

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

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel Kenneth Leighton
Savior of the Nations, Come Helmut Walcha
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel Robert Lau

Introit

“Prepare the Way of the Lord” Richard Proulx
Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight his paths. Rejoice, the Lord is at hand!

*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 and Liturgy of the Advent Wreath

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

People: Persevere in hope, keep the faith—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: *Keep going! Persevere in joy,
giving voice to God’s presence yet again.*

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

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death’s dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come to thee, O Israel.

Leader: *Let us worship God!*

*Prayer of Praise

*Hymn 348 “Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending”

**Stand as you are able.*

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Refining God, you have sent us prophets, and we have not listened.
We have not always determined what is best or made way for your reign
in our lives, our church, and our society. Forgive us, we pray, and renew
your covenant within us, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Minister: *Friends, believe the good news.*
People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Sacrament of Baptism

Unison Prayer

Holy God, remind us of the promises given in our own baptism
and renew our trust in you. Make us strong to obey your will
and to serve you with joy; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Concerns of the Church

Anthem

“Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding” Eric H. Thiman
*Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding; “Christ is nigh,” it seems to say;
“Cast away the dreams of darkness, O ye children of the day!”
Wakened by the solemn warning, let the earth-bound soul arise;
Christ, her sun, all ill dispelling, shines upon the morning skies.
Lo, the Lamb, so long expected, comes with pardon down from heaven;
let us haste, with tears of sorrow, one and all to be forgiven,
that when next he comes with glory, and the world is wrapped in fear,
with his mercy he may shield us and with words of love draw near.
Christ, to thee be endless glory, from all on earth be praise;
who from heaven wilt come to save us and redeem from sinful ways.
Honor, glory, might, and blessing to the Father and the Son,
with the everlasting Spirit, while eternal ages run. Amen.*

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson

Isaiah 12:2–6. Old Testament, page 603
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 3:7-18. New Testament, page 56
Minister: *The Word of the Lord.*
People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Shannon J. Kershner

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 104 “O Lord, How Shall I Meet You”

*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.

Reception of New Members (11:00)

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

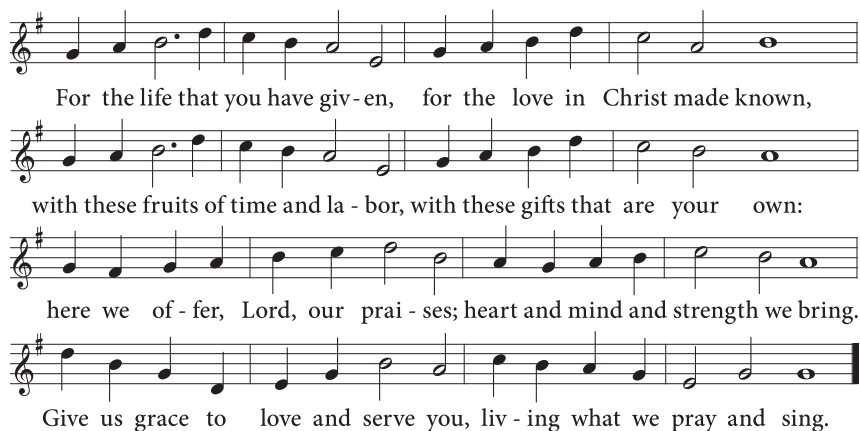
“Amen” Max Bruch

Offertory Anthem

“O Thou, the Central Orb” Charles Wood

O thou, the central orb of righteous love, pure beam of the most high, eternal light of this our wintry world, thy radiance bright awakes new joy in faith, hope soars above. Come, quickly come, and let thy glory shine, gilding our darksome heaven with rays divine. Thy saints with holy luster round thee move, as stars about thy throne, set in the height of God’s ordaining counsel, as thy sight gives measures grace to each, thy power to prove. Let thy bright beams disperse the gloom of sin, our nature all shall feel eternal day, in fellowship with thee, transforming day to souls ere while unclean, now pure within. Amen.

*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*)

Gracious God, in gratitude for all that you have given us,
we bring our tithes, offerings, and labor to help feed a world
hungry for healing and hope: for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 96 “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

*Benediction and Response

Postlude

Savior of the Nations, Come Paul Manz

**“Let the little children come to me . . .
for it is to such as these that the
kingdom of heaven belongs.”**

Matthew 19:14 (NRSV)

Baptism

at Fourth Presbyterian Church

On the second Sunday of each month, Fourth Church includes the Sacrament of Baptism in morning worship. Baptism is the sign and seal of God's grace and covenant in Christ. As *The Book of Order* of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) explains, baptism signifies the faithfulness of God, the washing away of sin, rebirth, putting on the fresh garment of Christ, and adoption into the covenant family of the church.

The baptism of children witnesses to the truth that God's love claims people before they are able to respond in faith. The congregation, on behalf of the whole church, assumes responsibility for nurturing the baptized children in the Christian life, and it is for this reason that the congregation makes such a promise during the service. In the unison prayer we also remember that we too were baptized and as children of God are part of the worldwide family of faith.

Being baptized at the 9:30 worship service:

Christopher Henry Barham, child of Mark and Linda Barham

Being baptized at the 11:00 worship service:

Violet Marie Dean, child of Matthew and Katherine Dean

Andre Clark Jones-Rasp, child of Kevin Rasp and Brady Jones

Lucy Lauren Pavlak, child of Russel and Kathryn Pavlak

Grace Darrel Weller, child of Steven Weller and Kristina Kittilsen

Worship Leaders

9:30 Nanette Sawyer, Jeffrey Doane, Shannon J. Kershner

11:00 Hardy H. Kim, Jerry Johnson, Jeffrey Doane, Shannon J. Kershner

Lighting the Advent Wreath

9:30 The Stogsdill Family

11:00 Jerry and Karen Johnson

The Music Today

The Morning Choir

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

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

Worship Notes

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.

THE BULLETIN COVER photo depicts Christmas lights on Michigan Avenue shining through the frost on a leaded-glass window at Fourth Church.

The cover quote is from Henri Nouwen’s book *A Spirituality of Waiting*.

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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Hardy H. Kim Associate Pastor for Evangelism

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This worship bulletin is printed on recyclable paper that contains recycled post-consumer waste and is acid free. All bulletins and inserts left in the baskets by the doors are recycled.

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