



Second 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: A prophet speaks, and a psalmist sings, telling us how God will come:

Leader 2: Comfort my people, bring comfort to them, says your God . . .

Clear a road through the wilderness . . .

Prepare a highway across the desert for our God . . .

Then will the glory of God be revealed and all humankind shall see it . . .

Leader 1: Love and faithfulness will come together. Justice and peace will embrace.

Leader 2: We light our second candle as a prayer of hope and longing
that God's glory may be revealed on earth, through justice, peace, and love.

People: **Living God, come to our world.**

**Help us to recognize your presence wherever people make peace,
show kindness, keep their promises, and do what is right. Amen.**

***Opening Hymn** "Comfort, Comfort You My People"

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Gracious God,

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, with gratitude,

with obedience, with love.

Even so: come, Lord Jesus. 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 Luke 3:1–6

(page 56, N.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 "Instant Karma"

John Lennon

***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 "I Love to Tell the Story"

William Fischer

Prayer after Communion (*unison*)

**Gracious God,
we thank you that your promises to us are shown in this bread and cup,
promises of forgiveness and renewal and hope for the future.
We ask that these gifts would be reminders to us
of our need to remember the grace you have shown toward us,
that we may shape our lives to a response of genuine gratitude. Amen.**

Sending

***Closing Song** "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?"

***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

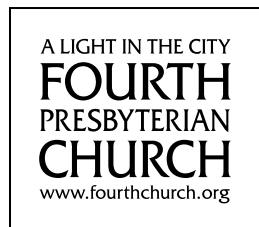
Adam H. Fronczek	Associate Pastor
Edwin Estevez	Pastoral Resident
Clyde Yancy	Lay Liturgist
Lucy Smith Quartet	

Acknowledgments

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The Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago

Church office: 126 E. Chestnut Street, Chicago, IL 60611.2014; www.fourthchurch.org
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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

News and Opportunities

News and Resources

Docent-led tours of the Gratz Center are being offered on Sunday, December 16 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.

Next Sunday decorated ribbons to be cut at the January 12 Community Grand Opening of the Gratz Center are due. 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.

Fellowship

Young Adults will discuss “All about Advent” next Sunday, December 16 at 12:30 p.m. in Room 5A. They will also gather for dinner this Saturday, December 15 at 6:30 p.m. at a member’s home. To RSVP, contact Hardy Kim at 312.981.3399 (hkim@fourthchurch.org).

Fourth Dimension will meet for a holiday party, including dinner and a caroling contest, on Friday, December 14 at 6:00 p.m. in Anderson Hall. To register (required), contact Anne Ellis at 312.573.3369 (aellis@fourthchurch.org).

Music and the Arts

Chicago Ensemble will perform a concert this Tuesday, December 11 at 7:30 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel. Tickets are available online at www.thechicagoensemble.org or at the door.

Organist Charles Segal will perform this Friday’s free Noonday concert at 12:10 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Light, the newest CD featuring the Fourth Church choirs, is available on iTunes, online at www.cdbaby.com, and by contacting Ryan Loeckel at 312.640.2570 (rloeckel@fourthchurch.org).

Did you see the CBS 2 interview of Calum MacLeod talking about Fourth Church and the Gratz Center on Tuesday morning? We shared the segments on Facebook early that day (www.facebook.com/fourthchurch), and you can now also find the links to them posted on the Fourth Church website: www.fourthchurch.org. Be sure to bookmark and visit both pages often to keep up on the latest Fourth Church news!



Advent and Christmas

Christmas wishes for 100 children remain to be filled as part of the “Christmas Wishes” gift project, which collects gifts for those who might not otherwise receive them. Wish lists are available by contacting Anne Ellis at 312.573.3369 (aellis@fourthchurch.org).

Filled bags for the “Christmas Gift Bag” project, which provides gifts for Sunday Night Supper guests, are to be returned today at reception.

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.

Friday is the deadline for Christmas flower contributions to memorialize or honor loved ones. Names of those being remembered must be received by December 14 in order to be printed in the Christmas bulletin. Contributions can be made using forms in the literature racks and online at www.fourthchurch.org or by contacting Wydetta Carter at 312.274.3833 (wcarter@fourthchurch.org).

The Lakeside Singers Holiday Concert will be held on Friday, December 14 at 8:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Tickets are available at www.lakesidesingers.com.

Next Sunday the Festival of Advent Lessons and Music will take place at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. A cookies-and-hot-cocoa reception hosted by Women@Fourth Connect will follow.

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), call Ashley Elskus at 312.981.3387 by this Tuesday, December 11.

A Blue Christmas service for those for whom Christmas is made difficult by loss and sadness will be held on Thursday, December 20 at 6:30 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel.

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

Four candlelight services will be held 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 be at 11:00 a.m.

Tickets for the annual Christmas Dinner, which will take place on Tuesday, December 25 at 12:15 p.m. in Anderson Hall, are available at reception.

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, contact Nancy Davis at 312.274.3815 (ndavis@fourthchurch.org).

The Benevolent Guild will gather this Wednesday, December 12 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.

News and Opportunities

Enrichment

Academy for Faith and Life classes take place next Sunday 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. Details are available online at www.fourthchurch.org/academy.

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

“**Beginning T'ai Chi II**,” a Center for Life and Learning class for adults sixty and more, will be offered on Tuesdays, December 11–February 26. To register, contact Ashley Elskus at 312.981.3387 (aelskus@fourthchurch.org).

The “Religion in Interfaith Homes” series will explore “Dealing with Your In-Laws” on Sunday, December 16 at 1:00 p.m. in Room 5G of the Gratz Center. For details, contact Joyce Shin at 312.274.3835 (jshin@fourthchurch.org).

The Jerusalem: The Biography book study, led by Associate Pastor Adam Fronczek, will conclude on Tuesday, December 18 at 5:30 p.m. in Room 4D. Participants are asked to read through the end of the book.

A study trip to Greece and Turkey will be led by Associate Pastor Adam Fronczek April 30–May 13. Applications are due Friday, January 18. Details are available in the literature racks and by contacting Adam Fronczek at 312.640.5398 (afronczek@fourthchurch.org).

Worship

A service in the style of Taizé will be held at 7:30 p.m. on New Year's Eve 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.

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.

A youth volunteer opportunity at the Bethel Christmas Store will take place this Saturday, December 15 from 4:00 to 7:30 p.m. For details or to sign up, contact Kimberlee Frost at 312.981.4035 (kfrost@fourthchurch.org).

Volunteers and Donations

Current Volunteer Needs

Members to transcribe recorded oral histories
Dishwashers for Sunday Night Supper,
5:00–7:00 p.m.

Current Donation Needs

Coats for families who have requested assistance
Men's winter clothes in larger sizes (coats, sweaters, pants, boots, socks, etc.)

For information or to volunteer, call Larry Nicholson at 312.981.3382 or visit www.fourthchurch.org.

Advent and Christmas Worship

Festival of Advent Lessons and Music

Sunday, December 16

6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Holiday reception follows

at Fourth Presbyterian Church

Blue Christmas Service

Thursday, December 20

6:30 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel

For those for whom the Christmas celebration is made difficult by loss and sadness

Four Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

Monday, December 24

4:00 p.m. Children's Pageant

6:00 p.m. Family Service

Joyce Shin preaching

8:30 p.m. Lessons and Carols

Calum I. MacLeod preaching

11:00 p.m. Lessons and Carols

Calum I. MacLeod preaching

Christmas Day Service

Tuesday, December 25

11:00 a.m.

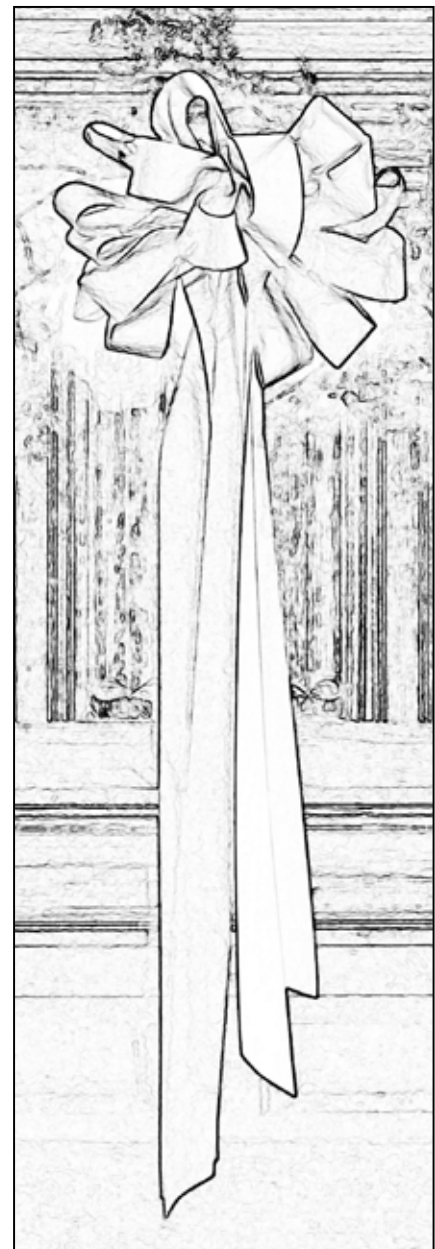
Judith L. Watt preaching

A traditional Christmas dinner in Anderson Hall will be served at 12:15 p.m. Dinner tickets (seating is limited) are available at the reception desk during the week.

New Year's Eve Taizé Service

Monday, December 31

7:30 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel



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 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).

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.