

*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 Leo Sowerby

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.*

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

Prayer of Confession *(unison)*

God of hope and wonder, sometimes we forget that you have walked among us, that you are always creating us, and that the Holy Child is always being born. We confess that our forgetting makes it too easy for us to refuse to hear your prophets. Our forgetting makes it too easy for us to reject your messengers of peace. Our forgetting makes it too easy for us to believe there is no hope. Help us to remember that you are with us, and please forgive us when we forget.
Come quickly, Lord Jesus. Amen

Declaration of Pardon

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

Concerns of the Church

Anthem

“Noel, Noel” Carl Schalk

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter *(responsively)*

Psalms 80:1–7 Old Testament, page 511

*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 1:39–56 New Testament, page 53

Sermon Shannon J. Kershner

Responding to the Word

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

*Affirmation of Faith (*unison*) Apostles’ Creed

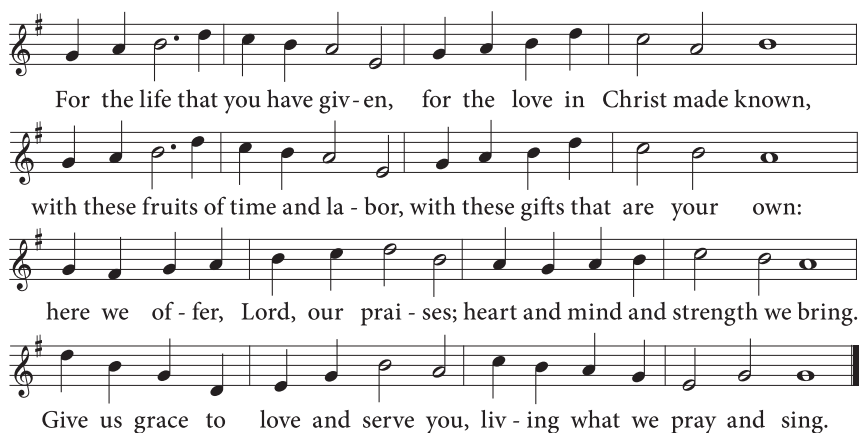
I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead; 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.

Offering

Offertory Voluntary

Two Settings of “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” David N. Johnson
and Gerald Near

*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 waiting hearts.*

People: We lift them to the One whose heart longs for us.

Minister: *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Prayer

Minister: *It is always good and right to stand in your house of peace . . .
... prayers for peace mingling with those of every time and place:*

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: *Holy are you, God who comes to us . . .*

... 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.

Minister: *In this time of anticipation, send your Spirit . . .*

... And hear us as we continue to pray together, saying:

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

“Magnificat” Jacques Berthier
My soul magnifies the Lord.

Prayer after Communion (*unison*)

O God, in this meal we have been given a foretaste of the feast that is to come. Help us always to be alert to your gifts in our midst; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

- *Hymn 113 “Angels We Have Heard on High”
- *Benediction and Response
- Postlude
 - Finale from *Variations on a Noël* Marcel Dupré

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

Shannon J. Kershner, Mark Eldred

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Mark Eldred and Gillian Hollis Kraus-Neale

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.

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.

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