



Gathering

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Gathering Music “My Favorite Things” Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein
“Away in a Manger” Attr. James Murray

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.

*Through our prayers this season, we invite you to participate with us in preparing for Jesus to enter our lives again. Instead of using our usual prayer cards, we will be offering our Advent prayers in a new way: we are filling 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 have been building a tree with these prayers throughout the season, using the prayers 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: If Jesus comes to us again at Christmas this year, and if Jesus dwells within each of us, shouldn't that make a difference in who we are and how we live our lives?

Leader: If we seek Jesus, who is born in the manger,
shouldn't we be at peace among ourselves?
Help the weak and the poor?
Not repay evil for evil, but always do good to one another?
In all circumstances, give thanks?

**People: As we light this fourth candle,
let us remember this is the will of God in Christ Jesus,
who comes to us. Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.**

***Hymn 105** "People, Look East"

(Please refer to the hymnals for all hymns sung during this service.)

Call to Confession

(Please hold silence for prayers of confession.)

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** "Soon and Very Soon"

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.

Hearing and Proclaiming the Word

Scripture Readings

Hebrews 10:5–10 (New Testament, page 210)

Isaiah 9:2–7 (Old Testament, page 600)

Quintet Anthem (*please remain seated*). “Prepare the Way, O Zion”

Poem. “The Coming of God” by Ann Weems

Hymn 82 (*please remain seated*). “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Poem. “Amazing Peace” by Maya Angelou

Hymn 123 (*please remain seated*). “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

Scripture Reading

Luke 1:39–55 (New Testament, page 53)

Spoken Word “An Almost-Mother’s Song” Layton Williams

Quintet Anthem (*please remain seated*). “No Wind in the Window”

*Responsive Reading

Leader: Light looked down and saw darkness.

People: “I will go there,” said Light.

Leader: Peace looked down and saw war.

People: “I will go there,” said Peace.

Leader: Love looked down and saw hatred.

People: “I will go there,” said Love.

Leader: So he, the Lord of Light, the Prince of Peace, the King of Love,
came down and crept in beside us.

Scripture Reading

Luke 2:1–7. (New Testament, page 54)

Hymn 122 (*please remain seated*). “Silent Night, Holy Night!”

Responding to the Word

Offertory Music "O Holy Night" *Adolphe Adam and Placide Cappeau*

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!**

Sanctus *Lucy Smith*

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 "Jesus, the Light of the World" *George Elderkin and Charles Wesley*

Prayer after Communion (*unison*)

We thank you, O God,
that through Word and Sacrament
you have given us your Son,
who is the true bread from heaven
and food of eternal life.
So strengthen us in your service,
that our daily living may show our thanks,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Sending

***Hymn 134** "Joy to the World"

***Benediction**

Sending Music

Worship Leaders

Layton Williams	Pastoral Resident
Hardy Kim	Associate Pastor for Evangelism
Nanette Sawyer	Minister for Congregational Life
Lay Liturgists	Rob Koon, Jean Marie Koon, Kelsey Koon Allan Cox, Cher Cox
Lucy Smith Quintet	Lucy Smith, vocals Michael Caskey, drums Bryan Doherty, bass Marcin Fahmy, piano Greg Ward, alto saxophone

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

Music—“Praise God (Dox)” by Lucy Smith, copyright © 2013. All rights reserved. “Gospel Sanctus” by Lucy Smith, copyright © 2011. All rights reserved. Used with permission. “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” copyright © 1990 John Weaver.

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

More information about news and upcoming events at Fourth Church is available in the *News and Opportunities* publication in the literature racks and online at www.fourthchurch.org/news.

Advent and Christmas

A Christmas jazz service will be held on Sunday, December 27 at 4:00 p.m.

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.

Four candlelight services will be held on Christmas Eve: 4:00 p.m. (Children’s Pageant); 6:00 p.m. (Family Service); and 8:30 and 11:00 p.m. (Service of Lessons and Carols).

We will be live streaming the 8:30 p.m. Christmas Eve service for those who are unable to be with us or who want to share the service with those who are out of town. The live stream will be available at <http://bit.ly/FPCXmasEve2015> where it will also be available after Christmas Eve.

Expectations for the holidays can be different from the realities. Feelings of grief over losses can be heightened. Fourth Church’s Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being offers various resources and a supportive environment for reflecting on, exploring, and coping with such experiences. To learn how the Center can help, call 312.787.8425.

Through “Light Up a Life” gifts, you can honor or remember someone special while also providing important year-end support of programs that help neighbors whose needs are great this holiday season. Gifts can be made using the brochures in the literature racks or online at www.fourthchurch.org

The Christmas Day worship service will be held at 11:00 a.m. and will be followed by a congregational Christmas Dinner in Anderson Hall. Tickets for the dinner, which are required, are available at the reception desk today and during the week.

Parking rates for Christmas Eve and Day: For those entering the 900 garage before 5:00 p.m. on December 24, discounted parking will cost \$17, which is the holiday rate. The \$17 parking voucher for that discount will need to be purchased at Fourth Church on Christmas Eve—cash or check only—and will be available before and after the Children’s Pageant that day. Those entering the garage after 5:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve will be able to park for the usual \$8 evening rate with a green voucher available at the church. Parking on Christmas Day in the 900 garage will cost \$17. The voucher for discounted parking on Christmas Day must be purchased, with cash or check, at the church on Christmas morning. There will be no discounted parking at the Hancock garage on either day.

Pledge fulfillment and online gifts to Light Up a Life

can be made at www.fourthchurch.org (also accessible by scanning the QR code at right with any smartphone). These year-end gifts provide vital support to the programs of Fourth Church and Chicago Lights, funding outreach to those in need, sustaining choirs, supporting educational opportunities, and making possible our ministry together!



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, January 4 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.; Saturday, January 16 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon; or Monday, February 1 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
312.787.4570; Fax: 312.787.4584; www.facebook.com/fourthchurch