MORNING WORSHIP

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

PRELUDE

Partita on “O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?”

1. Maestoso  Michael Burkhardt
2. Andante
3. Allegro
4. Largo
5. Toccata

INTROIT

“Drop Dew, Ye Heavens”  Christopher Tye

(9:30) Drop dew, ye heavens, from above, and let the clouds break forth in showers upon the righteous ones, in rain upon the just; and let the earth be opened and blossom forth a Savior.

INTROIT

“Spirit of the Living God”  Daniel Iverson

(11:00) “My God Is So Great”  Ruth Harms Calkin

*DOXOLOGY

(The Hymnal, 592)

*LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Leader: In expectation of her child, Mary sang out for joy:
“My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor upon
the lowliness of his servant.”

People: “Surely, from now on all generations will call us blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for us, and holy is God’s name.”

Leader: The third candle on the Advent wreath stands for joy. It reminds us to be thankful that God’s presence is becoming brighter in our world.

People: The light reminds us that God’s child is coming to bring joy to the world.

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 9

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”  Tune: VENI EMMANUEL

*Stand as you are able.
PRAYER OF CONFESSION  *(unison)*  
While we ask, Lord,  
for the most meaningful Advent season ever,  
we sadly confess having done so little with so much.  
Forgive us Lord,  
for not bending the knee,  
for not reading your Word,  
for not searching our hearts,  
for not facing our sins.  
Forgive us according to your tender mercies, O God!  
Grant that when Christmas morning breaks for us this year,  
we may have a fresh sense of your presence  
and a renewed resolve to live to the praise of Christ’s glory.  
Amen.

DE CLARATION OF PARDON  
Minister: Friends, believe the good news.  
People:  *In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.*

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS  
(11:00)

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

ANTHEM  
“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”  *Richard Webster*  
Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel’s strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart. By thine own  
 eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone; by thine all-sufficient  
merit raise us to thy glorious throne. Alleluia. Amen.

FIRST LESSON  
Luke 1:68−79  *(responsively)*  *(page 54, N.T.)*  
Minister: The Word of the Lord.  
People:  *Thanks be to God.*

*GLORIA PATRI*  
*(The Hymnal, 579)*

SECOND LESSON  
Luke 3:7−18  *(page 56, N.T.)*

SERMON  
Diverse in Description but Similar in Hope  *Adam H. Fronczek*

*HYMN 36  
“In the Bleak Midwinter”  *Tune: CRANHAM*
*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”  

Heinrich Isaak

**Offering**

**Offertory Anthem** “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”  

*Michael Praetorius and Jan Sandström*

Lo, how a rose e’er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!  
Of Jesse’s lineage coming, as men of old have sung.  
It came a floweret bright amid the cold of winter,  
when half spent was the night.
*Presentation of the Offering and Response*

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: God of extravagant mercy,
    with hands outstretched you have poured out
    wonder and pleasure and delight,
    goodness and beauty and bounty.
So take these offerings, we pray, as our protest against all
that is evil and ugly and impoverished,
trivial and wretched and tyrannical,
in our world and in ourselves—
and thus may we and others know
ourselves to be blessed. Amen.

*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: God of extravagant mercy,
    with hands outstretched you have poured out
    wonder and pleasure and delight,
    goodness and beauty and bounty.
So take these offerings, we pray, as our protest against all
that is evil and ugly and impoverished,
trivial and wretched and tyrannical,
in our world and in ourselves—
and thus may we and others know
ourselves to be blessed. Amen.

*Hymn 12*

“People, Look East”

Tune: Besançon

Benediction and Response

Postlude: People, Look East

Besançon carol

arr. Barbara Harbach
Festival of Advent Lessons and Music
Today, 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 experiencing loss or sadness

Christmas Cantata
Sunday, December 23
During 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. worship
Charpentier’s In Navitatem Domini Nostri
Jesu Christi Canticum

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. in the Sanctuary
Judith L. Watt preaching

New Year’s Eve Taizé Service
Monday, December 31
7:30 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel
Worship Leaders

9:30 a.m. Judith L. Watt, Joyce Shin, Adam H. Fronczek
11:00 a.m. Hardy H. Kim, Joyce Shin, Adam H. Fronczek

Lighting the Advent Wreath

9:30 a.m. Jim, Dawn, and Melody Kulich
11:00 a.m. Rob and Laura Sterkel Wetherald

The Music Today

9:30 a.m. The Morning Choir
11:00 a.m. The Cherub Choir; The Morning Choir

John W. W. Sherer, Organist and Director of Music
Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist
Katy Sinclair, Director of Music for Children and Youth
Hsing-Huei Huang, Children’s and Youth Choir Accompanist

Worship Notes

The Offertory anthem, “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming,” was composed by the Swedish composer Jan Sandström in 1990. Sandström incorporates Michael Praetorius’s familiar carol, written in 1609, which can be heard floating above the dense harmony.

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.

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.