

## MORNING WORSHIP

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

<b>PRELUDE</b>	Angels We Have Heard on High	<i>Christopher Uehlein</i>
	Noël	<i>Aaron David Miller</i>
	Prelude on “Christmas Carol”	<i>Morgan Simmons</i>
	He Is Born, the Divine Christ Child	<i>Douglas Wagner</i>
	What Child Is This	<i>Ralph Vaughan Williams</i>

<b>INTROIT</b>	“Alleluia, Unto Us a Child Is Born”	<i>George Thalben-Ball</i>
	Alleluia, unto us a child is born, alleluia. O come, let us adore him, alleluia.	

**\*DOXOLOGY AND INVOCATION** (The Hymnal, 592)

**\*HYMN 40** “Joy to the World!” *Tune: ANTIOCH*

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION** *(unison)*

**During the past weeks, Lord,  
we have worked so hard  
to be responsive to our family and our friends,  
to our colleagues and our neighbors,  
to our church and to our community.  
We know that these responsibilities are holy.  
We confess, Lord,  
that it is easier to be conscious of those close to us.  
It is harder to care for those  
who are outside our inner circle.  
We tend to a territory.  
Give us a map not of territory,  
but of your creation  
so that in loving you, Creator of all,  
we too may love and be loyal to all.  
In the name of Christ we pray. Amen.**

### **DECLARATION OF PARDON**

Minister: Friends, believe the good news.

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

## CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

**PSALTER** Psalm 148 (*responsively*) (page 550, O.T.)

**ANTHEM** “Under the Stars” *George F. Reynolds*

Under the stars one holy night,  
a little babe was born.  
Over his head a star shone bright  
and glistened till the morn.  
And wise men came from far away,  
and shepherds wandered where he lay  
upon the lowly bed of hay,  
under the stars one night.  
Under the stars one blessed night,  
the Christ child came to earth.  
And through the darkness broke the light  
of morning at his birth.  
And sweet hosannas filled the air  
and guardian angels watched him where  
the virgin mother knelt in prayer,  
under the stars one night.  
Under the stars this happy night,  
we wait for him once more.  
And seem to see the wondrous sight  
the shepherds saw of yore.  
O baby born in Bethlehem  
come to us as you came to them  
and crown us with love’s diadem,  
under the stars one night.

**FIRST LESSON** 1 Samuel 2:18–20, 26 (page 235, O.T.)

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

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

**SECOND LESSON** Luke 2:41–52 (page 55, N.T.)

**SERMON** Wise Beyond His Years JOYCE SHIN  
“*And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years,  
and in divine and human favor.*” Luke 2:52 (NRSV)

**\*HYMN 55** “That Boy-Child of Mary” *Tune: BLANTYRE*

**\* 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"

*John Stainer*

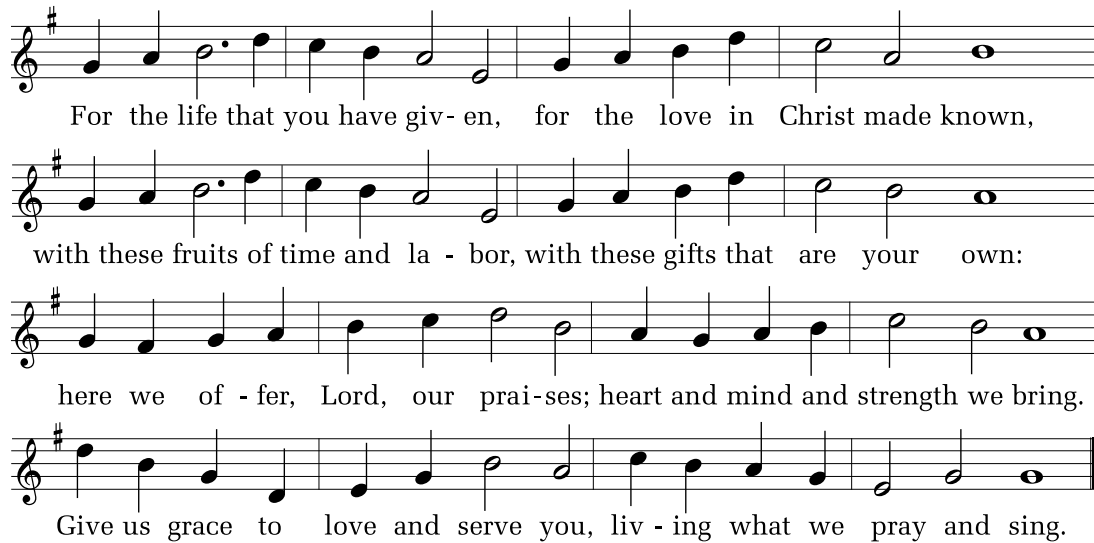
**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM "In the Bleak Midwinter"**

*Harold Darke*

In the bleak midwinter,  
frosty wind made moan,  
earth stood hard as iron,  
water like a stone.  
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,  
in the bleak midwinter long ago.  
Our God, heaven cannot hold him,  
nor earth sustain,  
heaven and earth shall flee away,  
when he comes to reign.  
In the bleak midwinter,  
a stable place sufficed,  
the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.  
Enough for him,  
whom cherubim worship night and day,  
a heart full of mirth and a manger full of hay.  
Enough for him,  
whom angels fall down before,  
the ox and ass and camel, which adore.  
What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.  
If I were a wise man, I would do my part,  
yet what I can I give him, give my heart.

**\*PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING AND 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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**\*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: **Holy God, we praise you.**

**Let the heavens be joyful, and the earth be glad.**

**We bless you for creating the whole world**

**and for redeeming it through your Son Jesus Christ.**

**Born of Mary, he shares our life.**

**Growing in wisdom, he teaches us.**

**Eating with sinners, he welcomes us.**

**Guiding his people, he leads us.**

**Visiting the sick, he heals us.**

**Dying on the cross, he saves us.**

**Risen from the dead, he gives new life.**

**Living with you, he prays for us.**

**Send your Spirit upon us**

**that we may love and serve the world**

**for which he lived and died. Amen.**

**\*HYMN 49**

“Once in Royal David’s City”

*Tune: IRBY*

**BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE**

**POSTLUDE**

Noël

*Claude Balbastre*

## WORSHIP LEADERS

9:30 a.m. Victoria G. Curtiss, Hardy H. Kim, Joyce Shin

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## THE MUSIC TODAY

9:30 a.m. The Morning Choir

11:00 a.m. The Morning Choir

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

## WORSHIP NOTES

**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. 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.

**Fourth Church offers a variety of worship opportunities** in addition to Sunday morning services. A jazz service with Communion is held each Sunday at 4:00 p.m. On weekday mornings, Morning Prayer is held in the Sanctuary as a time to remember in prayer members of the Fourth Church congregation and those in need (9:30 a.m. on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday; please note Morning Prayer will not be held this Tuesday, as the church office will be closed on January 1). This month the Taizé service will be held on New Year’s Eve (Monday, December 31) at 7:30 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel. From January to October, the monthly Taizé service takes place on the fourth Friday of the month.

## 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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