

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

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

- The Angel Spoke to the Shepherds Heinrich Schütz
arr. Gary Olson
- “Sleepers, Wake!” A Voice Astounds Us Jacobus Kloppers
- From Heaven Above to Earth I Come Johann Pachelbel
arr. Christine Worthing
- O Come, O Come, Emmanuel Leo Sowerby
- Advent Fanfare Aaron David Miller

Introit

- “Our King and Savior Draweth Nigh” L. Sowerby
Our King and Savior draweth nigh; O come, let us adore him.

- *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: **Trust the good news—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: *Trust in God! Wait with faith, giving voice to Christ’s love for all.*

**Stand as you are able.*

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

O come, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
fill the whole world with heaven’s peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Leader: *Let us worship God!*

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

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

God our Savior, we ask for your mercy.
Though we have heard Mary’s song,
we still seek security in pride and possessions.
Though we know your story of love,
we resist the costs of following you fully.
We sometimes pass by those considered lowly
or turn away those who are hungry.
Forgive us, we pray. Help us to work for the justice you intend.
Make us messengers of the peace you bring.
Turn any apathy we carry into acts of love and service.
We pray in the name of the One for whom we wait. Amen.

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

Psalter (*responsively*)

Psalm 80:1–7. Old Testament, page 511

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.

Scripture Lesson

Luke 1:39-45. New Testament, page 53

Minister: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: Thanks be to God.

Homily Shannon J. Kershner

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 99 “My Soul Gives Glory to My God”

*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” Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina

Offertory Cantata

“Gloria” John Rutter

I. Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God’s people on earth.

*Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.*

*II. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father; Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.*

You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.

*III. For you alone are the holy one; you alone are the Lord;
you alone are the most high, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. 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*)

Holy God, you bless us with many gifts,
you retrieve us from despair and fear,
you visit us with surprising proclamations,
and you intend for us good things.

We thank you for your steadfast love,
for sending signs of assurance, and for the gift of faith.

Use our gifts to bring your comfort and justice to those in need,
reforming the ways of our world for the sake of new life. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 113 “Angels We Have Heard on High”

*Benediction and Response

Worshippers who wish to do so are invited to sing along with the choir during the Benediction responses.

Postlude

“Sleepers, Wake!” A Voice Astounds Us Sigfrid Karg-Elert



Christmas Worship

AT FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Tuesday, December 22

“Longest Night” Service

6:30–7:30 p.m. | Buchanan Chapel

Thursday, December 24

4 Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

4:00 p.m. Children’s Pageant

6:00 p.m. Family Service

8:30 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.

Service of Lessons and Carols

Friday, December 25

Christmas Day Service | 11:00 a.m.

Sunday, December 27

Christmastide Worship

8:00, 9:30, and 11:00 a.m.

Jazz Christmas Service at 4:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 31

New Year’s Eve Taizé Service

7:30 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel

Worship Leaders

9:30 Nanette Sawyer, John R. Dallas Jr., Judith L. Watt, Shannon J. Kershner

11:00 Hardy H. Kim, Arlene Raine, Judith L. Watt, Shannon J. Kershner

Lighting the Advent Wreath

9:30 The Andrews-Maggio Family

11:00 Arlene Raine

The Music Today

The Morning Choir; Tower Brass

Gretchen Adams, Kimberly Gunderson, and Gillian Hollis, soloists

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

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

Matthew Comerford, Artistic Director of Tower Brass

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.

THIS MORNING’S CHRISTMAS CANTATA is “Gloria” by the English composer John Rutter. Composed in 1974 for brass, percussion, organ, and chorus, it begins with the familiar words of Luke 2:14, which the angels sang at the birth of Jesus.

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. The Prayer of Dedication is reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from *Feasting on the Word Advent Companion*, © copyright 2014 .

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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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