

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

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Four Advent Pieces Robert Powell
Prepare the Way, O Zion
Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus
People, Look East
Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

Introit

“Come, Come, Emmanuel”. Lynn Shaw Bailey and Becki Slagle Mayo
*Come, come, Messiah; come, Emmanuel; come, promised one.
Prophets of old have told of your coming; long have we waited;
long have we prayed. Kingdoms and kings will bow down before you.
Come, Emmanuel, today. We are your children; you are our Savior.
Lovingly guide us, we pray. Help us to follow; help us to listen.*

*Doxology (*sung*). The Hymnal, 606

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Call to Worship

Minister: *Into our world as into Mary’s womb,*

People: come, Lord Jesus.

Minister: *Into the forgotten places, as into the stable,*

People: come, Lord Jesus.

Minister: *Into our lives and into our longings,*

People: come, Lord Jesus.

All: Let us worship our God, who is on the way!

*Prayer of Praise

*Hymn 348 “Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending”

**Stand as you are able.*

Liturgy of the Advent Wreath

Leader 1: *One candle to remind us of the prophets,
the second for John the Baptist,
and the third for Mary, who gladly responded to the call of God.*

Leader 2: *“I am the Lord’s servant,” said Mary.
“May it happen to me as you have said.”* (Luke 1:38)

People: Startling God,
we thank you for the joyful obedience of Mary.
We ask you to fill us with your joy,
so that we, too, may accept your call
and rejoice in your salvation. Amen.

Sung Response (*unison*) to the tune “Cradle Song” (The Hymnal, 114)

Come surely, Lord Jesus, as dawn follows night.
Our hearts long to greet you, as roses, the light.
Salvation, draw near us; our vision engage.
One candle is lit for the hope of the age.
Come quickly, shalom, teach us how to prepare
for a gift that compels us with justice to care.
Our spirits are restless till sin and war cease.
One candle is lit for the reign of God’s peace.
Come, festively sing while awaiting the birth.
Join angels in dancing from heaven to earth.
Wave banners of good news; lift high thankful praise.
One candle is lit for the joy of these days.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

God of light, who shines in deepest darkness,
we hear you calling us.
You call us from hopelessness into hope.
You call us from barrenness into life.
But we are frightened by your call.
We are afraid of taking chances.
We are afraid of following your light,
because it leads us into the places where you need us.
We admit that there is much in us
that is not ready to receive you.
Continue to work on us.
Give us Hannah’s tenacity, Mary’s courage, and Paul’s joy.
Put a song on our lips. In Christ’s name we pray, Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

Minister: *Friends, believe the good news.*

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Sacrament of Baptism (9:30)

Unison Prayer (9:30)

Holy God, remind us of the promises given in our own baptism and renew our trust in you.
Make us strong to obey your will and to serve you with joy; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Concerns of the Church

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter (*responsively*)

Psalm 89:1–4, 19–26 Old Testament, page 516

Anthem

“A Maiden Most Gentle” French carol
arr. Andrew Carter

A maiden most gentle and tender we sing, of Mary the mother of Jesus our King; ave Maria. How blessed is the birth of her heavenly child, who came to redeem us in Mary so mild; ave Maria. The archangel Gabriel foretold by his call the Lord of creation and Savior of all; ave Maria. Three kings came to worship with gifts rich and rare and marveled in awe at the babe in her care; ave Maria. Rejoice and be glad at this Christmas, we pray; sing praise to the Savior, sing endless; ave Maria.

First Lesson

Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11 Old Testament, page 650
Leader: *The Word of the Lord.*
People: *Thanks be to God.*

*Gloria Patri (*sung*). The Hymnal, 581

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.**

Second Lesson

Luke 1:26–38 New Testament, page 53
Minister: *The Word of the Lord.*
People: *Thanks be to God.*

Sermon Shannon J. Kershner

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 99 “My Soul Gives Glory to My God”

*Affirmation of Faith (*unison*). Apostles’ Creed

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.

Reception of New Members (11:00)

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” Philip Baker

Offering

Offertory Anthem

“Ave Maria” Franz Biebl

*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.

*Prayer of Dedication (*unison*)

Gracious God,
in gratitude for all that you have given us,
we bring our tithes, offerings, and labor
to help feed a world hungry for healing and hope,
for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Hymn 94 “Now the Heavens Start to Whisper”

Bearing the Word into the World

*Benediction and Response

Postlude

The King of Glory Comes Israeli folk song
arr. Aaron David Miller

Baptism at Fourth Presbyterian Church

On the second Sunday of each month, Fourth Church includes the Sacrament of Baptism in morning worship. Baptism is the sign and seal of God’s grace and covenant in Christ. As *The Book of Order* of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) explains, baptism signifies the faithfulness of God, the washing away of sin, rebirth, putting on the fresh garment of Christ, and adoption into the covenant family of the church.

The baptism of children witnesses to the truth that God’s love claims people before they are able to respond in faith. The congregation, on behalf of the whole church, assumes responsibility for nurturing the baptized children in the Christian life, and it is for this reason that the congregation makes such a promise during the service. In the unison prayer we also remember that we too were baptized and as children of God are part of the worldwide family of faith.

Those being baptized at the 9:30 worship service are

Franklin Aristotle Kanakis, son of Damon and Joanna Kanakis
Alice Katherine Kommer, daughter of Joshua and Christine Kommer

Worship Leaders

- 9:30 John W. Vest, Ed Miller, Judith L. Watt, Shannon J. Kershner
11:00 Hardy H. Kim, Ed Miller, Judith L. Watt, Shannon J. Kershner

Lighting the Advent Wreath

- 9:30 The Staublin Family
11:00 The Kosipa Mensah Family

The Music Today

- 9:30 The Youth Choir; The Morning Choir
11:00 The Children's Choir, The Morning Choir

John W. W. Sherer, Organist and Director of Music
Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist
Katy Sinclair, Associate Director of Music for Children and Youth
Hsing Huei Huang, Children's and Youth Choir Accompanist
Sean Stanton, Craig Palmer, and Brett Potts, soloists;
Carol Carpenter, flutist

Worship Notes

LIGHT UP A LIFE GIFTS are being received throughout December. This year-end giving campaign supports congregational programs, mission, and community outreach—including Chicago Lights programs—and denominational efforts. “Light Up a Life” gifts can be made 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.

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Shannon J. Kershner Pastor

Victoria G. Curtiss Associate Pastor for Mission

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

Layton Williams Pastoral Resident

John Buchanan Pastor Emeritus

This worship bulletin is printed on recyclable paper that contains recycled post-consumer waste and is acid free. All bulletins and inserts left in the baskets by the doors are recycled.

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