

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 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.*

*Hymn 93 “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Great Deliverer, we entrust to you our confession. We are easily discouraged when our good deeds do not seem to make things better. We have not been immune to the violence in our broken world. When we have been hurt or threatened we have retaliated in fear. We doubt the future you have promised and bury our hope in worry. Forgive our timidity and blindness, for the sake of him who is the Prince of Peace. Amen.

*Stand as you are able.

Declaration of Pardon

Minister: *Friends, believe the good news.*

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Concerns of the Church

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson (*responsively*)

Isaiah 12:1-6 Old Testament, page 603

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 measured 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.

Second Lesson

Zephaniah 3:14-20 Old Testament, page 826

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.

Third Lesson

Philippians 4:4-7 New Testament, page 187

Sermon

Guarding Peace. Victoria G. Curtiss

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 94 “Now the Heavens Start to Whisper”

*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

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People. Henry Wood

*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.

Sealing the Word

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

“When Came in Flesh” George Guest

When came in flesh the incarnate word, the heedless world spelt on, and only simple shepherds heard that God had sent his Son. When comes the Savior at the last, from east to west shall shine. The awful pomp and earth aghast shall tremble at the sign. Then shall the pure of heart be blest, as mild he comes to them, as when upon the virgin’s breast, he lay at Bethlehem. Lord, who could dare see thee descend in state, unless he knew thou art the sorrowing sinner’s friend, the gracious and the true. Dwell in our hearts, O Savior blest, so shall thine advent’s dawn ’twixt us and thee, our bosom guest, be but the veil withdrawn.

Prayer after Communion (unison)

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 107 “Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn”

*Benediction and Response

Postlude

On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry Aaron David Miller

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.)

Worshippers 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.

Worship Leaders

Victoria G. Curtiss, Peyton Randy Keller

The Music Today

The Chancel Choir

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

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

Chelsie Coren, Organ Scholar

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 ADVENT BANNERS, in the form of wings, convey the idea of Advent stillness and of waiting in the presence of angels. They were designed and painted by Eliza Linley of Berkeley, California.

THE COVER IMAGE depicts the large hanging sculpture in Buchanan Chapel as viewed from outside on Chestnut Street.

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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