

MORNING WORSHIP

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

PRELUDE Creator of the Stars of Night *John Barr*

INTROIT “Advent Introit” *Iain Quinn*
Our King and Savior now draws near; come let us adore
him. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the
Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be. Amen.

***DOXOLOGY** (The Hymnal, 592)

***LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

Leader: In the coming of Christ,
we hear God’s message to us:
“I have exalted one chosen from the people.
I have found my servant David;
with my holy oil I have anointed him;
my hand shall always remain with him.”

People: **We shall cry out to Christ,
“You are my God, the Rock of my salvation!”**

Leader: The fourth candle on the Advent wreath
reminds us that our Savior has almost come.
He will bring light to the darkness
and hope to the world.

People: **We are called into God’s house to bear witness
to the light. We are sent from God’s house
to take light into 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 2** “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” *Tune: HYFRYDOL*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(unison)*

God of hope and promise,
we confess that we come here this morning
with our expectations ensnared:
We dream of peace, joy, and love,
cynical of their power in this world.
We dream of the coming of Christ,
doubting that anything will change.
Untie our hopes, O Lord,
and let our expectations run free.
Reassure us of your promise,
that in believing we may live as your people. Amen.

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Minister: Friends, believe the good news.

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

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

MINUTE FOR MISSION

PSALTER Psalm 80:1–7 *(responsively)* (page 511, O.T.)

ANTHEM “The Message” *Victor Whitburn*

A message came to a maiden young; the angel stood beside her, in shining robes, and with golden tongue, he told what should betide her. The maid was lost in wonder; her world was rent asunder. Ah, how could she Christ’s mother be by God’s most high decree? No greater news could a messenger bring; for ’twas from that young mother he came, who walked on the earth as a King and yet was man’s brother. His truth has spread like leaven, ’twill marry earth to heaven, ’till all agree in charity to dwell from sea to sea. He came God’s word to the world here below, and round him there did gather a band who found that this teacher to know was even to know the Father. He healed the sick who sought him, forgave the foes who fought him; beside the sea of Galilee he set the nations free. And sometimes trumpets from Zion ring out and tramping comes and drumming, thy kingdom come so we cry and they shout, it comes and still ’tis coming. Far ahead to win us, yet with us, nay, within us; till all shall see that King is he, the love from Galilee.

FIRST LESSON Micah 5:2–5a (page 815, O.T.)

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

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

SECOND LESSON Luke 1:39–45 (page 53, N.T.)

SERMON Great Expectations MATT HELMS

***HYMN 43** “O Little Town of Bethlehem” *Tune: FOREST GREEN*

***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 VOLUNTARY Two Settings of “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”
David N. Johnson and Gerald Near

***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.

Words: Carl P. Daw Jr. ©1987; Music: Morgan Simmons ©1990, 1992 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission.

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 “Angelus ad Virginem”

V. Whitburn

Gabriel to the virgin come and entered at her dwelling.
With his salutation glad her maiden fears dispelling.
“All hail, thou queen of maiden bright! The Lord of earth
and heaven’s height. Thy very Son shall soon be born in
pureness, the Savior of mankind. Thou art the gate of
heaven, the sinner’s healer kind.” “How could I a mother
be that am to man a stranger? How should I my strong
resolve my solemn vows endanger?” “The Spirit’s power
from on high shall bring to pass this mystery. Then have
no fear, be of good cheer, believing that still thy chastity
in God’s almighty keeping shall all unsullied be.” Then
to him the maid replied with noble mien supernal, “Lo,
the lowly handmaid I of God the Lord eternal. With thee,
bright messenger of heaven, by whom this wondrous
news is given, I well agree and long to see performed
thy gracious prophecy. As God my Lord doth will it so
be it unto me.” Hail, thou mother of the Lord, Giver of
gifts the rarest. Peace to angels and to all, when Christ
the Lord thou barest. Do thou, we pray, entreat thy Son
for us our longed redemption himself to win and from
our sin release us, his succor too to give, that, when we
hence are taken we too in heaven may live.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (*unison*)

**Amazing God,
you come into our ordinary lives
and you set a holy table among us,
filling our plates with the bread of life
and our cups with the promise of salvation.
We pray that you send us out, O God,
to touch an ordinary, everyday world
with the promise of your holiness. Amen.**

***HYMN 509**

“For the Bread Which You Have Broken”

Tune: CROSS OF JESUS

BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Finale from *Variations on a Noël*

Marcel Dupré

WORSHIP LEADERS

Edwin Estevez, Donna Gray, Matt Helms

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Barbara Overton

THE MUSIC TODAY

The Chancel Choir

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

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

WORSHIP NOTES

Today's Minute for Mission is presented by Josh Heikkila, a former member of Fourth Church, who is a Presbyterian Church (USA) mission coworker in Ghana and World Mission's regional liaison for West Africa.

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, which is being received throughout December, 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

This worship bulletin is printed on recyclable paper
that contains recycled post-consumer waste and is acid-free.
All bulletins and inserts left in the baskets by the doors are recycled.