

## Gathering around the Word

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### Prelude

“Sleepers, Wake!” A Voice Astounds Us . . . . . Johann Sebastian Bach

### Introit

“Our King and Savior Now Draws Near” . . . . . Iain Quinn

\*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!*

\*Hymn 378 . . . . . “We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom”

### 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” (*verse 1*) . . . . . The Hymnal, 88

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

Mintue for Mission

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Listening for the Word

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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,  
and let the earth be opened and blossom forth a Savior.*

First Lesson

Jeremiah 33:14–16 . . . . . Old Testament, page 694

Leader: *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

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.

Offering

Offertory Voluntary

Savior of the Nations, Come. . . . . Dietrich Buxtehude

\*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.

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## Sealing the Word

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### THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

#### Invitation

#### 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.

#### Prayer

Minister: *It is truly right and our greatest joy . . .*

*. . . who forever sing to the glory of your name:*

Sanctus (*sung*) . . . . . The Hymnal, 552

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest,

hosanna in the highest.

Minister: . . . *Great is the mystery of faith:*

Memorial Acclamation (*sung*) . . . . . The Hymnal, 553

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

#### The Lord's Prayer (*unison*)

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by 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

Communion Anthem

“Creator of the Stars of Night” . . . . . Plainsong  
arr. Dale Wood

*Creator of the stars of night, thy people’s everlasting light;  
O Christ, thou Savior of us all, we pray thee, hear us when we call.  
To thee the travail deep was known that made the whole creation groan,  
till thou, Redeemer, shoudest free thine own in glorious liberty.  
And when the world drew on toward night, thou camest, not in splendor bright,  
as monarch, but the humble child of Mary, blameless mother mild.  
At thy great name of Jesus, now all knees must bend, all hearts must bow,  
and things celestial thee shall own, of things terrestrial, Lord, alone.  
Come in thy holy might, we pray, redeem us for eternal day  
from every power of darkness, when thou judgest all the sons of men.  
To God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit, three in one,  
laud, honor, might, and glory be from age to age eternally. Amen.*

Prayer after Communion (*unison*)

Most gracious God, we praise you for what you have given  
and for what you have promised here.  
You have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth.  
You have fed us with the bread of life and renewed us for your service.  
May our daily living build your kingdom  
as we celebrate your presence among us and wait for your return. Amen.

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Bearing the Word into the World

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

\*Benediction and Response

Postlude

Savior of the Nations, Come . . . . . Paul Manz

# Worship Leaders

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Matt Helms

# The Music Today

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The Chancel Choir

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

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

Chelsie Coren, Organ Scholar

# Worship Notes

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TODAY'S MINUTE FOR MISSION is presented by Melanie 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.

THIS MORNING, COMMUNION IS SERVED BY INTINCTION. The congregation comes forward by the center aisle to receive the bread, which they then dip into the chalice of grape juice. (Gluten-free bread is available in a small tumbler in each basket of bread.) Worshipers return to their pews by the side aisles.

The invitation to the Lord's Supper is not just for Presbyterians or "members of the church." All who confess Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord are invited to partake of the Lord's Supper. Even one who doubts or whose trust is wavering may receive the bread and grape juice (in place of wine) in order to be assured of God's love and grace in Jesus Christ.

SOURCES AND CREDITS: The Liturgy of the Advent Wreath was written by Teri Peterson, Pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Palatine. 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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**Victoria G. Curtiss** Associate Pastor for Mission

**Matt Helms** Associate Pastor

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**Hardy H. Kim** Associate Pastor for Evangelism

**Judith L. Watt** Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care

**Jeffrey Doane** Parish Associate for Older Adults

**Layton Williams** Pastoral Resident

**John Buchanan** Pastor Emeritus

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**THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO**

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