

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

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Noël Claude Balbastre
Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming Johannes Brahms
What Child Is This Ralph Vaughan Williams

*Call to Worship

Leader: *Friends, the people walking in darkness
have seen a great light.
Let us go, in heart and mind,
to see what has come to pass.
Let us go with the shepherds:*

People: **Let us go to Bethlehem,
and see that which the Lord
has made known to us.**

Leader: *Let us go with the magi:*

People: **Let us go to find God's promise,
born for us.**

Leader: *Let us go with the poor and humble:*

People: **Let us go find our King,
born in a lowly manger.**

Leader: *Let us go with all the world,
with all the peoples of the nations.
Come, let us worship;
come, let us adore him.*

*Hymn 133 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Welcome

Lighting of the Christ Candle

**Stand as you are able.*

Prayer of Invocation (*unison*)

O Emmanuel, O “God with us,”
we rejoice and are glad on this bright Christmas morning,
for you have truly come, full of grace and truth.
Forgive us for when we have been empty of hope
or lacking in love as we have waited for your coming.
Turn our darkness into light,
and draw us once more into the mystery of your love.
Join our voices with the heavenly host,
that we may sing your glory like the angels.
Give us a place among the shepherds,
that we might find our greatest gift
in that small child resting in the manger.
Shape us to be more like Jesus,
seeking to serve rather than to be served,
seeking to give rather than to receive.
We ask all of this in Christ’s name. Amen.

*Hymn 121 “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Listening for the Word

First Lesson

Isaiah 9:2–7. Old Testament, page 600

Solo

“An Old Carol” Roger Quilter
*I sing of a maiden that is matchless; King of all kings to her son she chose.
He came all so still; there his mother was, as dew in April that falleth on the
grass. He came all so still to his mother’s bower, as dew in April that falleth
on the flower. He came all so still; there his mother lay, as dew in April that
falleth on the spray. Mother and maiden was never none but she; well may
such a lady God’s mother be.*

Second Lesson

Luke 2:1–7. New Testament, page 54

*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.

Third Lesson

Luke 2:8-20 New Testament, page 54

Sermon

Come and See Matt Helms

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 113 “Angels We Have Heard on High”

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.

Offering

Offertory Solo

“The Lamb” Gordon Jacob

*Little lamb, who made thee?
Dost thou know who made thee?
Gave thee life and bid thee feed
by the stream and o’er the mead;
gave thee clothing of delight,
softest clothing, woolly bright;
gave thee such a tender voice,
making all the world rejoice?
Little lamb, who made thee?
Dost thou know who made thee?
Little lamb, I’ll tell thee;
he is called by thy name,
for he calls himself a lamb.
He is meek and he is mild;
he became a little child.
I a child and thou a lamb,
we are called by his name.
Little lamb, God bless thee!*

***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 Thanksgiving and Dedication**

Leader: *Lift up your hearts.*
 People: **We lift them to the Lord.**
 Leader: *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*
 People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**
 All: **O God, in the sending of your Son, Jesus,
 your Word became flesh,
 and we have seen a new and radiant vision of your glory.
 His name is above every name,
 the Prince of Peace and Savior of all.
 In him we have been brought out of darkness
 into your marvelous light.
 In response to your amazing love,
 we offer you these our gifts
 and pray that you would bless them to your service
 in the world you have redeemed
 through Jesus Christ, your Son. Amen.**

*Hymn 134..... “Joy to the World”

Bearing the Word into the World

***Benediction**

Postlude

Go, Tell It on the Mountain African American spiritual
 arr. John Behnke

Gifts supporting Christmastime Sanctuary adornments have been made in memory and in honor of family, friends, and loved ones.

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Family and dear friends of Laura Sterkel and Rob Wetherald
Cheryl, Keith, and grandsons

Worship Leaders

Louise Gram, Matt Helms

The Music Today

John W. W. Sherer, Organist and Director of Music
Carol Carpenter, soloist

Worship Notes

LIGHT UP A LIFE GIFTS are being received throughout the Christmas season.

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.

FOURTH CHURCH OFFERS A VARIETY OF WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES in addition to Sunday morning services. A jazz service with Communion is held each Sunday at 4:00 p.m. On weekday mornings, Morning Prayer is held in the Sanctuary as a time to remember in prayer members of the Fourth Church congregation and those in need (9:30 a.m. on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday; 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday; please note Morning Prayer will not be held tomorrow, as the church office will be closed). Next week the Taizé service will be held on New Year’s Eve at 7:30 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel. From January to October, the monthly Taizé service takes place on the fourth Friday of the month.

SOURCES AND CREDITS: Hymn tune names—as well as composers of the music and authors of the text—are listed in the hymnal with each hymn. 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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