

## MORNING WORSHIP

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

**PRELUDE** Savior of the Nations, Come *Dietrich Buxtehude*  
Savior of the Nations, Come *Johann Sebastian Bach*

**INTROIT** “Our King and Savior Draweth Nigh” *Stephen Sturk*  
Our King and Savior draweth nigh;  
O come, let us adore him.

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

### **\*LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

Leader: In a quiet time of hope,  
the prophet Isaiah called out to the Lord:  
“O that you would tear open the heavens  
and come down, so that the mountains  
would quake at your presence—  
as when fire kindles brushwood  
and the fire causes water to boil.”

People: **We light candles on the Advent wreath  
to remind us of a time of waiting and watching;  
a time of hope; a time to bring the light  
of Christ into the world.**

Leader: The light is for us all—  
to heal and to challenge;  
to break down injustice and to build up love.

People: **In the face of the uncertainties of our world,  
God is coming to make all things new.**

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 1** “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” *Tune: STUTTGART*

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

**God of the future,  
you are coming in power to bring all nations  
under your rule.  
We confess that we have not expected your kingdom,  
for we live casual lives,  
ignoring your promised judgment.  
We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors,  
abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace.  
In your mercy, forgive us.  
Grant us wisdom to welcome your way  
and to seek things that will endure  
when Christ comes to judge the world. Amen.**

**DECLARATION OF PARDON**

Minister: Friends, believe the good news.

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

**CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH**

**PSALTER** Psalm 122:1–9 (*responsively*) (page 540, O.T.)

**ANTHEM** “Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding” *Eric H. Thiman*

Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding; “Christ is nigh,” it seems to say; “Cast away the dreams of darkness, O ye children of the day.” Wakened by the solemn warning, let the earth-bound soul arise; Christ, her sun, all ill dispelling, shine upon the morning skies. Lo, the Lamb, so long expected, comes with pardon down from heaven; let us haste, with tears of sorrow, one and all to be forgiven; that when next he comes with glory and the world is wrapped in fear, with his mercy he may shield us and with words of love draw near. Christ, to thee be endless glory, from all on earth be praise, who from heaven wilt come to save us and redeem from sinful ways. Honor, glory, might, and blessing to the Father and the Son, with the everlasting Spirit, while eternal ages run. Amen.

**FIRST LESSON** Isaiah 2:1–5 (page 594, O.T.)

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

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

**SECOND LESSON**      Matthew 24:36–44      (page 26, N.T.)

**SERMON**      Getting Ready for Christmas      HARDY H. KIM

**\*HYMN 13**      “Prepare the Way”      *Tune: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN*

**\*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**      “Ave Maria”      *J. S. Bach/Charles Gounod*

Hail Mary, full of grace, God is with thee; blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

**\*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.

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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:

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 “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” *Gustav Holst*

Let all mortal flesh keep silence and with fear and trembling stand; ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in his hand, Christ our Lord to earth descendeth our full homage to demand. King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood, Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood, he will give to all the faithful his own self for heavenly food. Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way, as the Light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day, that the powers of hell may vanish as the darkness clears away. At his feet the six-winged seraph; cherubim with sleepless eye veil their faces to the presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry, “Alleluia, Lord most high!” Amen.

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (*unison*)

**Faithful God,  
your promises stand unshaken  
through all generations.  
We thank you that you have fed us at your table  
and have renewed us in hope,  
that we might enter into this season of Advent  
awake and alert,  
watching for the glorious return of Jesus Christ—  
our judge and savior, who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, forever and ever.  
Amen.**

**\*HYMN 434** “Today We Are Called to Be Disciples” *Tune: KINGSFOLD*

### BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

**POSTLUDE** On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry  
*Aaron David Miller*

## **WORSHIP LEADERS**

Edwin Estevez, John W. Vest, Hardy H. Kim

## **LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH**

Sue Thompson

## **THE MUSIC TODAY**

The Chancel Choir; Laura Kubelka, alto 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  
**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  
**Edwin Estevez**, Pastoral Resident  
**John Buchanan**, Pastor Emeritus

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