the fourth Friday of each month except for November and December. In December, the Taizé service is held on New Year’s Eve at 7:30 p.m.

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

This worship bulletin is printed on recyclable paper that contains recycled post-consumer waste and is acid free. The printing is done with inks having low volatile organic compounds and formulated with soy and vegetable oils. All bulletins and inserts left in the baskets by the doors are recycled.