

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

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

“Sleepers, Wake!” A Voice Astounds Us Johann Sebastian Bach
We Gather Together Sandra K. Tucker
Savior of the Nations, Come J. S. Bach
Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing S. K. Tucker

Introit

“Our King and Savior Now Draws Near” Iain Quinn
*Our King and Savior now draws near; come let us adore him.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be. Amen.*

*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: *We gather in preparation,*
People: for good news is about to be proclaimed.
Minister: *We gather in expectation,*
People: for joy is about to explode in our midst.
Minister: *We gather in celebration,*
People: for we are those people who have said
yes to the manger,
yes to love made flesh,
yes to the one incarnate for others,
yes to the wholeness of God.

Minister: *With preparation and in expectation, let us worship God!*

*Prayer of Praise

*Hymn 378 “We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom”

**Stand as you are able.*

Liturgy of the Advent Wreath

Leader: *In the beginning was the Word—
spoken and breathed, a promise made and kept.*

People: Listen and hear—God’s promise is true!

Leader: *The Word was in the beginning,
and through him all things come into being.*

People: Eternal and near at hand, already and not-yet,
God’s promise is the foundation of all life.

Leader: *Listen!
Hear the covenant anew,
giving voice to a future with hope.*

Sung Response (*unison*) “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Merciful God,
always with us, always coming:
we confess that we do not know
how to prepare for your Advent.
We have forgotten how to hope for miracles;
we have ignored the promise of your kingdom;
we have been distracted by the busyness of the season.
Forgive us, Lord.
Grant us the simple wonder of the shepherds,
the courage of the magi,
and the quiet faith of Mary and Joseph,
that we may journey with them towards Bethlehem
and find the good news of a child born for us.
In the quiet of our hearts,
we ask you to make us ready for his coming. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

Minister: *Friends, believe the good news.*

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

Concerns of the Church

Minute for Mission

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter (*responsively*)

Psalm 25:1–10 Old Testament, page 475

Anthem

“Rorate Coeli” Christopher Tye

*Drop dew, ye heavens, from above,
and let the clouds break forth
in showers upon the righteous ones;
in rain upon the just.
Let the earth be opened
and blossom forth a savior.*

First Lesson

Jeremiah 33:14–16 Old Testament, page 694

Minister: *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 21:25–36 New Testament, page 80

Minister: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Old Beginnings and New Endings. Matt Helms

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 88 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

*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” Richard Warner

Offertory Anthem

“And the Glory of the Lord” from *Messiah* George Frideric Handel
*And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.*

*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*)

God of grace, you have done
 and are doing great things for us,
 and holy is your name.
 Bless all that we offer to you—
 ourselves, our time, and our possessions—
 that through us your grace and favor
 may be made known to all the world,
 for the sake of Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 100 “My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout”

*Benediction and Response

Postlude

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel. Adolphus Hailstork

Worship Leaders

Victoria G. Curtiss, Hardy H. Kim, Matt Helms

The Music Today

The Morning Choir; The Handbell Choir

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

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

Briana Belding-Peck, Director of the Handbell Choir

Worship Notes

TODAY'S MINUTE FOR MISSION is presented by Melanie and Brad Pierce on behalf of the "Light Up a Life" Christmas giving program. The "Light Up a Life" offering, which is being received throughout November and December, provides opportunity to support congregational programs, mission, and community outreach—including Chicago Lights programs—as well as 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 three of the Handbell Choir bells, photographed in the chancel. In the center bell one can see the reflection of the Sanctuary ceiling and side windows.

SOURCES AND CREDITS: The Liturgy of the Advent Wreath was written by Teri Peterson, Pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Palantine. 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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