



First Sunday of Advent

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”

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Leader 1: What are these candles for?

Leader 2: This is an Advent candle ring.

It shows the circle of God’s unbroken love.

There are five candles.

We shall light a new candle each Sunday from now until Christmas.

Leader 1: What is the point of doing this?

Leader 2: Because what I hear, I can forget, but what I also see and do
I can remember and I understand.

People: **As we light our Advent candles, may they bring us together
in the warm light of God’s love.**

Leader 2: The Gospel of Luke speaks about the future:

People: **“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth,
distress among nations. People will faint from fear and foreboding.”**

Leader 1: Because our world is full of fear and distress, we light our first candle,
trusting that Christ is alive on earth and that the Spirit of Christ lives among us.
Living Christ, give us faith to trust in you.

People: **We trust you, we love you, we praise you. Amen.**

***Opening Hymn** “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Merciful God, always with us, always coming:

we confess that we do not know how to prepare for your Advent.

We have forgotten how to hope in miracles;

we have ignored the promise of your kingdom;

we get distracted by all the busyness of this season.

Forgive us, God.

Grant us the simple wonder of the shepherds,

the intelligent courage of the Magi, and the patient faith of Mary and Joseph,

that we may journey with them to Bethlehem

and find the good news of a child born for us.

Now, in the quiet of our hearts, we ask you to make us ready for his coming.

Amen.

***Assurance of Pardon**

Leader: Friends, believe the good news.

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

***Passing of the Peace**

Leader: As forgiven children of God, 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.

***Song** "Soon and Very Soon"

Hearing and Proclaiming the Word

Scripture Jeremiah 33:14–16

(page 694, O.T.)

Sermon by Adam H. Fronczek

Jazz Improvisation

Sealing the Word

Sharing of Gifts

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

Offertory Music "Let There Be Peace on Earth"

Sy Miller and Jill Jackson

***Doxology**

Lucy Smith

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

The 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!**

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 "As Members of the Body"

Samuel Sebastian Wesley

Prayer after Communion *(unison)*

**God, as we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ,
we thank you for preparing our spirits
through these gifts of the bread and cup.
As we go out into the world this week,
help us to look to the future before us
and live as people of hope. Amen.**

Sending

***Closing Song** "Watchman, Tell Us of the Night"

***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

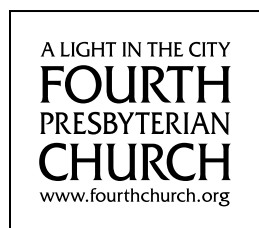
Adam H. Fronczek	Associate Pastor
Edwin Estevez	Pastoral Resident
Maria Eppler	Lay Liturgist
Lucy Smith Quartet	

Acknowledgments

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

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



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

News and Opportunities

News and Resources

Docent-led tours of the Gratz Center are being offered on Saturday, December 8 between 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon and on Sunday, December 9 at 9:15 a.m., 10:45 a.m., 12:15 p.m., and 3:00 p.m. Look for the docents in the Gignilliat Commons of the Gratz Center.

Help create the ribbon to be cut at the Community Grand Opening of the Gratz Center, to be held Saturday, January 12, when we celebrate with our neighbors this new building. Ribbon pieces to decorate are available by contacting Rob Koon at 312.981.3593 (rkoon@fourthchurch.org).

The Pastor Nominating Committee is currently in a several-month quiet phase as they review Pastor Information Forms of about 200 possible candidates and begin to learn more about those individuals, an undertaking that requires the strictest confidentiality, given the candidates are currently serving elsewhere. For details about the PNC process, see www.fourthchurch.org/pnc.

The Gratz Center donor wall in the Gignilliat Commons includes the names, randomly placed, of all who contributed to the building project. While every effort was made to ensure complete accuracy, including contacting all donors this past summer for verification of the desired listing of the name, if there is an error in your listing, please call Wydetta Carter at 312.274.3833.

Enrichment

Academy for Faith and Life classes take place on Sundays in the Gratz Center. "Growing in Service, Growing in Spirit," led by Vicky Curtiss (Room 5F), and "The Church and the Definition of Marriage," led by John Vest and Adam Fronczek (Room 5G), will meet at 9:30 a.m. "Love and Conflict," led by John Boyle (Room 5F), and "Christianity outside the Presbyterian Church," led by Bruce Rigdon (Room 5G), will meet at 11:00 a.m.

Books by Women will discuss *Literary Ladies' Guide to the Writing Life* by Nava Atlas on Tuesday, December 11 at 6:00 p.m. in the Bumpus Activity Room of the Gratz Center. For information, contact Anne Ellis at 312.573.3369 (aellis@fourthchurch.org).

A study trip to Greece and Turkey will be led by Adam Fronczek April 30–May 13. Applications are due Friday, January 18. For details or an application form, contact Adam at 312.640.5398 (afronczek@fourthchurch.org).

Music and the Arts

A meet-and-greet with the artists of the current exhibition of artwork from Fourth Church members, staff, and program participants will take place on Sunday, December 9 in the Loggia following 11:00 a.m. worship.

Have you seen the photos from the dedication celebration of the Gratz Center and Buchanan Chapel? They're posted on the Fourth Church page on Facebook (facebook.com/fourthchurch, or scan the QR code at right), where you can also find photos of the recent Day School presidential election, information about Advent concerts and activities, recent sermons and prayers, and more!



News and Opportunities

Advent and Christmas

Through **“Light Up a Life” gifts**, you can 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 at www.fourthchurch.org.

The **“Christmas Wishes” gift project** collects gifts for more than 700 children who might not otherwise receive them. Wish lists are available by contacting Anne Ellis at 312.573.3369 (aellis@fourthchurch.org).

“A Chanticleer Christmas” concert will take place on Tuesday and Wednesday, December 4 and 5 at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Tickets are available at www.cso.org.

Chicago a cappella will perform the concert “Navidad en México” this Friday, December 7 at 8:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Tickets are available at the door and at www.chicagoacappella.org.

Men’s Group will gather for breakfast and the presentation “Sinners and Saints: Religious Characters and Themes in Opera,” led by Carl Grapentine of WFMT 98.7, this Saturday, December 8 at 8:00 a.m. in Borwell Dining Room. To RSVP (required), call 312.787.4570 by Wednesday, December 5.

Help decorate the Sanctuary and Gratz Center and also memorialize or honor loved ones by contributing to the purchase of Christmas flowers and garlands. A list of those remembered will be printed in the Christmas bulletin. Contributions can be made using forms in the literature racks and online at www.fourthchurch.org. Completed forms must be returned by Friday, December 14 for names to appear in the bulletin.

The **“Christmas Gift Bag” project** provides gifts for Sunday Night Supper guests. Instructions and a bag, to decorate and fill, are available at reception. Filled bags are to be returned by Sunday, December 9.

“Christmas and Consumerism: Advice for Parents” will be led by Susan Schemper on Sunday, December 9 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 5A of the Gratz Center. For details, contact Liz Nickerson at 312.573.3366 (lnickerson@fourthchurch.org).

A CLL Holiday Luncheon will be held on Thursday, December 20 at 11:30 a.m. in Borwell Dining Room. Adults sixty and more are invited to attend. To RSVP (required), contact Ashley Elskus at 312.981.3387 (aelskus@fourthchurch.org) by Tuesday, December 11.

The **“Christmas with Tower Brass”** concert will take place on Saturday, December 22 at 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Volunteers and Donations

Current Volunteer Needs

Volunteers to lead seminars on legal assistance, health/medical information, nutrition, job searches, housing rights, public benefits, life skills, and art appreciation

Substitute tutors for the Chicago Lights Tutoring program, one evening each week

Current Donation Needs

Men’s winter clothes in larger sizes (coats, sweaters, pants, boots, socks, etc.)

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

Mission and Outreach

“Two for Blu” Carnival Getaway drawing tickets are available during Coffee Hour following morning worship services or by contacting Andrea Miller at 312.640.2576 (amiller@fourthchurch.org). The getaway includes two tickets to Carnival, the annual gala benefiting Chicago Lights, the Counseling Center, and the Center for Life and Learning; an overnight stay for two at the Radisson Blu; and breakfast the next morning.

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, stop by reception or contact Nancy Davis at 312.274.3815 (ndavis@fourthchurch.org).

Dominican Republic trip applications are due today. The application form and information about this March mission trip are available online at www.fourthchurch.org/mission/trips.html.

The Benevolent Guild will gather this Wednesday, December 5 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 5B to create tray favors and stuffed animals for hospitalized children. For information, call Anne Ellis at 312.573.3369.

The Near North Unity Program, a neighborhood organization that seeks to strengthen community health and cohesion on the Near North Side, will host a public celebration on Thursday, December 6 at 6:00 p.m. at 1111 N. Wells St. All are invited to attend and learn about the organization’s plans for 2013. Hors d’oeuvres will be served.

Worship

Tom Long, named one of the twelve most-effective preachers in the English-speaking world by Baylor University, will preach at the 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. services next Sunday, December 9.

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

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 opportunity to remember in prayer members of the Fourth Church congregation and those in need.

Special prayer requests are included in intercessory prayer in Stone Chapel on Sundays. Individuals can pray there with a Deacon at 10:30 a.m. or 12:15 p.m. or place their prayer requests, written on paper, in one of the prayer boxes outside Stone Chapel or in the Narthex.

Children, Youth, and Family

Sunday School classes are held each week at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. on the fourth floor of the Gratz Center.

Fourth Church Youth (grades 6–12) meet on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. in the Bumpus Activity Room of the Gratz Center.

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.

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.

Please turn off all cell phones when in the Sanctuary.

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 for children, are available from a greeter.

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/index.html.

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 Judy Watt, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care, at 312.573.3360 (jwatt@fourthchurch.org).

If You Are New to Fourth Church

Inquirers' Class explores Presbyterian history and beliefs. This one-session class is also a prerequisite for membership and includes a light meal. Attend Monday, December 3 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.; Saturday, December 8 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon; or Sunday, December 16 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).

Information about opportunities and resources available to you here at Fourth Church is available in the literature racks as you're leaving the church. You can also find information on our website (www.fourthchurch.org), our page on Facebook ([facebook.com/fourthchurch](https://www.facebook.com/fourthchurch)), and in our weekly email newsletter (send addresses to news@fourthchurch.org).

If you are interested in considering baptism or membership at the 4:00 p.m. service at Fourth Presbyterian Church, please see Adam Fronczek or any pastor involved in the service. Information is available about the Baptism Seminar and Inquirers' Class, which are necessary for preparation. A monthly opportunity to be baptized or join the church at the 4:00 service is available on December 16, January 27, February 24, March 24, and April 28.

Sunday parking is available at 900 North Michigan (access from Rush or Walton Street) at the rate of \$8. Validation tickets must be picked up from the 126 E. Chestnut St. reception desk. There is no discounted afternoon parking at the Hancock garage.