**MORNING WORSHIP**

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

**Prelude**

We Thank You, God  
*Johann Sebastian Bach*

Now Thank We All Our God  
*J. S. Bach*

We Gather Together  
*Wilbur Held*

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing  
*Robert Lau*

Praise God, from Whom All Blessing Flow  
*Clarence Eddy*

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

**Hymn 559**  
“We Gather Together”  
*Tune: Kremser*

**Prayer of Confession** *(unison)*

Loving God,
in your generous presence
we confess our sin and the sin of this world.
Although Christ is among us as our peace,
we are a people divided against ourselves
as we cling to the values of a broken world.
The profit and pleasures we pursue
lay waste the land and pollute the seas.
The fears and jealousies that we harbor
set neighbor against neighbor
and nation against nation.
We abuse your good gifts
of imagination and freedom,
of intellect and reason,
and have turned them into bonds of oppression.
Lord, have mercy upon us;
heal and forgive us.
Set us free to serve you in the world
as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ.
Amen.

*Stand as you are able*
**DECLARATION OF PARDON**

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

**CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH**

**PSALTER**

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

**ANTHEM**

“*The Lord Is Good*” *Christopher Tye*

The Lord is good; his love will raise a joyful harvest song.
Sing “He is good!” and let his praise from every tongue be heard.
The Lord is good!
He gives us bread; he gives his children more.
The Lord is good!
By him their souls with grace are fed a rich and endless store.

**FIRST LESSON**

Joel 2:21–27 (page 799, O.T.)

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

**GLORIA PATRI**

(The Hymnal, 579)

**SECOND LESSON**

Matthew 6:25–33 (page 6, N.T.)

**SERMON**

Strive First  
*Hardy H. Kim*

“But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” Matthew 6:33 *(NRSV)*

**HYMN 552**

“Give Thanks, O Christian People”  
*Tune: ES FLOG EIN KLEINS WALDVÖGELEIN*
*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 Anthem** “Let All Things Now Living”   *Welsh melody*

arr. Katherine Davis

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving to
God the creator triumphantly raise, who fashioned
and made us, protected and stayed us, who guideth
us on to the end of our days. His banners are over us,
his light goes before us, a pillar of fire shining forth in
the night, till shadows have vanished and darkness is
banished, as forward we travel from light into light!
His law he enforces, the stars in their courses, the
sun in his orbit obediently shine. The hills and the
mountains, the rivers and fountains, the deeps of the
ocean proclaim him divine. We, too, should be voicing
our love and rejoicing; with glad adoration, a song let
us raise till all things now living unite in thanksgiving,
to God in the highest, hosanna and praise!
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 all mercies,
we give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
that we encounter in the gifts of your creation.
We give you thanks for all the blessings of this life
and ask that you would add to them
only the vision we need
to live as a grateful community,
committed to the stewardship of your earth
and the welfare of all your people.
Receive the gifts we bring
as a sign of our pledge to you this day.
In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

*HYMN 555 “Now Thank We All Our God”

Tune: NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

POSTLUDE Thanksgiving Richard Purvis
Advent at Fourth Presbyterian Church

Join us in this beautiful season of watching and waiting, as we ready ourselves for the observances of Christmas and set aside time to prepare our hearts and lives to receive the gift that comes to us in the stable.

❄

Sunday Advent Services

December 2 ♦ December 9 ♦ December 16 ♦ December 23
8:00, 9:30, and 11:00 a.m.; 4:00 p.m.

❄

Tom Long Preaching December 2 and 9
9:30 and 11:00 a.m.

On the first two Sundays of Advent, we are honored to be able to welcome to the Fourth Church pulpit Tom Long, named by Baylor University one of the twelve most-effective preachers in the English-speaking world. Dr. Long is the Bandy Professor of Preaching at Candler School of Theology at Emory University and author and editor of several books on preaching and worship.

❄

Advent Festival of Lessons and Music

Sunday, December 16 ♦ 6:30 p.m.
Followed by a holiday reception in Anderson Hall

❄

Blue Christmas Service

Thursday, December 20 ♦ 6:30 p.m. ♦ Buchanan Chapel
For those for whom the Christmas celebration is made difficult by loss and sadness

❄

Christmas Cantata

Sunday, December 23
During 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. worship
WORSHIP LEADERS
Hardy H. Kim, Associate Pastor for Evangelism

THE MUSIC TODAY
Members of the Morning Choir
John W. W. Sherer, Organist and Director of Music

WORSHIP NOTES
The “Light Up a Life” offering is being received throughout November and December. It supports congregational programs, mission, and community outreach, including Chicago Lights programs, and denominational programs. “Light Up a Life” gifts can be made by 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.

Fourth Church offers a variety of Sunday worship opportunities:
an 8:00 a.m. Communion service, services at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.,
and a 4:00 p.m. jazz service with Communion. For more information about worship at Fourth Church, visit www.fourthchurch.org/worship.

PASTORAL STAFF
Calum I. MacLeod, Executive Associate Pastor and Head of Staff
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
Edwin Estevez, Pastoral Resident
John Buchanan, Pastor Emeritus

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