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.
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.
**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
Music—“New Doxology” by Lucy Smith, copyright © 2010. All rights reserved. “Gospel Sanctus” by Lucy Smith, copyright © 2011. All rights reserved.
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.

### News and Opportunities

**Mission and Outreach**

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**Mission and Outreach**

**“Two for Blu” Carnaval 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 Carnaval, 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.
Festival of Advent
Lessons and Music
Sunday, December 16
6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary
Holiday reception follows

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), 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.