



## Third Sunday of Advent

### Gathering

**Gathering Music** Steepian Faith  
People Get Ready

Kenny Kirkland  
Curtis Mayfield

*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: In the Gospel of Luke, John the Baptizer points to Jesus:

Leader 2: As the people were filled with expectation, . . .  
questioning whether John might be the Messiah,  
John answered them by saying,  
“I baptize you with water,  
but one who is more powerful than I is coming. . . .  
He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”

Leader 1: If we follow Jesus Christ,  
we will get everything we hope for,  
and more than we bargained for.

People: **We light our third candle to praise God,  
whose Spirit comes to us  
with disturbing and wonderful blessings.**

**\*Opening Hymn** “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

**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.**

**Assurance of Pardon**

Leader: Friends, believe the good news.

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

**Welcoming of New Members**

### **\*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 3:7–18 *(page 56, N.T.)*

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

**Jazz Improvisation** "In the Bleak Midwinter" *Gustav T. Holst and Christina Rosetti*

## Sealing the Word

### **Sharing of Gifts**

*Please place gifts and prayer cards in the plate as it is passed.*

**Offertory Music** "Simple Gifts" *Joseph Brackett*

**\*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** "Jesus Gonna Be Here"

*Tom Waits*

**Prayer after Communion** (*unison*)

**God of extravagant mercy,  
we give you thanks for these gifts of hope  
that you give to us in bread and the fruit of the vine.  
We give you thanks that shepherds and wise men modeled for us  
different ways of giving themselves to Christ.  
We thank you for John the Baptist's call  
that we, too, should give of ourselves.  
As we go from this place,  
help us to know what that means for each one of us,  
for we all are brothers and sisters in faith,  
waiting for the Christ child. Amen.**



## **Sending**

**\*Closing Song** "People, Look East"

**\*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  
**Bill Ehrlich** 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](http://www.fourthchurch.org)  
312.787.4570; Staff extensions: 312.787.2729; Fax: 312.787.4584



### **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

**Today decorated muslin panels**, which will create the ribbon to be cut at the January 12 Community Grand Opening of the Gratz Center, are due at reception. All are encouraged to invite friends, family, neighbors, and colleagues to come join in the celebration that day and see firsthand the new Gratz Center.

**The Pastor Nominating Committee** is currently in a several-month quiet phase as they review Pastor Information Forms of about 200 possible candidates. For details about the PNC process, see [www.fourthchurch.org/pnc](http://www.fourthchurch.org/pnc).

## Music and the Arts

**Chicago Camerata** will perform this Friday's free Noonday concert at 12:15 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

## Fellowship

**Young Adults** will gather for a Christmas party this Thursday, December 20 at 7:00 p.m. in the Manse.

## Worship

**A New Year's Eve service in the style of Taizé** will be held on December 31 at 7:30 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel.

## Children, Youth, and Family

**La Posada Family Night** will be held this Friday, December 21, with children beginning their "journey" at 5:30 p.m. in Anderson Hall. Everyone will enjoy dinner at 6:30 p.m., with a piñata and carol sing following dinner. To RSVP, contact Daniel Holladay at 312.640.2578 ([dholladay@fourthchurch.org](mailto:dholladay@fourthchurch.org)).

**College-age youth**, from eighteen to twenty-two, and their families are invited to an open house with refreshments and fellowship on Christmas Eve from 9:30 to 11:00 p.m. in the Loft of the Gratz Center. For details, contact Kimberlee Frost at 312.981.4035 ([kfrost@fourthchurch.org](mailto:kfrost@fourthchurch.org)).

## Enrichment

**Men's Bible Study** will gather this Tuesday, December 18 at 7:30 a.m. in the Loop. For details, call Ryan Loeckel at 312.640.2570.

**The Jerusalem: The Biography** book study will conclude this 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 Adam Fronczek April 30–May 13. Applications are due Friday, January 18. Details are available in the literature racks.

**Online gifts for Light Up a Life—to make a difference** in the lives of those served by the programs of Fourth Church and Chicago Lights—can be made at [www.fourthchurch.org](http://www.fourthchurch.org). There you can also find a complete schedule of this year's Christmas Eve and Christmas Day worship opportunities as well as other ways to join this community in sharing Christmas joy together and with others this season.



# News and Opportunities

## Advent and Christmas

**Today 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.

**“Happy, Healthy Holidays,”** a CLL program about ways to grow in health during the holidays, will be led by JoAnn Gruca for adults sixty and more this Tuesday, December 18 at 12:00 noon in Room 5G.

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

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

**Still shopping for Christmas presents?** Consider honoring or remembering those on your list with “Light Up a Life” gifts, which also help neighbors whose needs are great this holiday season. Gifts can be made using the offering envelopes, the brochures in the literature racks, or the forms online.

**A Christmas Cantata**, featuring Marc-Antoine Charpentier’s *In Nativitatem Domini Nostrī Jesu Christi Canticum*, will be sung by the Morning Choir next Sunday, December 23 during 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. worship.

**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 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.

**Silent Nights**, a vigil for peace on the Chicago streets, will be held this Monday, December 17 at 7:00 p.m. at First Baptist Congregational Church (1613 W. Washington). For details, contact Vicky Curtiss at 312.981.3598 (vcurtiss@fourthchurch.org).

**Josh Heikkila** will speak about his ministry as a PC(USA) global mission coworker in Ghana at a luncheon next Sunday, December 23 at 12:30 p.m. in Room 4G of the Gratz Center. To RSVP, contact Nancy Davis at 312.274.3815 (ndavis@fourthchurch.org).

## Volunteers and Donations

### **Current Volunteer Needs**

**Energetic individuals** to share hobbies and activities with Chicago Lights Tutoring students

**Members** to transcribe recorded oral histories

**Tutors** for the Chicago Lights Tutoring program on Monday, Tuesday, or Thursday nights

**Dishwashers** for Sunday Night Supper, 5:00–7:00 p.m.

### **Current Donation Needs**

**Men’s winter clothes** in larger sizes

**Paper grocery bags** with handles for the Chicago Lights Elam Davies Social Service Center

*For information or to volunteer, call Larry Nicholson at 312.981.3382 or visit [www.fourthchurch.org](http://www.fourthchurch.org).*



# Advent and Christmas Worship

## Festival of Advent Lessons and Music

**Today, 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.**

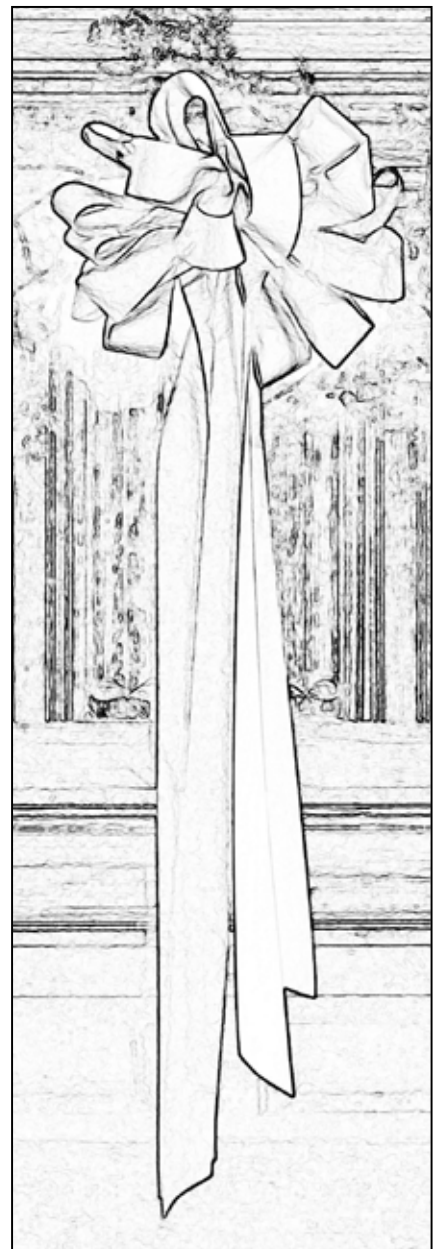
Judith L. Watt preaching

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](http://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](mailto: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 Monday, January 7 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.; Saturday, January 19 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon; or Monday, February 11 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. For membership information, contact Hardy Kim, Associate Pastor for Evangelism, at 312.981.3399 ([hkim@fourthchurch.org](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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 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.