**MORNING WORSHIP**

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

**Prelude**

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?  
*Michael Burkhardt*

**Introit**

“Drop Dew, Ye Heavens”  
*Christopher Tye*

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.

**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 5**

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”  
*Tune: Picardy*

*Stand as you are able*
PrAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Gracious God,
our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide,
and too deep to undo.
Forgive what our lips tremble to name,
what our hearts can no longer bear,
and what has become for us a convicting judgment.
Shed your light upon us that we may see
what we have done and how we have lived.
Shed your light upon us that we may feel
your warmth and your grace.
Shed your light upon us that we may know
another way: the way of truth, hope, and love. Amen.

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Minister: Friends, believe the good news.
People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

ANTHEM “People, Look East” Besançon carol
arr. Philip Dietterich

People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of
the year. Make your house fair as you are able; trim the
hearth and set the table. People, look east and sing today;
love, the guest, is on the way. Furrows, be glad. Though
earth is bare, one more seed is planted there. Give up
your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the
flower may flourish. People, look east and sing today;
love, the rose, is on the way. Birds, though ye long have
ceased to build, guard the nest that must be filled. Even
the hour when wings are frozen, he for fledging time has
chosen. People, look east and sing today; love, the bird,
is on the way. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
one more light the bowl shall brim, shining beyond the
frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together. People,
look east and sing today; love, the star, is on the way.
Angels, announce to man and beast him who cometh
from the east. Set every peak and valley humming with
the word, the Lord is coming. People, look east and sing
today; love, the Lord, is on the way.

PSALTER Psalm 10:1–4, 14–18 (responsively) (page 467, O.T.)

*GLORIA PATRI (The Hymnal, 579)
SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 3:7–18
(page 56, N.T.)
Minister: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON
The Beginning of the End
JOYCE SHIN
“You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?” Luke 3:7 (nRSV)

HYMN 409
“Wild and Lone the Prophet’s Voice”
Tune: ABERYSTWYTH

*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 “Alleluia” from Exsultate, Jubilate
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE
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:


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 “Creator of the Stars of Night” Plainsong
arr. Dale Wood

Creator of the stars of night, thy people's everlasting light; O Christ, thou Savior of us all, we pray thee, hear us when we call. To thee the travail deep was known that made the whole creation groan till thou, redeemer, shouldest free thine own in glorious liberty. And when the world drew on toward night, thou camest, not in splendor bright as monarch, but the humble child of Mary, blameless mother mild. At thy great name of Jesus, now all knees must bend, all hearts must bow and things celestial thee shall own, of things terrestrial, Lord, alone. Come in thy holy might, we pray; redeem us for eternal day from every power of darkness, when thou judgest all the sons of men. To God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit, three in one; laud, honor, might, and glory be from age to age eternally. Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (unison)

God, you have so greatly loved us,
long sought us,
and mercifully redeemed us.
Give us strength for your service
and songs for your praises
that the world may know the joy made possible
through your Son’s sacrifice.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

*HYMN 13

“Prepare the Way” Tune: BEREDEN VÅG FÖR HERRAN

BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

POSTLUDE On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry Bruce Neswick
WORSHIP LEADERS
Judith L. Watt, Hardy H. Kim, Joyce Shin

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH
Sue Thompson

THE MUSIC TODAY
The Chancel Choir; Laura Perkett, 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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