

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

We are grateful for your presence and invite you to participate in the worship, program, and service life of Fourth Church.

During Today's Worship

Large-print bulletins, Bibles, and hymnals 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 child needs care or becomes disruptive during the worship service, you may leave the Sanctuary and return as you wish. Child care for infants through two-year-olds is provided in the Nursery, which is located on the first floor of the Gratz Center. See an usher for directions.

Worship folders, containing quiet activities and a bulletin designed for children, are available from the ushers outside the south transept doors, between the Sanctuary and Anderson Hall, and in the Narthex, at the back of 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.

Please turn off all cell phones when in the Sanctuary.

If You Are New to Fourth Church

Please wear a lapel pin, found in the pew racks, so we may greet you after worship.

We invite you to stop by Coffee Hour after worship for fellowship, conversation, and information about church programs and volunteer opportunities.

A church tour begins at 12:15 p.m., starting at the back of the Sanctuary.

A tour of the organ begins at 12:15 p.m. at the front of the Sanctuary.

Parking is available on Sundays at 900 North Michigan (access from Rush or Walton Street) at the rate of \$8. Validation tickets for the 900 garage must be picked up during morning Coffee Hour or from the Chestnut Street reception desk. Discounted parking at the Hancock garage, 875 North Michigan, is available on Sunday mornings only, at the rate of \$6 for three hours. Hancock tickets must be validated in the Narthex.

Inquirers' Class explores Presbyterian history and beliefs. This one-session class is also a prerequisite for membership and includes a light meal.

Attend Sunday, December 16 from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.; Monday, January 7

from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.; or Saturday, January 19 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

For membership information, contact Hardy Kim, Associate Pastor for Evangelism, at 312.981.3399 (hkim@fourthchurch.org).

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, contact Judith Watt, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care, at 312.573.3360 (jwatt@fourthchurch.org). Please note that under current law, medical institutions no longer automatically inform churches when a member is admitted.

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

MORNING WORSHIP

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

PRELUDE

“Sleepers, Wake!” A Voice Astounds Us

Johann Sebastian Bach

Two Hymn Improvisations for Advent

Paul Manz

Savior of the Nations, Come

Comfort, Comfort You My People

Benedictus

Alec Rowley

INTROIT

“Prepare the Way of the Lord”

Richard Proulx

Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight his paths.

Rejoice, the Lord is at hand. Prepare.

*DOXOLOGY

(The Hymnal, 592)

*LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Leader: In a hopeful time, a time like Advent,
the psalmist declares, “Let me hear what God the Lord
will speak, for God will speak peace to God’s people.”
(Psalm 85:8–9)

People: **“Surely salvation is at hand for those who fear God,
that God’s glory may dwell in our land.”**

Leader: We light a second candle on the Advent wreath
to remind us that God’s presence
is becoming brighter in our world.

People: **The light of Christ reminds us to move
beyond fear to caring, beyond self to neighbor,
beyond protection to growth.**

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 8

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

Tune: TRURO

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(unison)*

Lord Christ, we confess our willingness to be loved
but also our reluctance to love.
We confess our readiness to accept your forgiving love
but also our refusal to forgive.
We confess our eagerness to grasp
your offer of redeeming love
but also our resistance to follow you without question.
In this Advent time,
forgive us our failure to respond as we should.
Come to us anew, and by your grace,
assist us to receive you
with joy, as the shepherds;
with gratitude, as Simeon;
with obedience, as Mary;
with love, as you have loved us.
Even so: come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Minister: Friends, believe the good news.

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

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

UNISON PRAYER

Holy God, remind us of the promises given
in our own baptism and renew our trust in you.
Make us strong to obey your will and to serve you with joy;
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

ANTHEM

“All My Hope”

Dave Brubeck

All my hope is in you, O Lord; you are my rock and my strength.
Hope in darkness, my hope in light, you are my rock and
my strength. My hope, my light, my peace, my joy, my faith,
my everlasting life.

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 52:7–10

(page 642, O.T.)

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

*GLORIA PATRI

(The Hymnal, 579)

SECOND LESSON

Luke 3:1–6

(page 56, N.T.)

SERMON

When the Gospel Becomes Local

THOMAS LONG

***HYMN 3**

“Comfort, Comfort You My People”

Tune: PSALM 42

***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 “Amen”

Florence Worthington

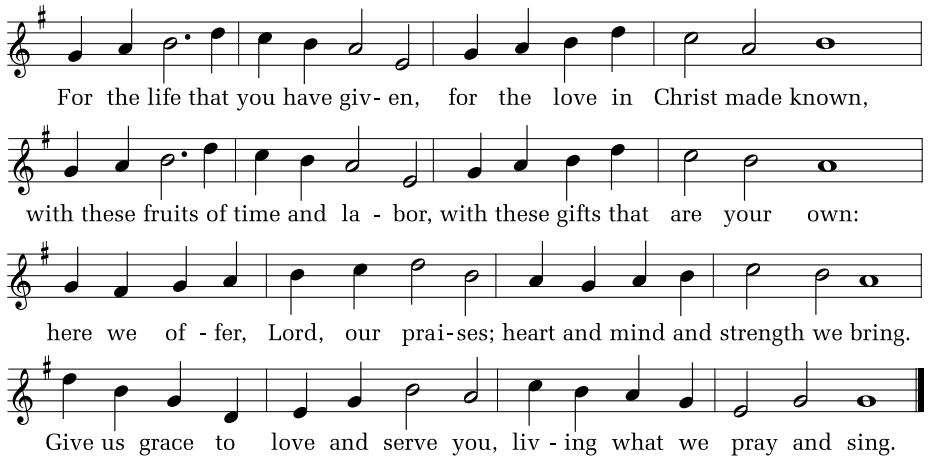
OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM “People, Look East”

*Besançon carol
arr. Robert Evans*

People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year. Make your house fair as you are able. Trim the hearth and set the table. People, look east and sing today: love the guest is on the way. Birds, though ye long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be filled. Even the hour when wings are frozen he for fledgling time has chosen. People, look east and sing today: love the bird is on the way. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall brim, shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together. People, look east and sing today: love the star is on the way. Angels, announce to man and beast him who cometh from the east. Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming. People, look east and sing today: love the Lord is on the way.

*PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING AND 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.

Words: Carl P. Daw Jr. ©1987; Music: Morgan Simmons ©1990, 1992 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission.

*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: **O Mighty One,**

**you have done and are doing great things for us,
and holy is your name.**

Bless all we offer you—

ourselves, our time, and our possessions—

that through us your grace and favor

may be made known to all the world,

for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Amen.

*HYMN 20

“Watchman, Tell Us of the Night”

Tune: ABERYSTWYTH

BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

The King of Glory Comes

*Israeli folk song
arr. Aaron David Miller*

“Let the little children come to me . . .
for it is to such as these that the
kingdom of heaven belongs.”

Matthew 19:14 (NRSV)

Baptism

at Fourth Presbyterian Church

On the second Sunday of each month, Fourth Church includes the Sacrament of Baptism in morning worship. Baptism is the sign and seal of God's grace and covenant in Christ. As *The Book of Order* of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) explains, baptism signifies the faithfulness of God, the washing away of sin, rebirth, putting on the fresh garment of Christ, and adoption into the covenant family of the church.

The baptism of children witnesses to the truth that God's love claims people before they are able to respond in faith. The congregation, on behalf of the whole church, assumes responsibility for nurturing the baptized children in the Christian life, and it is for this reason that the congregation makes such a promise during the service. In the unison prayer we also remember that we too were baptized and as children of God are part of the worldwide family of faith.

Those being baptized at the 9:30 worship service are

Chase Cameron Gruner, son of Martin and Kelly Gruner
Ainsley Lael Douglas Sorenson,
daughter of Matthew Sorenson and Dana Douglas

Those being baptized at the 11:00 worship service are

Kinley Grace Baise, daughter of Joel and Kendra Baise
Barrett Edward Holsteen, son of Charles and Chelsi Holsteen
Drake Michael McDowell Olivier, son of Kim Olivier
Avin Jade Steers, daughter of William and Paige Steers
Watson Corbet Steers, son of William and Paige Steers

WORSHIP LEADERS

9:30 a.m. Donna Gray, Calum I. MacLeod, Thomas Long

11:00 a.m. Victoria G. Curtiss, Calum I. MacLeod, Thomas Long

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

9:30 a.m. Gordon and Paula Addington

THE MUSIC TODAY

9:30 a.m. The Morning Choir

11:00 a.m. The Morning Choir

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

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

WORSHIP NOTES

The anthem “All My Hope” was composed by jazz legend Dave Brubeck, who died on Wednesday. We remember with gratitude Dave’s longtime friendship with this congregation and his several concert performances in this Sanctuary.

Fourth Church welcomes back to the pulpit Thomas Long, the Bandy Professor of Preaching at Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Atlanta.

The “Light Up a Life” offering supports congregational programs, mission, and community outreach, including Chicago Lights programs, and denominational programs. Gifts can be made by using the 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.

The Advent banners, in the form of wings, convey the idea of Advent stillness and of waiting in the presence of angels. They were designed and painted by Eliza Linley.

The bulletin cover photo shows the Great East Window at night, with the seasonal lights of Michigan Avenue in the foreground. The cover quote is from Eugene Petersen’s Bible translation *The Message*.

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

Matt Helms, 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

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.