



**First Sunday after Christmas**



## Gathering

- Gathering Music** "Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow" . . . . . *African American spiritual*  
"Away in a Manger" . . . . . *James R. Murray*  
"Still, Still, Still" . . . . . *Austrian carol*

*We invite you to complete the prayer card found in this worship bulletin and to place it in the plate during the sharing of gifts. Information about the prayer cards is printed on the outside back cover of the bulletin.*

## 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**

Leader: The Lord exists forever.

**People: Your Word is firmly fixed in heaven.**

Leader: Your faithfulness endures for all generations.

**People: You have established the earth, and it stands fast.**

Leader: How sweet are your words to my taste,

**People: sweeter than honey to my mouth.**

Leader: Through your commandments I get understanding;

**People: therefore, I hate every false way.**

Leader: Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

**\*Opening Song** . . . . . Joy to the World!

**Prayer of Confession**

*(Please observe silence for personal prayers of confession.)*

**Assurance of Forgiveness**

Leader: Friends, believe the good news.

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

**Sacrament of Baptism**

**Unison Prayer**

**Loving God, in the season of Advent,  
as we gazed upon the baby Jesus,  
you helped us remember the power of children.  
You sent your Son into the world  
to seek us, to save us, and to transform us.  
Through our baptisms, you have made us each your child  
and sealed us with your spirit.  
Help each of us to remember the promises of our own baptism  
and truly live as your children. Amen.**

**\*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** "Reach Out Your Hand in Peace" . . . . . *Lucy Smith*

## Hearing and Proclaiming the Word

### Scripture: Old Testament Lesson

Exodus 16:4, 9–12 . . . . . (*Old Testament, page 60*)

### Song

### Scripture: New Testament Lesson

Galatians 4:4–7 . . . . . (*New Testament, page 178*)

**Sermon** Through the Act of a Child. . . . . Elizabeth Nickerson

### Musical Reflection

## Sealing the Word

**Offertory Music** “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” . . . . *Richard S. Willis & Edmund H. Sears*

**Sharing of Gifts** (*Please place gifts and prayer cards 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** “Just Taste and See” . . . . . *Traditional*

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

**Compassionate God,  
we have tasted and seen  
that you indeed are good.  
We are surprised to find you  
in the most unexpected places:  
in the act of sharing bread,  
in the eyes of a child,  
in the promises of our baptism.  
So open our eyes this night  
to see your presence  
and to become a people of peace  
and a people of hope. Amen.**



**Sending**

**\*Closing Song** (*see page 7 for music*) . . . . . “What Child Is This”

**\*Benediction**

**Sending Music**

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## Worship Leaders

<b>Elizabeth Nickerson</b>	Interim Director of Worship
<b>Layton Williams</b>	Pastoral Resident
<b>Sam Evans</b>	Lay Liturgist and Baptism Elder
<b>Lucy Smith Quartet</b>	Lucy Smith, vocals Bryan Doherty, bass Marcus Evans, drums Marcin Fahmy, piano

## Baptisms

Elizabeth Cogswell Wise, daughter of Matthew and Katherine Wise  
Joseph Jake Fahner, son of Daniel and Devon Fahner

## 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*—"Reach Out Your Hand in Peace" by Lucy Smith, copyright © 2013. All rights reserved. "Praise God (Dox)" by Lucy Smith, copyright © 2013. All rights reserved. "Gospel Sanctus" by Lucy Smith, copyright © 2011. All rights reserved.



## 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

## 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](https://twitter.com/FourthChicago) and [@FPCAngel](https://twitter.com/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](mailto: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., and Wednesday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. 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

**All are encouraged to use the prayer card**, found in this worship bulletin, to offer joys and/or concerns. The cards will be collected during the Sharing of Gifts (simply place the card in the offering plate as it is passed). The prayers will then be read aloud during this afternoon's Prayers of the People.

If you have a prayer you would rather not share during worship, you are invited to complete a prayer card found by one of the prayer boxes in the Narthex, at the back of the Sanctuary, and it will be passed on to Judith Watt, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care.

**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 January 25 and February 22.

**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)