



## Gathering

**Gathering Music** “Steepian Faith” . . . . . Kenny Kirkland  
“Lookout for Hope” . . . . . Bill Frisell

### Greeting

### \*Opening Responses

*(The congregational responses are in boldface type)*

Be patient! God is coming to us!

**The One who teaches joyous songs to all creation comes to open our ears to life.**

Be strong! God is coming to be with us!

**The One who paves a path to Bethlehem will walk with us every step of the way.**

Do not fear! Here is your God!

**We worship the One who comes to save us.**

\* Stand as you are able

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*Inspired by the radical hospitality of Jesus Christ, Fourth Church welcomes all of God's children into the life of the church regardless of sex, gender, sexual orientation, age, race, ethnicity, physical or mental ability, mental health, educational background, economic situation, religious background, or documentation status.*

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**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.

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**Advent Prayer of Confession**

In Advent, in the waiting, we gather around this wreath. It’s circular. No beginning. No end.

A sign of God’s constant love and faithfulness.

God’s love encircles us, no matter who we are or where we’ve been,  
and sets us free to love and serve our neighbor in response.

Let’s lay down our burdens in this waiting.

Let’s burrow into grace a little deeper as we pray together.

**God who is coming to us, forgive us**

**when our hectic lives hide your presence;**

**when the tinsel of Christmas means more to us than your truth;**

**when our hearts of stone resist the pain and brokenness around us;**

**when we care more about what gifts to buy**

**than the damage we do to your creation and to your children.**

**Have mercy on us, healing God,**

**so we might tear down the walls we have built to keep your love away**

**and seek your justice for our human family,**

**so our hearts become candles for your son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## Lighting the Advent Wreath

### Assurance of Pardon

Each candle we light, a constant, familiar glow, flickers in us.  
Enlivens us for the waiting and warms us toward what is to come.  
Friends, grace is becoming real. Believe it.

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

### \*Passing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

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

**\*Song** "Soon and Very Soon" . . . . . *Andrae Crouch*

**Welcome**

# Hearing and Proclaiming the Word

**Canticle** . . . . . Isaiah 7:10–15 (*the congregation sings the antiphon*)

**ANTIPHON** (*unison*) **Come, Savior, quickly come; come, Savior, quickly come.**

**Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.**

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also?”

**ANTIPHON** (*unison*) **Come, Savior, quickly come; come, Savior, quickly come.**

**Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.**

“Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.”

**ANTIPHON** (*unison*) **Come, Savior, quickly come; come, Savior, quickly come.**

**Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.**

## Scripture Reading

Luke 1:46–55 . . . . . (*New Testament, page 53*)

**Homily** . . . . . *Abbi Heimach-Snipes*

# Responding to the Word

## Prayers of the People

*At this time, you are invited to come forward to write Advent prayers at the communion table. If moving to the tables is physically challenging for you, let one of the ushers, pastors, or your neighbor know and we will bring prayer-making materials to you.*

## 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.**

**Sharing of Gifts** *(Please place gifts, pledges, and prayer cards in the plate as it is passed.)*

**Offertory Music** "Jesus Gonna Be Here" . . . . . Tom Waits

**\*Doxology** . . . . . Lucy Smith

## The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

### The Great Thanksgiving

*(The congregational responses are in boldface type)*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise!**

**Sanctus** . . . . . *Lucy Smith*

### The Communion

**Communion Music** "Fill My Cup" . . . . . *Isaiah Jones Jr.*

### Closing Prayer *(unison)*

**Now that you have built a holy way to our hearts,**

**Advent's Creator,**

**we no longer need to wander off your paths.**

**Now, that you have come,**

**Advent's Grace,**

**we no longer need to put hope on hold.**

**Now that you are incarnate in our hearts,**

**Advent's Joy,**

**we no longer need to be afraid.**

**God in community, Holy and One,**

**now we give thanks for your hopeful blessing. Amen.**

# Sending

## **\*Closing Song**

"My Soul Cries Out  
with a Joyful Shout"

## \*Benediction

### Sending Music

## Worship Leaders

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Abbi Heimach-Snipes</b> | Pastoral Resident  |
| <b>Nanette Sawyer</b>      | Minister for Congregational Life   |
| <b>Connie Logelin</b>      | Lighting the Advent Wreath   |
| <b>Lucy Smith Quartet</b>  | Lucy Smith, vocals<br>Bryan Doherty, bass<br>Marcus Evans, drums<br>Amr Fahmy, piano |

## 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, Advent Prayer of Confession, and Closing Prayer are adapted from *The Soft Petals of Grace: Communion Liturgies and Other Resources* by Thom M. Shuman. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

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**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  
**Rocky Supinger**, Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry  
**Judith L. Watt**, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care  
**Nanette Sawyer**, Minister for Congregational Life  
**Alex Wirth**, Minister for Evangelism  
**Jeffrey Doane**, Parish Associate for Older Adults  
**Abbi Heimach-Snipes**, Pastoral Resident  
**John Buchanan**, Pastor Emeritus



### Advent and Christmas

**Gifts to the “Light Up a Life” offering** touch countless lives by supporting congregational programs, mission, and community outreach—including Chicago Lights programs—as well as denominational efforts. Gifts can be made using the envelopes in the pew racks; by writing “Light Up a Life” on the memo line of a check made payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church; or online at [www.bit.ly/FPCgifts](http://www.bit.ly/FPCgifts)

**Daily Advent and Christmas season devotions** are available at [facebook.com/fourthchurch](https://facebook.com/fourthchurch), Twitter (@FourthChicago), and [www.fourthchurch.org](http://www.fourthchurch.org); via email (sign up online at [www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions](http://www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions)); and in the literature racks.

**The “Longest Night” service**, which will be held this Wednesday, December 20 at 6:30 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel and is hosted by Stephen Ministers, recognizes feelings of loneliness, grief, and alienation that are often present during the holiday season.

**Expectations for the holidays** can be different from the realities and the feelings of grief over losses heightened. Fourth Church’s Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being offers a supportive environment for reflecting on and coping with such experiences. For information, call the Replogle Center at 312.787.8425.

**Nursery care on December 24** will be available from 3:00 to 7:15 p.m. It will not be available during the 11:00 a.m. service or during the last two evening services.

**Some Christmas Eve candlelight times** will be different this year. With Christmas Eve falling on a Sunday, next Sunday morning, December 24 we will worship at 11:00 a.m. only. (*There will be no 8:00 or 9:30 a.m. services that day.*) We will also gather for four candlelight Christmas Eve services:

- 4:00 p.m. Children’s Pageant
- 6:00 p.m. Family Service with Jazz
- 8:00 p.m. Lessons and Carols
- 10:00 p.m. Lessons and Carols

**We will be live streaming the 8:00 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 at [www.bit.ly/FPCworship](http://www.bit.ly/FPCworship) will also be available after Christmas Eve.

**Christmas Day worship** will take place at 11:00 a.m.

**A traditional Christmas dinner** will be held on Christmas Day at 12:15 p.m. in Anderson Hall as a time to share Christmas with friends new and old. Reservations (*required*) can be made online at [www.bit.ly/cdin1217](http://www.bit.ly/cdin1217)

**Parking rates for Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year’s Eve** worshipers using the 900 N. Michigan garage will be the \$8 Sunday rate, provided that parkers pick up special holiday parking vouchers at the church available—and valid—only on each of those three days.

**A New Year’s Eve Taizé service** will be held at 7:30 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel on Sunday, December 31. That day we will also worship in the morning at 8:00, 9:30, and 11:00 a.m. (*There will be no 4:00 p.m. jazz service on December 31.*)

### Did you make a pledge to Fourth Church for 2017?

We are counting on gifts pledged for 2017 to be fully fulfilled by year end—and welcome additional generosity where it is possible!—so we can ensure all that we have budgeted for in 2017 can be done. If you anticipate being unable to fulfill your pledge, please contact Andrea Miller (312.640.2576) so we can plan accordingly. Thank you for all your gifts make happen!



## News and Opportunities

### Worship

**The labyrinth in Buchanan Chapel** is available for walking this week on Monday and Tuesday from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.; Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; and Saturday from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m.

**Sacred Pause** meditative silence is offered on Tuesdays at 7:45 a.m. in Stone Chapel.

**Morning Prayer** will be held on Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. in Buchanan Chapel as a time to pray for Fourth Church members and those in need.

**Our next Jazz at Four** worship service with Communion will be Sunday, January 7 and will continue weekly in the new year.

### Children, Youth, and Family

**Sunday School** is on break until Sunday, January 7. Parents are encouraged to have their children join them in worship on Sunday morning, December 24 and December 31. Family worship bulletins are always available from the ushers.

**Youth can sign up for 2018 summer mission trips** at [www.bit.ly/youthtrips2018](http://www.bit.ly/youthtrips2018)

### Music and the Arts

**Organist John Sherer** will perform this week's free Friday Noonday Concert at 12:10 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

**The Christmas with Tower Brass** concert will be Saturday, December 23 at 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary; a freewill donation will be received at the door.

### Enrichment

**Men's Book Club** meets this Monday, December 18 at 7:30 a.m. in Parish House Dining Room to discuss *A Christmas Memory* by Truman Capote.

**Men's Bible Study** meets this Tuesday, December 19 in the Loop at 7:30 a.m. To RSVP (*required*), contact Anne Ellis (312.573.3369; [aellis@fourthchurch.org](mailto:aellis@fourthchurch.org)).

#### **"Fifteen Days of Free Liberal Arts Education"**

describes the January Series of one-hour lectures offered by Calvin College and shown via live Internet video feed at Fourth Church on weekdays January 3–23 at 11:30 a.m. in the Page Smith Room: [www.calvin.edu/january](http://www.calvin.edu/january)

**A spiritual pilgrimage to Ghost Ranch, New Mexico**, will be held April 6–13. Applications are due Monday, January 15. Details are available in the literature racks. Information and an application form are also online at [www.bit.ly/ghostranch18](http://www.bit.ly/ghostranch18)

**A meditation group** hosted by the Replogle Center meets on Tuesdays from 7:00 to 7:45 p.m. in the Boyle Conference Room.

### News and Resources

**We are delighted that Nanette Sawyer** was elected by the congregation to be our new Associate Pastor for Discipleship and Small Group Ministry. Congratulations!

**Individuals experiencing life challenges** can benefit from being paired with a Stephen Minister, who walks alongside them as a listening presence. The next fifty-hour training course for new Stephen Ministers begins February 3. Details are available in the literature racks and online at [www.fourthchurch.org](http://www.fourthchurch.org)

### Mission and Outreach

**Applications for the Cuba mission trip**

(April 23–30) are due this Friday, December 22. Details and an application form are posted at [www.fourthchurch.org/mission/trips](http://www.fourthchurch.org/mission/trips)

**Applications for the Mexico mission trip**

(March 6–13) are due Sunday, December 31. Details and an application form are posted at [www.fourthchurch.org/mission/trips](http://www.fourthchurch.org/mission/trips)

**Fourth Church Prison Ministry** will be launching in the new year. Those interested in learning more or taking part are invited to a one-session information time offered on Sunday, January 7 at 12:20 p.m. and repeated on Sunday, January 14 at 12:20 p.m.

**Chicago Shares voucher booklets**—which offer a way to give to those in need on the streets while knowing that the \$1 gift will be redeemed at a grocery store or restaurant—are available by emailing Nancy Davis ([ndavis@fourthchurch.org](mailto:ndavis@fourthchurch.org)).

**Gala of Hope 2018** will be Friday, March 2 at the Radisson Blu Aqua Hotel.

### Fellowship

**Take part in our chili cook-off** on Sunday noon, January 7! Enter your chili into the contest by signing up at [www.bit.ly/chili1718](http://www.bit.ly/chili1718)

**For ways to connect with the community** of Fourth Church, visit [www.fourthchurch.org/community](http://www.fourthchurch.org/community)

### Volunteers/Donations Needed

**Servers for the congregational Christmas dinner**

(volunteers needed 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Monday, December 25)

**Hosts** on weekdays from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for the Calvin College January Series shown in the Page Smith Room

**Leaders for 2018 youth mission trips;** details and a sign-up form are online at [www.bit.ly/youthtrips2018](http://www.bit.ly/youthtrips2018)

**Greeters for 4:00 p.m. Sunday worship**

**Single-serving snack items** for Fourth Church Meals Ministry and the Social Service Center

**Large paper shopping bags** for use by guests of the Social Service Center Share Shop and Food Pantry

**Men's clothing** (all sizes) for guests of the Chicago Lights Elam Davies Social Service Center Share Shop

*Donations can be left at the reception desk. To sign up—or for additional volunteer opportunities—contact Robert Crouch, Director of Volunteer Ministry, at 312.981.3382 ([rcrouch@fourthchurch.org](mailto:rcrouch@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 prayer requests will be read by the pastoral staff during the week.

**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.

**Worship also can be heard** through the "T" setting of hearing aids.

**Please** silence all electronic devices when in the Sanctuary.

**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](http://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](mailto: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. Attend Sundays, January 14, February 11, or March 11 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon in the Page Smith Room. We invite you to worship with us at 8:00 a.m. or 4:00 p.m. the day you attend the class. For details or membership information, contact Alex Wirth ([awirth@fourthchurch.org](mailto:awirth@fourthchurch.org); 312.981.3399) or go to [www.fourthchurch.org](http://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](http://www.fourthchurch.org)), our page on Facebook ([facebook.com/fourthchurch](https://facebook.com/fourthchurch)), and in our weekly email newsletter (send addresses to [news@fourthchurch.org](mailto:news@fourthchurch.org)).

**If you are interested in considering baptism or membership** at the 4:00 p.m. service at Fourth Church, please contact Nancy Davis ([ndavis@fourthchurch.org](mailto:ndavis@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 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](http://www.fourthchurch.org)  
312.787.4570; Fax: 312.787.4584; [www.facebook.com/fourthchurch](https://www.facebook.com/fourthchurch)