



Gathering

Second Sunday of Advent

Gathering Music "Give Me Jesus" Richard Billingham
"Midnight Blues" Joe Utterback

During Advent we ready our hearts to encounter the coming light of Christ. The scriptures tell us that Christ's coming will be like the coming of summer, but that even before his coming, we will see signs like leaves on the trees.

*We invite you to participate with us in preparing for Jesus to enter our lives again through our prayers this season. Instead of using our usual prayer cards, we will be offering our Advent prayers in a new way—we will fill out green prayer cards with **prayers of expectation (things we are asking of God), and prayers of transformation (things for which we give thanks to God)**. We will build a tree with these prayers throughout the season, using them as leaves that show signs of Christ coming into the world.*

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** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

* Stand as you are able

***Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

Leader 1: The candles we light this evening are a sign of the coming light of Christ.
Advent means coming. In lighting these candles,
we acknowledge that we hear the voice crying out in the wilderness.

Leader 2: The one that calls us to prepare the way for our Lord, to make straight,
in our desolate land, a highway for our God.

Leader 1: By this light we wait for the day when the glory of the Lord will be revealed—

Leader 2: the day when steadfast love and faithfulness will meet,
and righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

People: Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

***Opening Song** “Prepare the Way, O Zion”

Please note

Copyrighted musical pieces that we do not have permission to distribute online (but only
to include in the printed order of worship) are not shown in this version of the bulletin.

For details on the licenses, permission to reprint, and copyright information for the musical
pieces not included here, please see the “Acknowledgments” page later in this bulletin.

Litany of Confession

Leader: Surprising God, we wait in darkness and in cold.
On the streets, some of our brothers and sisters wait
with their protest signs, and others wait with empty cups.
In our homes, our children, our parents, and our friends, all wait.

People: Even as we long for you, we confess that others wait for us.

Leader: The wait is hard, and we would rather minister to ourselves than bring the hope of your coming to others.

People: We confess our desire to burrow in and pretend that your coming will solve all our problems so we can do nothing.

Leader: We confess our desire to wrap ourselves in pithy sayings on social media or in lots of stuff to help us forget what your coming really means.

People: Forgive us, O God. Give us the courage to welcome the wait, to watch with those who long for it, and to not shrink back in fear.

Leader: Come quickly, Lord Jesus. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Leader: Friends, believe the good news.

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

***Passing of the Peace**

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

People: And also with you.

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

***Song** "While We are Waiting, Come"

Hearing and Proclaiming the Word

Psalter Psalm 126 (*the congregation sings the antiphon*)

ANTIPHON (*unison*) **May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.**

Leader: When God restored the fortunes of Zion,
then were we like those who dream.
Our mouths filled with laughter,
and our tongues with shouts of joy.
Then they said among the nations,
“God has done great things for them.”
God has done great things for us,
and we are glad indeed.

ANTIPHON (*unison*) **May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.**

Leader: Restore our fortunes, O God,
like the watercourses of the Negeb.
Those who sowed with tears
will reap with songs of joy.
Those who go out weeping,
carrying the seed,
will come again with joy,
shouldering their sheaves.

ANTIPHON (*unison*) **May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.**

Scripture Reading

Luke 3:1–6 (*New Testament, page 56*)

Sermon *Shannon J. Kershner*

Responding to the Word

Musical Reflection

Commissioning of Minister for Congregational Life

Offertory Music

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

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

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!**

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

Communion Music "If the Path I Travel" *Mark Diedrich and Margaret E. Barber*

Prayer After Communion (*unison*)

**Gracious God, you have made us one
with all your people in heaven and on earth.
As we go from this place out into your world,
we pray for all those whom we will encounter.
May we live as messengers of your grace
and proclaimers of your goodness.
May all of our love be your love reaching out
into the life of the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**



Sending

*Closing Song "My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout"

*Benediction

Sending Music

Worship Leaders

Shannon J. Kersher	Pastor
Elizabeth Metcalfe	Lay Liturgist
Quantisha Mason	Lay Liturgist
Layton Williams	Pastoral Resident
Lucy Smith Quartet	Lucy Smith, vocals Ernie Adams, drums Bryan Doherty, bass Marcin Fahmy, piano
John W. W. Sherer	Organist and Director of Music

The **“Light Up a Life” offering** is being received throughout December. “Light Up a Life” 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.

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

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FOURTH
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
A Light in the City

PASTORAL STAFF

Shannon J. Kershner, Pastor
Victoria G. Curtiss, Associate Pastor for Mission
Matt Helms, Associate Pastor for Children and Family Ministry
Hardy H. Kim, Associate Pastor for Evangelism
Judith L. Watt, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care
Nanette Sawyer, Minister for Congregational Life
Jeffrey Doane, Parish Associate for Older Adults
Layton Williams, Pastoral Resident
John Buchanan, Pastor Emeritus

News and Opportunities

Worship

Morning Prayer is held on Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. in Buchanan Chapel.

Taking Communion to homebound members will be part of the Deacon ministry this Advent. If you know of Fourth Church members who would like to receive Communion, please contact Carol Allerton (callerton@fourthchurch.org) at 312.640.5448.

Advent devotions, written by Fourth Church members and staff, are available in the church literature racks, by email (send email addresses to devotions@fourthchurch.org), at www.facebook.com/fourthchurch, and via Twitter (@FourthChicago).

Children, Youth, and Family

Sunday School meets on Sundays at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. on the fourth floor of the Gratz Center. For details, contact Matt Helms (mhelms@fourthchurch.org) at 312.573.3362

Youth in grades 6 through 12 gather on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. in the Bumpus Room.

La Posada Family Night will be held on Friday, December 18 at 5:30 p.m. in Anderson Hall.

News and Resources

Visit the Fourth Church page on Facebook (facebook.com/fourthchurch) for sermon quotes, photos, and programming information. If you have a Facebook account, be sure to “like” our page to keep up-to-date on Fourth Church news.

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, meets this Monday, December 7 at 6:30 p.m. and Saturday, December 12 at 9:00 a.m. in Room 4F.

We welcome Nanette Sawyer to Fourth Church as she join us on a one-year contract as Minister for Congregational Life. Information about Nanette is available in the literature racks.

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, and by leaving a confidential message at 312.573.3365.

To subscribe to the weekly email newsletter News@FourthChurch, send email addresses to news@fourthchurch.org

As you tend to your Christmas shopping list, let Fourth Church and Chicago Lights help you spread double the joy with your giving: “Light Up a Life” gifts—which are easy to place online at www.fourthchurch.org and perfect for all on your list—provide a meaningful gift for recipients and make a lasting difference in the lives of those served by Chicago Lights and Fourth Church.



News and Opportunities

Volunteers and Donations

Current Volunteer Needs

Members to assist a child with special needs during 9:30 a.m. Sunday School

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

Drummers for the Fourth Church Drumming Circle

Audio-video recorders for the 11:00 a.m. service

Nursery caregivers on Sundays at 9:30 or 11:00 a.m.

Clothes washers to wash and dry clothes, on rotation, for a family with a chronically ill child and living in zip code 60618

Coffee Hour hosts

Grocery shoppers for Sunday and Monday Night Suppers and sandwich teams, on rotation

Current Donation Needs

Clean blankets

Magazines

Men's and women's winter clothes

Nonperishable food items for the Chicago Lights Elam Davies Social Service Center

For details or to volunteer, contact Larry Nicholson at 312.981.3382 (lnicholson@fourthchurch.org) or visit www.fourthchurch.org/volunteer

Fellowship

Fourth Dimension will meet for their annual Christmas party this Friday, December 11 at 6:00 p.m. in the Manse. To register (*required*), call Anne Ellis at 312.573.3369 by 12:00 noon on Monday, December 7.

ThirtiesForties will meet next Sunday, December 13 at 11:00 a.m. in Room 5D to discuss the topic of "Wisdom."

Enrichment

Weekly Seeds at Fourth, a weekly women's Bible study that follows a lectionary-based curriculum, meets on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in Room 5F.

Two Academy for Faith and Life classes continue next Sunday: "Becoming a Vital Member of a Church Body" at 11:00 a.m. in Room 5E and "Handel's *Messiah*" at 12:15 p.m. in Room 4G.

Books by Women will discuss *The Grass Is Singing* by Doris Lessing this Tuesday, December 8 at 6:00 p.m. in the Bumpus Room.

Presbyterian Women's Horizons Bible study will meet this Wednesday, December 9 at 12:00 noon in Room 4J.

Men's Bible Study will meet next Tuesday, December 15 at 7:30 a.m. in the Loop. For details or to RSVP, contact Anne Ellis at aellis@fourthchurch.org

Life without Parole will be the topic of discussion facilitated by Claudia Boatright as part of the mass incarceration book series next Tuesday, December 15 at 5:30 p.m. in Room 4F.

Music and the Arts

Soprano Rae-Myra Hilliard will perform this Friday's free Noonday concert at 12:10 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel.

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

Advent

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 information racks.

The “**Christmas Wishes**” gift project collects gifts for Chicago Lights Tutoring students who might not otherwise receive them. Volunteers are needed to help collect and wrap gifts. To help, call Anne Ellis at 312.573.3369.

Today is the last day to register for the Advent Contemplative Retreat, held Friday–Saturday, December 11–12 at The Well in La Grange Park. Registration forms are available in the literature racks and online.

Friday is the deadline for Christmas flower contributions to memorialize or honor loved ones. Names of those being remembered must be received by December 11 in order to be printed in the Christmas bulletin. Contributions can be made using forms in the literature racks and at www.fourthchurch.org or by calling Allie Williams at 312.981.3383.

“**Holiday Pops!**”—a concert with Chicago Chamber Orchestra and cabaret duo Beckie Menzie and Tom Michael—will take place next Sunday, December 13 at 2:00 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel. Tickets are available online at www.chicagochamberorch.org

The **Festival of Advent Lessons and Music** will take place next Sunday, December 13 at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. A cookies-and-cocoa reception will follow in Anderson Hall. Volunteers are needed to help bake cookies and set up the reception. To help, call Anne Ellis at 312.573.3369.

A **Lakeside Singers holiday concert** will be held on Friday, December 18 at 8:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Tickets are available at www.lakesidesingers.com

A “**Christmas with Tower Brass**” concert will be held on Saturday, December 19 at 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. A \$20 suggested donation will be received at the door.

The “**Longest Night**” service, which will be held Tuesday, December 22 at 6:30 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel, recognizes the feelings of loneliness, grief, and alienation that are often present during the holiday season.

The **annual Christmas Dinner** will take place on Friday, December 25 at 12:15 p.m. in Anderson Hall. Tickets, which are required, are available at the reception desk today and during the week. For more information, call Larry Nicholson at 312.981.3382.

Mission and Outreach

Deadlines for 2016 mission trips are upcoming: for the February Uganda and Tanzania trip, December 15; and for the April Cuba trip, December 20. Details are available in the literature racks, and registration can be completed online at www.bit.ly/1e0JaWV

The **Book Nook** is selling copies of *The Presbyterian Hymnal* at Coffee Hour this holiday season. For details, contact Anne Ellis at aellis@fourthchurch.org

Save the date!The **Chicago Lights Gala of Hope** will be Friday, March 4, 2016 at the Radisson Blu Aqua Hotel. For details, contact Andrea Miller (amiller@fourthchurch.org; 312.640.2576).

Chicago Shares voucher booklets are available by contacting Nancy Davis (ndavis@fourthchurch.org) at 312.274.3815.

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. They are also available at 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).

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, December 7 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.; Saturday, December 12 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon; or Monday, January 4 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) or go to www.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), our page on Facebook (facebook.com/fourthchurch), and in our weekly email newsletter (send addresses to news@fourthchurch.org).

If you are interested in considering baptism or membership at the 4:00 p.m. service at Fourth Church, please contact Hardy Kim (hkim@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 27 or January 24.

Sunday parking is available at 900 North Michigan (access from Rush or Walton Street) at the rate of \$8 between 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Validation tickets for the 900 garage must be picked up from the Chestnut Street reception desk.

The Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago

Church office: 126 E. Chestnut Street, Chicago, IL 60611.2014; www.fourthchurch.org
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