

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

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## Gathering around the Word

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### Prelude

- I Wonder as I Wander . . . . . Appalachian carol  
arr. Kimberly Robertson  
Carol . . . . . Gerald Finzi  
The First Nowell . . . . . English carol, arr. K. Robertson  
Carillon for Advent . . . . . H. Dean Wagner  
What Child Is This? . . . . . English ballad, arr. K. Robertson

### Introit (9:30)

- “Our King and Savior Draweth Nigh” . . . . . Leo Sowerby

### Introit (11:00)

- “Rejoice in the Lord Always” . . . . . Anonymous  
“This Is the Day” . . . . . Anonymous

\*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.

### Liturgy of the Advent Wreath

Leader 1: *One candle to remind us of the prophets,  
the second for John the Baptist,  
the third for Mary, and the fourth for us,  
as we join with them in looking for the coming of Jesus.*

Leader 2: *God will give you a sign;  
a young woman who is pregnant will have a son  
and will name him Emmanuel, which means, “God is with us.”  
(Isaiah 7:14)*

People: **Gracious God, as you came to those who have gone before us,  
you come to us now in Jesus.  
Help us to recognize you in those around us  
and to love and care for our neighbors  
as we do for ourselves. Amen.**

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*\*Stand as you are able.*

\*Processional Hymn (*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.

Come, wander where lion and lamb gently play,  
where evil is banished and faith takes the day:  
a babe in a manger to fool the world’s eyes.  
One candle is lit for God’s loving surprise.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

God, we are ready for love.  
We long to be held in your gentle and loving care.  
Yet even as we plan and prepare  
to celebrate the birth of our loving Savior,  
we find ourselves exhausted  
by all the pain of the world.  
We desire to be of use,  
to live out your love and peace,  
but might also be overwhelmed by it all.  
Touch our hearts and renew us.  
Remind us that your gracious gift of love  
is the greatest gift of all.  
Help us share your loving presence  
with those around us,  
and give us the courage we need  
to be that love in your world. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

Minister: *Friends, believe the good news.*

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Concerns of the Church

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## Listening for the Word

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### Prayer for Illumination

#### Psalter (*responsively*)

Psalms 126 . . . . . Old Testament, page 541

#### Cantata . . . . . “A Ceremony of Carols” by Benjamin Britten

##### 1. Procession

Today Christ is born; today the Savior has appeared;  
today the angels sing, the archangels rejoice;  
today the righteous rejoice, saying,  
“Glory to God in the highest, alleluia!”

##### 2. Welcome Yule

Welcome to you our heavenly King.  
Welcome, you who was born one morning;  
welcome, for you we shall sing!  
Welcome, Stephen and John;  
welcome, all innocent children;  
welcome, Thomas, the martyred one;  
welcome, good new year;  
welcome, twelfth day, both in fear;  
welcome, saints left and dear.  
Candlemas, queen of bliss,  
welcome both to more and less.  
Welcome, you that are here;  
welcome, all, and make good cheer.  
Welcome, all, another year.

##### 3. There Is No Rose

There is no rose of such virtue  
as is the rose that bore Jesus, alleluia;  
for in this rose (called Mary) were heaven and earth  
in a single, little space; miraculous thing.  
By that rose, we now may see:  
there be one God in persons three, created in the parents’ image.  
The angels sang to the shepherds,  
“Glory to God in the highest!” We rejoice.  
Leave we all this worldly mirth, and follow we this joyful birth.  
We cross over to Christ’s world.

*(continued)*

4a. That Young Child

When that young child began to weep,  
with song, she lulled him asleep:  
that was so sweet a melody  
it passed all minstrelsy.  
The nightingale sang also,  
but her song is hoarse and not the same;  
whoever listens to the nightingale's song,  
instead of Mary's, does wrong.

4b. Balulalow

O love of my heart, young Jesus sweet,  
prepare your place in my heart,  
and I shall rock thee with great love,  
and I shall never leave your side.  
I shall praise you forever  
with sweet songs of your glory;  
the knees of my heart shall I bow  
and sing the right lullaby.

5. As Dew in April

I sing of a maiden that is mateless;  
her son was the King of kings.  
From his mother he came to us,  
quietly as dew in April that falls on the grass.  
His mother's labor was painless and quiet,  
as dew in April that falls on the grass.  
As his mother lay there, he came quietly  
as dew in April that falls on the flower branches.  
Never has there been such a mother and maiden;  
how fitting it is that this be God's mother.

6. This Little Babe

This little babe so few days old has come to rifle Satan's fold. All hell  
quakes at his presence, though he himself shivers. For in this weak,  
unarmed guise he will surprise the very gates of hell! With tears he  
fights and wins the field, his naked breast stands for a shield; his shots  
are his cries; his arrows, the looks of his weeping eyes. His martial  
ensigns are cold and need, and his feeble flesh, his warriors' steed.  
His camp is pitched in a stall; his bulwark is a broken wall, the crib  
his trench; haystacks are his stakes; of shepherds, he enlists his  
troops. And sure of wounding the foe, the angels sound the trumpets  
alarm. My soul joins Christ in the fight, stay by the tents that he has  
pitched; within his crib is sure protection, the little babe will be your  
guard; if Christ can foil your foes with joy, stay near the heavenly boy.

\*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.

Scripture Lesson

John 1:1-14 . . . . . New Testament, page 86

Minister: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon . . . . . Shannon J. Kershner

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Responding to the Word

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\*Hymn 144 . . . . . “In the Bleak Midwinter”

\*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.

## 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" . . . . . John Stainer

### Offering

Cantata . . . . . "A Ceremony of Carols" by Benjamin Britten

#### 7. Interlude (*harp solo*)

#### 8. In Freezing Winter Night

Behold, a silly tender babe  
in freezing winter night;  
in homely manger lies trembling,  
alas, a piteous sight.  
The inns are full; no man will yield  
this little pilgrim a bed,  
but forced he is with silly beasts,  
in crib to shroud his head.  
This stable is a prince's court,  
this crib his chair of state;  
the beasts are parcel of his pomp,  
the wooden dish his plate.  
The persons in poor attire  
his royal liveries wear.  
The prince himself is come from heaven;  
this pomp is prized there.  
With joy approach, O Christian, now,  
do homage to thy King,  
and highly praise his humble pomp  
which he from heaven doth bring.

### 9. Spring Carol

It is always a pleasure  
to hear the birds sing,  
to see the deer in the dale,  
the sheep in the vale,  
the corn springing from the earth.  
God supplies sustenance for us all;  
then we should always give him praise  
and give him thanks.

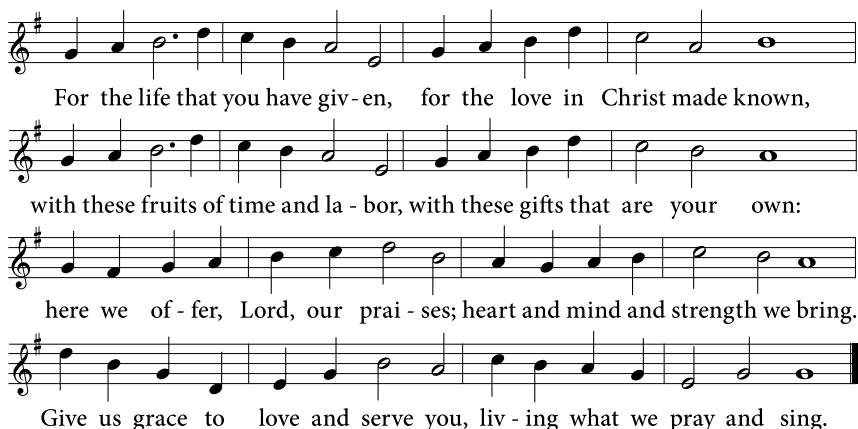
### 10. Deo Gracias

Give thanks to God!  
Adam was bound in sin  
for four thousand years,  
although he thought this not too long.  
It was all for an apple that he took,  
as clerics find written in their books.  
Had the apple never been taken,  
then our lady would have never been a heavenly queen.  
Blessed be the time the apple was taken;  
therefore we must sing, "Thanks be to God!"

### 11. Recession

Today Christ is born;  
today the Savior has appeared;  
today the angels sing,  
the archangels rejoice;  
today the righteous rejoice, saying,  
"Glory to God in the highest, alleluia!"

### \*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.

\*Prayer of Dedication (*unison*)

Holy God,  
you bless us with many gifts;  
you retrieve us  
from despair and fear;  
you visit us  
with surprising proclamations;  
and you intend for us  
good things.  
We thank you  
for your steadfast love,  
for sending signs of assurance,  
and for the gift of faith.  
Use our gifts  
to bring your comfort and justice  
to those in need,  
reforming the ways of our world  
for the sake of new life.  
Amen

\*Hymn 143 ..... “Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

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Bearing the Word into the World

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\*Benediction and Response

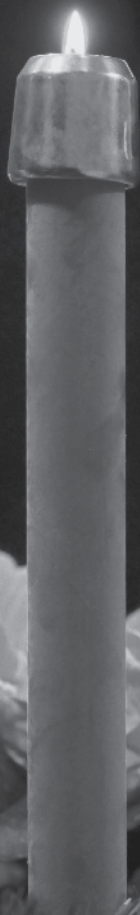
Postlude

Finale from *Variations on a Noël* ..... Marcel Dupré



# Christmas Worship

AT FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



## **Four Christmas Eve Candlelight Services**

**Wednesday, December 24**

**4:00 p.m.** Children's Pageant

*Matt Helms preaching*

**6:00 p.m.** Family Service

*John W. Vest preaching*

**8:30 p.m.** Lessons and Carols

*Shannon J. Kershner preaching*

**11:00 p.m.** Lessons and Carols

*Shannon J. Kershner preaching*

## **Christmas Day Service**

**Thursday, December 25**

**11:00 a.m.** in the Sanctuary

*Matt Helms preaching*

## **New Year's Eve Taizé Service**

**Wednesday, December 31**

**7:30 p.m.** in Buchanan Chapel

## Worship Leaders

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Victoria G. Curtiss, Ann Murray, Hardy H. Kim, Shannon J. Kershner

## Lighting the Advent Wreath

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9:30 The Temple Family

11:00 The Daniels Family

## The Music Today

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The Handbell Choir; the Cherub Choir; the Morning Choir;

Laura Perkett, Gillian Hollis, Sarah Van der Ploeg,

Brett Potts, Carla Janzen, and Carol Carpenter, soloists

John W. W. Sherer, Organist and Director of Music

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

Briana Belding-Peck, Director of the Handbell Choir

Katy Sinclair, Associate Director of Music for Children and Youth

Hsing-Huei Huang, Pianist

## Worship Notes

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A CEREMONY OF CAROLS was written by Benjamin Britten in March 1942, while he was at sea, and was originally composed for treble choir and harp. Due to the popularity of the piece, the publishing house Boosey and Hawkes commissioned Julius Harrison to arrange the mixed-chorus version that is presented today.

THE “LIGHT UP A LIFE” 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.

THE BULLETIN COVER photo depicts one of the ceiling canvases over the south aisle. The cover quote is from Donald McCullough’s book, *If Grace Is So Amazing, Why Don’t We Like It?*

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The words to “For the Life that You Have Given” are by Carl P. Daw Jr. © 1987; music is by Morgan Simmons © 1990, 1992 Hope Publishing Co.

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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

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**THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO**  
Church office: 126 E. Chestnut Street, Chicago, IL 60611.2014  
[www.fourthchurch.org](http://www.fourthchurch.org) | [www.facebook.com/fourthchurch](https://www.facebook.com/fourthchurch)  
312.787.4570 | Voicemail 312.787.2729 | Fax: 312.787.4584