



Gathering

First Sunday after Christmas

- Gathering Music** “God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen” *English carol*
 “A Child Is Born” *Thad Jones*

We invite you to complete the prayer card found in this worship bulletin and to place it in the plate during the sharing of gifts. Information about the prayer cards is printed on page 12.

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.

*Opening Responses

Leader: Starlight and song have once again
 summoned us home to the stable.

**People: And so with the beasts of the field,
 and the humble and the high,
 we have come to gaze on the face of God.**

Leader: Story and supper have once again drawn us home to God’s table.

**People: And here, through words worn smooth with telling,
 and gifts given life through sharing,
 may we once again see and know you,
 Emmanuel—God with us and for us.**

* Stand as you are able

***Opening Song** “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

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.

Litany of Confession

Leader: Christmas Child—becoming flesh, you showed what it was to serve and share, to live and love, as God intended.

People: As we stand at the stable door, we confess that all too often our serving and sharing have concealed or mocked your generosity rather than making it present and plain.

Please hold silence.

Leader: As we stand at the stable door, we confess that all too often our living and loving have displaced or distorted your image rather than making it present and plain.

Please hold silence.

People: Christmas Child, as we kneel again at your manger; restore, renew, and reshape us, so that our serving and sharing, living and loving, may now and always incarnate you in the world. Amen.

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.

People: And also with you.

All are invited to stand and share the peace of Christ with one another.

***Song** "Reach Out Your Hand in Peace". *Lucy Smith*

Hearing and Proclaiming the Word

Psalter Psalm 148 (*the congregation sings the antiphon*)

ANTIPHON (*unison*) **Praise the name of the Lord, whose splendor is over earth and heaven!**

Leader: Praise God from the heavens; praise God in the heights.
Praise God, all you angels; praise God, all the host.
Praise God, sun and moon; praise God, you shining stars.
Praise God, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.
Let them praise the Name of God, who commanded that they be created.
God made them stand fast forever and ever
and gave them a law which shall not pass away.

ANTIPHON (*unison*) **Praise the name of the Lord, whose splendor is over earth and heaven!**

Leader: Praise God from the earth,
you sea-monsters and all deeps, fire and hail, snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, doing God's will, mountains and hills, fruit trees and cedars;
wild beasts and cattle, creeping things and winged birds,
rulers of the earth and all peoples, judges and rulers of the world;
young men and maidens, old and young together.
Let them praise the Name of God,
whose Name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.
God has raised up strength for his people
and praise for loyal servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near him.
Hallelujah!

ANTIPHON (*unison*) **Praise the name of the Lord, whose splendor is over earth and heaven!**

Scripture Readings

Luke 2:39–52. (New Testament, page 55)

Sermon “The Christ Child: Hope of the World” Hardy H. Kim



Responding to the Word

Musical Reflection

Offertory Music “In the Bleak Midwinter” Gustav Holst and Christina Rossetti

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!**

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.**

The Communion

Communion Music "Just Taste and See" *Traditional*

Closing Responses

Leader: The starlight and song, story and supper,
which called us home, now compel us to go out.

**People: May we who have knelt at the manger always have room
to hold within ourselves the Christmas Child.**

Leader: May we who have gazed on the face of God
learn to live fully and to share freely all that we have and are.

**People: So may Emmanuel—God with us and for us—
be once again incarnated in the world. Amen.**

Sending

*Closing Song. "Go, Tell It on the Mountain"

*Benediction

Sending Music

Worship Leaders

Hardy H. Kim	Associate Pastor
Mark Eldred	Worship Coordinator
Terrence Davis	Lay Liturgist
Lucy Smith Quartet	Lucy Smith, vocals Ernie Adams, drums Bryan Doherty, bass Marcin Fahmy, piano

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

Words—The Opening Responses, Litany of Confession, and Closing Responses are adapted from *The Feast of the Christ Child*, Wild Goose Worship Group.

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Music—“Reach Out Your Hand in Peace” by Lucy Smith, copyright © 2013. All rights reserved. “Praise God (Dox)” by Lucy Smith, copyright © 2013. All rights reserved. “Gospel Sanctus” by Lucy Smith, copyright © 2011. All rights reserved. Used with permission. “Go, Tell It on the Mountain,” music harmony copyright © 1989 Melva Wilson Costen. All rights reserved. Used with permission. OneLicense.net. License A-712340.

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

Worship

Opportunity to walk the labyrinth in Buchanan Chapel is available this week on Tuesday from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Wednesday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Saturday from 7:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Morning prayer is held on Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. in Buchanan Chapel. All are invited to join staff for opportunity to remember in prayer members of the congregation and those in need.

A service in the style of Taizé will next be held on New Year's Eve, Thursday, December 31 at 7:30 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel. It will be preceded by opportunity to walk the labyrinth in Anderson Hall from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Special prayer requests are included in intercessory prayer in Stone Chapel on Sundays. Individuals can pray there with a Deacon at 10:30 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. or place their prayer requests, written on paper, in one of the prayer boxes outside Stone Chapel or in the Narthex.

Devotions, written by Fourth Church members and staff, are available in the church literature racks, by email (send email addresses to devotions@fourthchurch.org), at www.facebook.com/fourthchurch, and via Twitter (@FourthChicago).

News and Resources

Visit the Fourth Church page on Facebook (facebook.com/fourthchurch) for sermon quotes, photos, and programming information. If you have a Facebook account, be sure to "like" our page to keep up-to-date on Fourth Church news.

Follow FourthChurch on Twitter: @FourthChicago

Stephen Ministry provides one-to-one caring relationships to support those who are experiencing challenging times. Information for those who might benefit from conversation with a Stephen Minister is available in the literature racks, online, and by leaving a confidential message at 312.573.3365.

Year-end giving notes: For those wanting to make a year-end gift or fulfill their 2015 Annual Appeal pledge by credit card, charges must be made to the card by 11:59 p.m. on Thursday, December 31 in order for those gifts to be listed on 2015 giving statements. For those wanting to make a gift or pledge fulfillment by check and have the gift listed on 2015 giving statements, please be sure the envelope is postmarked December 31.

For a preview of next Sunday's worship and news from Fourth Church, subscribe to the weekly email newsletter, News@FourthChurch, by sending email addresses to news@fourthchurch.org.

It's easy to fulfill your 2015 pledge online:

Just go to www.fourthchurch.org (or scan this QR code) and click on "To Make a Gift." There you will find an option to make a gift toward your Annual Appeal pledge for 2015.

On the same page you can also make Light Up a Life gifts in honor of friends, family, and colleagues, gifts that offer important year-end support to programs that serve others.



News and Opportunities

Volunteers and Donations

Current Volunteer Needs

Members to assist a child with special needs during 9:30 a.m. Sunday School

Tutors for the Chicago Lights Tutoring program; one evening a week; 6:00–7:30 p.m.

Drummers for the Fourth Church Drumming Circle

Ushers for the 11:00 a.m. worship service

Audio-video recorders for the 11:00 a.m. service

Nursery caregivers on Sundays at the 9:30 or 11:00 a.m. worship services

Aides to help Chicago Lights Elam Davies Social Service Center guests select groceries from the Consumer Choice Food Pantry

Book Nook attendants to staff the Book Nook during Coffee Hour

Clothes washers to wash and dry clothes, on rotation, for a family with a chronically ill child and living in zip code 60618

Grocery shoppers for Sunday and Monday Night Suppers and sandwich teams, on rotation

Current Donation Needs

Clean blankets

Magazines

Yoga mats, new or used

Men's and women's winter clothes

Nonperishable food items for the Chicago Lights Elam Davies Social Service Center

For details or to volunteer, contact Larry Nicholson at 312.981.3382 (lnicholson@fourthchurch.org) or visit www.fourthchurch.org/volunteer

Enrichment

“What Is Justice?”—a five-week Academy for Faith and Life class cohosted with McCormick Theological Seminary and taught by Robert Cathey—will begin next Sunday, January 3 at 12:15 p.m. in Borwell Dining Room.

Men's Bible Study will meet next Tuesday, January 5 at 7:30 a.m. in the Loop. For details or to RSVP, contact Anne Ellis at aellis@fourthchurch.org

“Too Hot to Handel: The Music and Message of the Jazz-Gospel Messiah,” a free lecture offered through the Center for Life and Learning, will be held on Thursday, January 7 at 10:00 a.m. in Buchanan Chapel. Call Susan Quaintance at 312.981.3386 to RSVP.

Books by Women will discuss *Even the Terrible Things Seem Beautiful to Me Now: The Best of Mary Schmich* by Mary Schmich on Tuesday, January 12 at 6:00 p.m. in the Bumpus Room.

Presbyterian Women's Horizons Bible study will next meet Wednesday, January 13 at 12:00 noon in Room 4J.

“Fifteen Days of Free Liberal Arts Education” describes the January Series of lectures offered by Calvin College and shown via live Internet video feed at Fourth Church on weekdays January 6–26. Visit www.calvin.edu/january to learn more.

“Look Around: The Cries Will Be Heard,” a Michigan Avenue Forum on mass incarceration, will be presented by Iva Carruthers, professor emeritus and former chairperson of the sociology department at Northeastern Illinois University, on Monday, January 18 at 7:00 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel.

News and Opportunities

Mission and Outreach

An orientation session for new volunteers for the Chicago Lights Tutoring program will be held on Wednesday, January 6 at 6:00 p.m. in Room 4J. RSVP online at bit.ly/tutorwinter15

The Benevolent Guild, which gathers to create stuffed animals and taggies for hospitalized children, will next meet on Wednesday, January 6 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 5B

A presentation about ministry in Cuba given by Carlos Emilio Ham, the Rector of the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Matanzas, Cuba, will be offered by the World Mission and Social Justice committee on Tuesday, January 12 at 6:00 p.m.

Applications for the young adult mission trip to Northern Ireland are due Friday, January 15. Details are posted online at www.fourthchurch.org/mission/trips.html

The Chicago Lights Gala of Hope will be Friday, March 4, 2016, at the Radisson Blu Aqua Hotel. For details, contact Andrea Miller at 312.640.2576.

Fellowship

To sponsor Coffee Hour in honor or memory of a loved one or for a special occasion, contact Anne Ellis at 312.573.3369 (aellis@fourthchurch.org).

“The Lure of the Relic: Collecting the Holy Land” will be presented by Morag Kersal at a joint gathering of Fourth Dimension and Cornerstones on Friday, January 8 at 6:00 p.m. in the Page Smith Room, with refreshments to follow in the Manse. To register (*required*), contact Anne Ellis at 312.573.3369 by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 6.

Music and the Arts

The Chancel Choir will not rehearse on Thursday, December 31. Rehearsals for this volunteer choir will resume on Thursday, January 7.

The Grant Street String Quartet will perform the next free Noonday concert, which will be held on Friday, January 8 at 12:10 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel.

Those who would like to receive Music Notes, a weekly email newsletter about music at Fourth Church, are invited to subscribe by sending email addresses to music@fourthchurch.org

Children, Youth, and Family

No Sunday School or youth gatherings will be held today or on Sunday, January 3. Children are invited to worship with their parents on those Sundays; preschoolers and kindergartners are welcome in the Nursery those days.

Youth will not gather next Sunday, January 3. They will resume meeting next Sunday, January 10 at 10:30 a.m. in the Bumpus Room.

Child care is provided in the Nursery, on the first floor of the Gratz Center, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. on Sundays.

Moms' groups for mothers with children through twelve years old meet weekly. For information, call Briana Belding-Peck at 312.274.3804.

The Senior Highs ski retreat will take place Friday, January 8–Sunday, January 10. For more information, contact Shelley Donaldson at sdonaldson@fourthchurch.org

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 January 24. or February 28

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
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