MORNING WORSHIP

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

Prelude What Child Is This Ralph Vaughan Williams

INTROIT "Alleluia, Unto Us a Child Is Born"

George Thalben-Ball

Alleluia, unto us a child is born, alleluia.

O come, let us adore him, alleluia.

*DOXOLOGY AND INVOCATION

(The Hymnal, 592)

Tune: Antioch

*HYMN 40 "Joy to the World"

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)

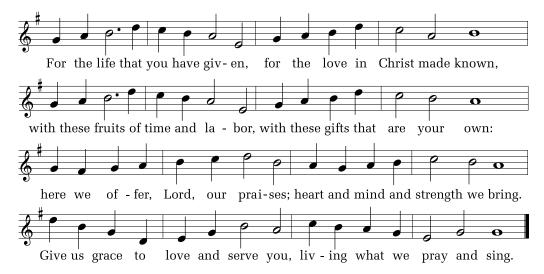
I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; 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.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY VOLUNTARY "Away in a Manger"

Douglas Wagner

*Offertory Response



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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:



hea- ven and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the high-est. Bles-sed is the



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 "Still, Still, Still"

Austrian melody arr. Walter Ehret

Still, still, still, he sleeps this night so chill! The virgin's tender arms enfolding, warm and safe the child are holding. Sleep, sleep, sleep, he lies in slumber deep while angel hosts from heaven come winging, sweetest songs of joy are singing.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (unison)

We give you thanks, most merciful God, for pouring out your love for us in the life your Son lived and in the death he underwent for our sake. By this bread and drink and in this community of his friends and followers, let us increase in wisdom, in years, and in your favor.

In your Son's name we pray. Amen.

*HYMN 49 "Once in Royal David's City" Tune: IRBY

BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

POSTLUDE Claude Balbastre Noël

The Lord's Supper at Fourth Presbyterian Church

The Lord's Supper is the sign and seal of eating and drinking in communion with the crucified and risen Lord. In this act, we remember that during his earthly ministry, Jesus shared meals with his followers and sat at dinner tables as a sign of acceptance of the sinner and the outcast. In the act of remembering that is the Lord's Supper, we receive and trust the love of Christ present to us and to the world. Through it, we are renewed and empowered to be the church, the body of Christ, in the world.

The invitation to the Lord's Supper is not just for Presbyterians or "members of the church." All who confess Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord are invited to partake of the Lord's Supper. Even one who doubts or whose trust is wavering may receive the bread and grape juice (in place of wine) in order to be assured of God's love and grace in Jesus Christ.

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.

Portions of the text above adapted from The Book of Order

WORSHIP LEADERS

Donna Gray, Victoria G. Curtiss, Joyce Shin

THE MUSIC TODAY

The Chancel 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. "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.

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. 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, and Friday this week). The next Taizé service will be held tomorrow, on New Year's Eve, at 7:30 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel.

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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