

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 *Leo Sowerby*

INTROIT “Our King and Savior Now Draws Near” *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 41** “O Come, All Ye Faithful” *Tune: ADESTE FIDELES*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light or trusted good news to be good. We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst, expecting little and hoping for less. Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope, so that we may receive the fullness of your grace and live in the truth of Christ the Lord, Amen.

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Minister: Friends, believe the good news.

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

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

PSALTER Psalm 80:1–7, 17–19 (*responsively*) (page 511, O.T.)

ANTHEM “The King of Glory” *Israeli folk song*
arr. Robert Batastini

The King of glory comes; the nation rejoices. Open the gates before him; lift up your voices. Who is the King of glory; how shall we call him? He is Emmanuel, the promised of ages. In all of Galilee, in city or village, he goes among his people curing their illness. Sing then of David’s Son, our Savior and brother; in all of Galilee was never another. He gave his life for us, the pledge of salvation; he took upon himself the sins of the nation. He conquered sin and death; he truly is risen. And he will share with us his heavenly vision.

FIRST LESSON Isaiah 7:10–16 (page 598, O.T.)

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

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

SECOND LESSON Matthew 1:18–24 (page 1, N.T.)

SERMON “Stretched” JUDITH L. WATT

***HYMN 19** “To a Maid Engaged to Joseph” *Tune: ANNUNCIATION*

*** 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.**

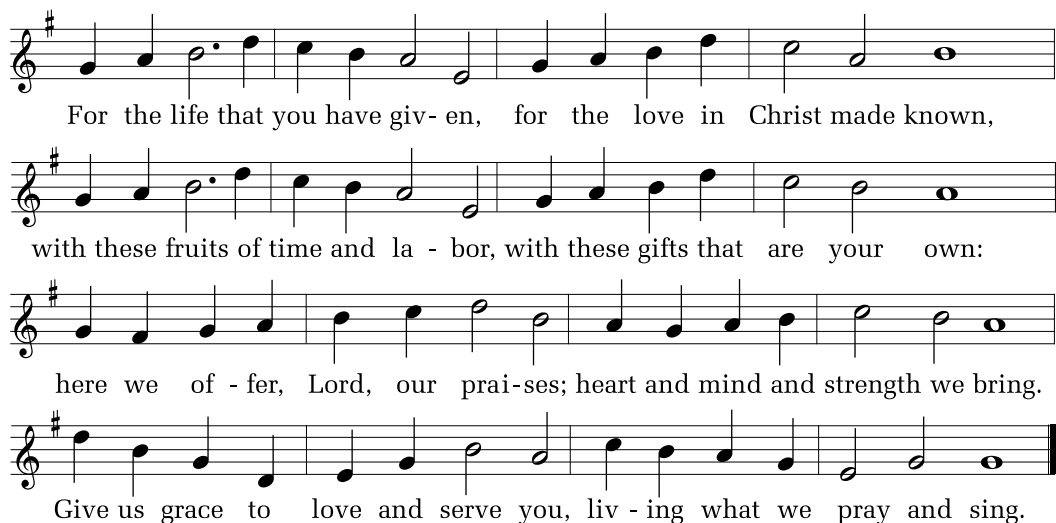
OFFERING

OFFERTORY VOLUNTARY "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

Setting by David N. Johnson

Setting by 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.

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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 “Savior of the Nations, Come” *German chorale*

Savior of the nations, come; virgin’s Son make here your home. Marvel now, O heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth. From the Godhead forth you came and return unto the same, captive leading death and hell. High the song of triumph swell! You, the chosen holy one, have o’er sin the victory won. Boundless shall your kingdom be; when shall we its glories see? Brightly does your manger shine; glorious is its light divine. Let not sin o’ercloud this light; ever be our faith thus bright.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (*unison*)

Strengthen us, O God, in the power of your Spirit to bring good news to the poor and lift blind eyes to sight, to loose the chains that bind and claim your blessing for all people. Keep us faithful in your service until Christ comes in final victory and we shall feast with all your saints in the joy of your eternal realm. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

*HYMN 22

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

Tune: REGENT SQUARE

BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Finale from *Variations on a Noël*

Marcel Dupré

WORSHIP LEADERS

John W. Vest, Joyce Shin, Judith L. Watt

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Eric Olson

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