

MORNING WORSHIP

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

PRELUDE O Come, O Come, Emmanuel *Robert Lau*

INTROIT “We Wait and Hope for the Lord” *Dale Wood*
We wait and hope for the Lord, for he is our help and shield. In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. Let your unfailing love be upon us, O Lord, as we put our hope in you.

***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 3** “Comfort, Comfort You My People” *Tune: PSALM 42*

**Stand as you are able*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(unison)*

God of the future, you are coming in power
to bring nations under your rule. We confess that
we have not expected your reign on earth.
We have lived casual lives, disregarded the
plight of the poor and oppressed,
and ignored your promised judgment.
Judge us, O God, for we have been slow to serve you.
Make our priorities align with yours.
Forgive us, for the sake of your faithful servant
Jesus, our Savior, whose triumph we want and
eagerly await. In Jesus' name. Amen.

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Minister: Friends, believe the good news.

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

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

PSALTER Psalm 146:5–10 *(responsively)* (page 549, O.T.)

ANTHEM “Christ the Apple Tree” *Stanford Scriven*
The tree of life my soul hath seen, laden with fruit and
always green; the trees of nature fruitless be, compared
with Christ the apple tree. This beauty doth all things
excel, by faith I know, but ne'er can tell the glory
which I now can see, in Jesus Christ the apple tree.
For happiness I long have sought, and pleasure dearly
I have bought; I missed of all, but now I see 'tis found
in Christ the apple tree. This fruit doth make my soul
to thrive, it keeps my dying faith alive; which makes
my soul in haste to be with Jesus Christ the apple tree.
I'm wearied with my former toil, here I will sit and rest
awhile; under the shadow I will be, of Jesus Christ
the apple tree.

FIRST LESSON Isaiah 35:1–10 (page 623, O.T.)

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

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

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 “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 9

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” *Tune: VENI EMMANUEL*

BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry *Bruce Neswick*

WORSHIP LEADERS

Hardy H. Kim, Judith L. Watt, Victoria G. Curtiss

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Rob and Katy Sinclair Family

THE MUSIC TODAY

The Chancel Choir

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