

MORNING WORSHIP

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

PRELUDE 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 15** “Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers” *Tune: LLANGLOFFAN*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(unison)*

Forgive us, God of mercy,
when we become so enraptured in ourselves
that we actually become less of ourselves,
as we forget about your creation,
ignore the other, neglect our neighbors,
and lose sight of things that are of greatest value.
Forgive us for abandoning our call to be stewards
of your creation and agents of healing
and transformation in the world.
Help us to offer radical hospitality
in the way of Jesus as the Christ. Amen.

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Minister: Friends, believe the good news.

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

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

ANTHEM

“Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding” *Eric H. Thiman*

Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding; “Christ is nigh,”
it seems to say; “Cast away the dreams of darkness,
O ye children of the day!” Wakened by the solemn
warning, let the earthbound soul arise; Christ, her sun,
all ill dispelling, shines upon the morning skies. Lo!
The Lamb, so long expected, comes with pardon down
from heaven; let us haste, with tears of sorrow, one and
all to be forgiven; that when next he comes with glory,
and the world is wrapped in fear, with his mercy he may
shield us, and with words of love draw near. Christ,
to thee be endless glory, from all on earth be praise,
who from heaven wilt come to save us, and redeem
from sinful ways. Honor, glory, might, and blessing to
the Father and the Son, with the everlasting Spirit, while
eternal ages run. Amen.

PSALTER

Psalm 126 *(responsively)*

(page 541, O.T.)

*GLORIA PATRI

(The Hymnal, 579)

SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 3:1–6

(page 56, N.T.)

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

A Christmas Anthropology

EDWIN ESTEVEZ

***HYMN 7**

“Lord Christ, When First You Came to Earth”

Tune: MIT FREUDEN ZART

***APOSTLES’ CREED** *(unison)*

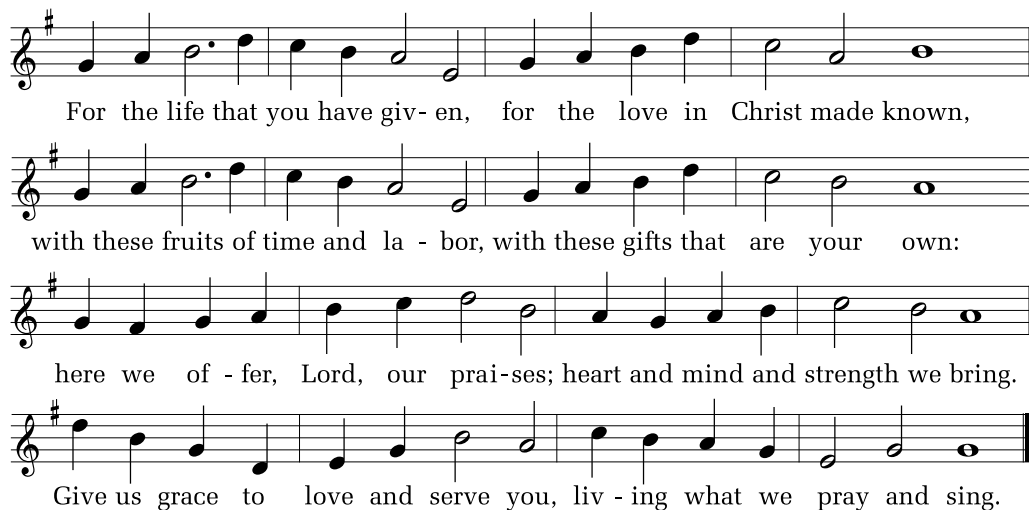
I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; 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 SOLO “Blessed Be That Maid Marie” *Traditional English*

Blessed be that maid Marie, born he was of her body;
very God ere time began, born in time the Son of man.
Sweet and blissful was the song chanted by the
mother young. “Peace on earth,” Alleluya. *In excelsis
Gloria*. Make we merry on this fest, *in quo Christus est*;
on this child I pray you call, to assoil and save us all.
Ey! Jesus hodie. Natus est de Virgine.

***OFFERTORY 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.

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THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

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.**

PRAYER

Minister: It is truly right and our greatest joy . . .

. . . who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Ho- ly, ho- ly, ho- ly Lord, God of po- wer and might,
hea- ven and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho- san- na in the high- est. Bles- sed is the
One who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho- san- na in the high- est.

Music: John W.W. Sherer; © 1997. Used by permission.

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 ANTHEM “Say to Them That Are of a Fearful Heart”

Everett Titcomb

Say to them that are of a fearful heart, be strong,
fear not. Behold, your God will come and save you.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (*unison*)

At your Table you have welcomed us,
not as strangers or enemies,
but as ministers of God,
but still more, children of God,
and more, friends of God.
At your Table,
you have satiated our hunger for justice
and quenched our thirst for righteousness.
Empower us to feed others,
hungry for justice,
both in feeding the starving,
but also in our words and deeds
that call the world to another possibility—
your possibility.
For you, the God of all possibility,
have promised all of us a place in your kingdom.
In your name we pray, Amen.

*HYMN 12

“People Look East”

Tune: BESANÇON

BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Savior of the Nations, Come

Paul Manz

WORSHIP LEADERS

John W. Vest, Joyce Shin, Edwin Estevez

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Rhonda Carlson

THE MUSIC TODAY

The Chancel Choir; Carol Carpenter, soloist

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

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

WORSHIP NOTES

This morning, Communion is served by intinction. The congregation will come forward by the center aisle to receive the bread, which they will then dip into the chalice of grape juice. (Gluten-free bread is available in a small tumbler in each basket of bread.) Worshipers will return to their pews by the side aisles. All who confess Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord are invited to partake of the Lord's Supper.

The "Light Up a Life" offering is being received throughout December. This year-end giving campaign 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.

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

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