



## Fourth Sunday of Advent

### Gathering

**Gathering Music** “My Favorite Things”. . . . . Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein  
“What Child Is This” . . . . . English ballad

*During Advent we ready our hearts to encounter the coming light of Christ. This active anticipation of the Christ child takes many forms. We invite you to participate with us in preparing the way for Jesus to enter our lives again through our prayers this season. Instead of using our usual prayer cards, we are offering our Advent prayers of expectation in a new way—please use a strip of cloth (distributed in the aisles) and a marker to write one word or phrase to express something for which you are waiting expectantly. Each week, we focus our prayers and waiting on the particular theme for that Sunday in Advent.*

*This Sunday in Advent, we are thinking about love. Please write on your strip of cloth the word or phrase that represents the love for which you wait, and then place it in the wooden manger as you come forward to receive communion.*

### Welcome

*Inspired by the radical hospitality of Jesus Christ, Fourth Presbyterian Church welcomes all of God’s children into the life of the church regardless of gender, age, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, physical limitation, educational background, or economic situation.*

## **Call to Worship Solo** “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

### **Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

Leader: If Jesus comes to us again at Christmas this year  
and if Jesus dwells within each of us,  
shouldn't that make a difference  
in who we are and how we live our lives?  
If we seek Jesus, who is born in the manger, shouldn't we  
be at peace among ourselves?  
Help the weak and the poor?  
Not repay evil for evil,  
but always do good to one another?  
In all circumstances, give thanks?

People: **As we light this fourth candle,  
let us remember this is the will of God in Christ Jesus,  
who comes to us. Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.**

**\*Hymn 347** . . . . . “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

*(Please refer to the hymnals for all hymns sung during this service.)*

### **Call to Confession**

#### **Prayer of Confession** (*unison*)

**God of glory and light,  
you come to make your home among us,  
yet we try to keep you at a distance  
or on the periphery of our lives.  
You have drawn near to us,  
but we have shrunk back from you.  
In mercy, forgive our resistance.  
By your Spirit, revive our love for you,  
and put in us a new and willing spirit  
that welcomes you and your purposes—  
in us, among us, and through us;  
for the sake of Emmanuel, God with us. Amen.**

### **Assurance of Forgiveness**

Leader: Friends, believe the good news.

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

### **\*Passing of the Peace**

Leader: As forgiven children of God, let us not be strangers to one another,  
but siblings in Christ. Please stand and greet one another  
with the peace of Christ. The peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

*All are invited to stand and share the peace of Christ with one another.*

**\*Song** "Soon and Very Soon"

## **Hearing and Proclaiming the Word**

### **Readings from Scripture**

Romans 8:18–23 . . . . . (New Testament, page 148)

Isaiah 9:2, 6–7 . . . . . (Old Testament, page 600)

**Quartet Anthem** (*please remain seated*) . . . . . "Prepare the Way, O Zion"

**Reading.** . . . . . "And He Came to Us"

**Hymn 93** (*please remain seated*) . . . . . “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

**Poetry** . . . . . “The Coming of God” by Ann Weems

**Hymn 92** (*please remain seated*). . . . . “While We Are Waiting, Come”

**Reading from Scripture**

Luke 1:26–38 . . . . . (*New Testament, page 53*)

**Poetry** . . . . . “Mary, Nazareth Girl” by Ann Weems

**Quartet Anthem** . . . . . “The Angel Gabriel Came”

**\*Responsive Reading**

Leader: Light looked down and saw darkness.

People: **“I will go there,” said Light.**

Leader: Peace looked down and saw war.

People: **“I will go there,” said Peace.**

Leader: Love looked down and saw hatred.

People: **“I will go there,” said Love.**

Leader: So he, the Lord of Light, the Prince of Peace, the King of Love,  
came down and crept in beside us.

**\*Hymn 127** . . . . . “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (Jesus, the Light of the World)”

**Reading from Scripture**

Luke 2:1–7 . . . . . (*New Testament, page 54*)



## Sealing the Word

**Offertory Music** “In the Bleak Midwinter” . . . . . *Gustav Holst and Christina Rossetti*

**Sharing of Gifts** (*Please place gifts in the plate as it is passed.*)

**\*Doxology** . . . . . *Lucy Smith*

## **The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper**

### **The 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!**

**Sanctus** . . . . . *Lucy Smith*

### **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 and Prayers of the People

**Communion Music** Hymn 121 . . . . . “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

*(As we take communion, please join in singing this hymn.)*

**Prayer after Communion** *(unison)*

We give you thanks, O God,  
that you have come to us through Jesus Christ,  
both in the midst of time and history  
in the city of Bethlehem,  
and in the timeless presence of Christ’s spirit.  
Send us out into the world rejoicing,  
ready to share your love with the people we meet,  
through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

## Sending

**Reading**

**\*Hymn 136** . . . . . “Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

**\*Benediction**

**Sending Music**

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## Worship Leaders

<b>Shannon J. Kershner</b>	Pastor
<b>Layton Williams</b>	Pastoral Resident
<b>Clark Costen</b>	Lay Liturgist
<b>Samme Orwig</b>	Lay Liturgist
<b>Curtis Evans</b>	Lay Liturgist
<b>Elizabeth Nickerson</b>	Worship Leader
<b>Lucy Smith Quartet</b>	Lucy Smith, vocals Michael Caskey, drums Bryan Doherty, bass Marcin Fahmy, piano

## A note on inclusive language

Incorporating ancient and contemporary traditions in this service, God is named corporately in a variety of ways that are gender neutral. This allows for your personal expressions as you are led to name the Holy in ways meaningful to you.

## Acknowledgments

*Music*—"Praise God (Dox)" by Lucy Smith, copyright © 2013. All rights reserved. "Gospel Sanctus" by Lucy Smith, copyright © 2011. All rights reserved.

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A LIGHT IN THE CITY  
**FOURTH**  
PRESBYTERIAN  
**CHURCH**  
[www.fourthchurch.org](http://www.fourthchurch.org)

## PASTORAL STAFF

**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

## News and Opportunities

### Advent and Christmas

**Four candlelight services** will be held on Christmas Eve: 4:00 p.m. (Children's Pageant); 6:00 p.m. (Family Service); and 8:30 and 11:00 p.m. (Service of Lessons and Carols). The Christmas Day service will be at 11:00 a.m. For more information, visit [www.fourthchurch.org/advent-christmas](http://www.fourthchurch.org/advent-christmas)

#### **Parking rates for Christmas Eve and Day:**

For those entering the 900 garage before 5:00 p.m. on December 24, discounted parking will cost \$16, which is the holiday rate. The \$16 orange parking voucher for that discount will need to be purchased at Fourth Church on Christmas Eve—cash or check only—and will be available before and after the Children's Pageant that day. Those entering the garage after 5:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve will be able to park for the usual \$8 evening rate with a green voucher available at the church. Parking on Christmas Day in the 900 garage will cost \$16. The voucher for discounted parking on Christmas Day must be purchased, with cash or check, at the church on Christmas morning. There will be no discounted parking at the Hancock garage on either day.

**The annual Christmas Dinner** will take place on Thursday, December 25 at 12:15 p.m. in Anderson Hall. Register, with cash or check, at the reception desk.

**Through "Light Up a Life" gifts**, you can honor or remember someone special while also providing important year-end support of Fourth Church and Chicago Lights programs that help neighbors whose needs are great this holiday season. Gifts can be made online or by completing the form available in the literature racks.

**Expectations for the holidays** can be different from the realities. Feelings of grief over losses can be heightened. Fourth Church's Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being offers various resources and a supportive environment for reflecting on, exploring, and coping with such experiences. To learn how the Center can help, call 312.787.8425.

### Children, Youth, and Family

**Nursery care on Christmas Eve** will be available from 3:30 to 7:15 p.m. It will not be available during the last two services.

**No Sunday School or youth gatherings** will be held on Sundays, December 28 or January 4. Children are invited to worship; preschoolers and kindergartners are welcome in the Nursery those days.

**Moms' Groups** for mothers with children through twelve years old meet weekly. For details, contact Liz Nickerson at [lnickerson@fourthchurch.org](mailto:lnickerson@fourthchurch.org)

#### **Online gifts to Light Up a Life and pledge fulfillment**

can be made at [www.fourthchurch.org](http://www.fourthchurch.org) (also accessible by scanning the QR code at right with any smartphone). These year-end gifts provide vital support to the programs of Fourth Church and Chicago Lights, funding outreach to those in need, sustaining choirs, supporting educational opportunities, and making possible our ministry together!





## Enrichment

**“Endings and Beginnings,”** a spiritual retreat, will be held on Saturday, January 3 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Pilgrim Congregational Church (460 Lake St., Oak Park). To register (required), contact Nancy Davis at 312.274.3815 (ndavis@fourthchurch.org) by Sunday, December 28.

**“Fifteen Days of Free Liberal Arts Education”** describes the January Series of lectures offered by Calvin College and shown via live Internet video feed at Fourth Church on weekdays January 7–27. For more information about the series and speakers, including Richard M. Daley, visit [www.calvin.edu/january](http://www.calvin.edu/january)

**Books by Women** will discuss *When Things Fall Apart: Heart Advice for Difficult Times* by Pema Chodron on Tuesday, January 13 at 6:00 p.m. in the Bumpus Room.

**“1914: Picturing the Great War”** will be the topic of a Center for Life and Learning class held on Thursdays, January 15–February 26 at 10:00 a.m. Adults sixty and more are invited to register (required) with Susan Quaintance at 312.981.3386.

**Meditation** is offered on first and third Tuesdays of the month through the Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being. For more information, visit [www.fourthchurch.org/rc](http://www.fourthchurch.org/rc)

**“Faith Today,”** a Bible study offered through the Center for Life and Learning, is held on Wednesdays, except December 24 and 31, at 11:30 a.m. No RSVP is needed for this free class, which is open to all ages and will resume on January 7.

## News and Resources

**Fourth Presbyterian Church** strives to be a welcoming, serving community. We affirm the worth of all and nurture each individual's spiritual pilgrimage.

**Visit the Fourth Church page on Facebook** ([facebook.com/fourthchurch](https://facebook.com/fourthchurch)) for worship and church life information. If you have a Facebook account, “like” Fourth Church to keep up-to-date on news and photos.

**Follow Fourth Church on Twitter:**  
@FourthChicago and @FPCAngel

**Inquirers' Class** offers opportunity to learn more about Fourth Church as well as Presbyterian history and beliefs. This one-session class, which is a prerequisite for membership, next meets on Monday, January 5 at 6:30 p.m. in Room 4F. For more information, visit [www.fourthchurch.org/about/joining.html](http://www.fourthchurch.org/about/joining.html) or contact Hardy Kim at 312.981.3399 (hkim@fourthchurch.org).

**Stephen Ministry** provides one-to-one caring relationships to support those who are experiencing challenging times. Information for those who might benefit from conversation with a Stephen Minister is available in the literature racks, online at [www.fourthchurch.org/caring/stephen-ministry.html](http://www.fourthchurch.org/caring/stephen-ministry.html), and by leaving a confidential message at 312.573.3365.

# News and Opportunities

## Volunteers and Donations

### **Current Volunteer Needs**

**Tutors** for the Chicago Lights Tutoring program;  
one evening a week, Monday–Thursday;  
6:00–7:30 p.m.

**Audio recording equipment operators** for Sunday  
morning worship services and occasional  
afternoon services

**In2it Cafe instructors** for Chicago Lights Tutoring;  
one evening a week

**Volunteers** to wash and dry clothes for a Fourth  
Church family with a chronically ill child

**Dessert bakers** for Monday Night Supper,  
on rotation

**Members** to serve as Nursery caregivers on Sundays  
at 9:30 or 11:00 a.m.

**Individuals** to organize and pack supplies on Sunday  
afternoon for Monday Night Supper, on rotation

**Bag lunch assemblers and distributors** on  
Tuesdays, Wednesdays, or Thursdays;  
10:30–11:45 a.m. or 11:50 a.m.–1:15 p.m.

**Sunday Night Supper dining room helpers** to  
assist with setup, beverage pouring, hosting,  
and cleaning; 3:30–6:00 p.m.

### **Current Donation Needs**

**Colorful tablecloths** for Sunday Night Supper

**Men's and women's sturdy, winter clothes**  
in all sizes

**Small women's pull-ups** for a chronically ill child

**Nonperishable and individually wrapped** food  
items for the Chicago Lights Elam Davies Social  
Service Center

**Department store bags** with handles

*A complete list of volunteer opportunities is available  
online at [www.fourthchurch.org/mission/volunteer.html](http://www.fourthchurch.org/mission/volunteer.html)  
or by contacting Larry Nicholson at 312.981.3382  
([lnicholson@fourthchurch.org](mailto:lnicholson@fourthchurch.org)).*

## Worship

**Opportunity to walk the labyrinth** in Buchanan  
Chapel is available this week on Monday from  
7:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Tuesday from 7:30 a.m. to  
9:00 p.m., Wednesday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.,  
and Saturday from 7:30 to 12:00 noon. For more  
information, visit [www.fourthchurch.org/worship/  
labyrinth.html](http://www.fourthchurch.org/worship/labyrinth.html)

**A service in the style of Taizé** will next be held  
on New Year's Eve, Wednesday, December 31 at  
7:30 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel. It will be preceded by  
opportunity to walk the labyrinth in Anderson Hall  
from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. For more information, visit  
[www.fourthchurch.org/taize](http://www.fourthchurch.org/taize)

**For a preview of next Sunday's worship** and news  
from Fourth Church, subscribe to the weekly email  
newsletter, [News@FourthChurch](mailto:News@FourthChurch), by sending email  
addresses to [news@fourthchurch.org](mailto:news@fourthchurch.org).

**Special prayer requests** are included in intercessory  
prayer in Stone Chapel on Sundays. Individuals  
can pray there with a Deacon at 10:30 a.m. and  
12:15 p.m. or place their prayer requests, written  
on paper, in one of the prayer boxes outside Stone  
Chapel or in the Narthex.

**Daily devotions**, written by Fourth Church staff,  
are available in the literature racks, online at  
[www.fourthchurch.org/devotions](http://www.fourthchurch.org/devotions), and by email  
from [devotions@fourthchurch.org](mailto:devotions@fourthchurch.org).

**Morning Prayer** is held weekdays in the Sanctuary  
at 9:30 a.m., except Tuesdays, when it is at 9:00 a.m.  
All are invited to join staff for opportunity to  
remember in prayer members of the Fourth Church  
congregation, all those in need, and mission partners  
around the world.

## News and Opportunities

### Music and the Arts

**Flutist Cate Hummel** will perform the next free Noonday concert, which will be held on Friday, January 2 at 12:10 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel. A complete schedule of Noonday concerts is available online at [www.fourthchurch.org/concerts](http://www.fourthchurch.org/concerts)

**Those who would like to receive *Music Notes***, a weekly email newsletter about music at Fourth Church, are invited to subscribe by sending email addresses to [music@fourthchurch.org](mailto:music@fourthchurch.org).

***Light***, the latest CD featuring the Fourth Church choirs, is available online through iTunes or CDBaby or by contacting Ryan Loeckel at 312.640.2570 ([rloeckel@fourthchurch.org](mailto:rloeckel@fourthchurch.org)).

### Fellowship

**Young Adults** will not gather next Sunday, December 28. They will resume meeting for fellowship and discussion on Sunday, January 4 at 12:30 p.m. in Room 5A.

**Cornerstones and Fourth Dimension** will meet for a joint gathering of the presentation "The Music and History of Bagpipes," led by George Sims, on Friday, January 9 at 6:00 p.m. in Borwell Dining Room. To register (required), contact Anne Ellis at 312.573.3369 ([aellis@fourthchurch.org](mailto:aellis@fourthchurch.org)) by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 7.

### Mission and Outreach

#### **Applications for 2015 mission trips**

"Racial Reconciliation" (May 2–9) and Guatemala (July 12–19) are due February 15 and April 11, respectively. Application information is available in the literature racks and online at [www.fourthchurch.org/mission/trips.html](http://www.fourthchurch.org/mission/trips.html)

**Angels on Call** is a volunteer opportunity offering home-cooked meals to Fourth Church families who have recently welcomed a baby or who are recovering from surgery. To learn more about Angels on Call and how to help, contact Judy Watt at 312.573.3360 ([jwatt@fourthchurch.org](mailto:jwatt@fourthchurch.org)).

**Chicago Shares voucher booklets** offer a way to give to those in need on the streets while knowing that the \$1 gift will be redeemed at a participating store or restaurant. To purchase a \$5 booklet, contact Nancy Davis at 312.274.3815 ([ndavis@fourthchurch.org](mailto:ndavis@fourthchurch.org)).

**The Benevolent Guild**, which gathers to create stuffed animals and taggies for hospitalized children, will next meet on Wednesday, January 7 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 5B.

**Save the date for Gala of Hope**, to support Chicago Lights and the Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being: Friday, March 6. Watch for details in the new year!

## During Today's Worship

**During Advent**, we ready our hearts to encounter the coming light of Christ. We invite you to participate with us in preparing the way for Jesus to enter our lives again through our prayers this season. Instead of using our usual prayer cards, we are offering our Advent prayers of expectation in a new way—please use a strip of cloth (distributed in the aisles) and a marker to write one word or phrase to express something for which you are waiting expectantly. Each week, we focus our prayers and waiting on the particular theme for that Sunday in Advent.

**All, including children, are invited to the Lord's Table** to receive Communion, which is served by intinction. The congregation will come forward by the center aisle to receive the bread (gluten-free bread is available in the paper "cup" within the basket of bread), which they will then dip into the chalice of nonalcoholic grape juice. Worshipers will return to their pews by the side aisles.

**The large banners hanging in the middle of the Sanctuary** were created by liturgical artist Shawna Bowman during the 4:00 worship service and are artistic representations of our worship experience.

**Please** turn off all cell phones when in the Sanctuary.

**Worship also can be heard** through the "T" setting of hearing aids.

**If your infant or small child needs care** during the worship service, you may leave the Sanctuary and return as you wish. There is also an area in the left-side aisle where your child can play quietly.

**Worship folders**, containing quiet activities and a bulletin for children, are available from a greeter.

**Printed copies of sermons** recently preached at Fourth Church are available in the literature racks outside the South Transept doors (leading to Anderson Hall) and in the Narthex, at the back of the Sanctuary. They are also available at [www.fourthchurch.org/sermons/index.html](http://www.fourthchurch.org/sermons/index.html).

**To notify pastoral staff** of personal concerns, illnesses, hospitalizations, or deaths; to pass along a prayer request; or to arrange homebound Communion with a Deacon, contact Judy Watt, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care, at 312.573.3360 ([jwatt@fourthchurch.org](mailto:jwatt@fourthchurch.org)).

## If You Are New to Fourth Church

**Inquirers' Class** explores Presbyterian history and beliefs.

This one-session class is also a prerequisite for membership and includes a light meal. Attend Monday, January 5, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.; Saturday, January 17, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon; or Monday, February 2, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. For membership information, contact Hardy Kim, Associate Pastor for Evangelism, at 312.981.3399 ([hkim@fourthchurch.org](mailto:hkim@fourthchurch.org)).

**Information about opportunities and resources**

available to you here at Fourth Church is available in the literature racks as you're leaving the church. You can also find information on our website ([www.fourthchurch.org](http://www.fourthchurch.org)), our page on Facebook ([facebook.com/fourthchurch](https://facebook.com/fourthchurch)), and in our weekly email newsletter (send addresses to [news@fourthchurch.org](mailto:news@fourthchurch.org)).

**If you are interested in considering baptism or membership** at the 4:00 p.m. service at Fourth

Church, please contact Liz Nickerson (312.573.3366; [lnickerson@fourthchurch.org](mailto:lnickerson@fourthchurch.org)) or any pastor involved in the service. Information is available about the Baptism Seminar and Inquirers' Class, which are necessary for preparation. A monthly opportunity to be baptized or join the church at the 4:00 service is available on December 28 and January 25.

**Sunday parking is available** at 900 North Michigan (access from Rush or Walton Street) at the rate of \$8. Validation tickets must be picked up from the 126 E. Chestnut St. reception desk. There is no discounted afternoon parking at the Hancock garage.

### The Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago

Church office: 126 E. Chestnut Street, Chicago, IL 60611.2014; [www.fourthchurch.org](http://www.fourthchurch.org)  
312.787.4570; Fax: 312.787.4584; [www.facebook.com/fourthchurch](https://www.facebook.com/fourthchurch)