



**First Sunday of Advent**

## **We Approach God**

### **Gathering Music**

### **Greeting**

**\*Joining Our Voices.** . . . . . “Making the House Ready for the Lord” by Mary Oliver

*Dear Lord, I have swept and I have washed but  
still nothing is as shining as it should be  
for you. . . . I am speaking to you whenever I say,  
as I do all morning and afternoon: Come in, Come in.*

**Come Lord Jesus, as we gather.**

**Let your spirit dwell in our minds, hearts, and souls this day.**

\* 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.*

**\*Opening Song** . . . . . “Blest Be the God of Israel”

**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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## **We Tell the Truth about Ourselves**

### **Prayer of Confession** *(unison)*

**You call us to be people of faith, yet we are often people beset with doubts.**

**We doubt that the hungry can be fed.**

**We doubt that peace can come where hatred and division abound.**

**We doubt those who act unjustly will be held to account.**

**We doubt sharing our wealth with others leaves enough for ourselves.**

**Yet you who heal the sick and set the captives free make the impossible possible.**

**Forgive us. Guide us through doubt. Help us overcome reluctance and fear  
so that we can be ready participants in your coming reign.**

### **Silent Confession and Response**

### **God Forgives and Blesses Us**

#### **\*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.*

### **Welcome**

## We Proclaim the Story

**Canticle** . . . . . Isaiah 65:17–25 (*the congregation sings the antiphon*)

For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth;  
the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind.  
But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating;  
for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight.  
I will rejoice in Jerusalem and delight in my people;  
no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it, or the cry of distress.  
No more shall there be in it an infant that lives but a few days,  
or an old person who does not live out a lifetime;  
for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth,  
and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed.

**ANTIPHON** (*unison*) **While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.**

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

They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.  
They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat;  
for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be,  
and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.  
They shall not labor in vain or bear children for calamity;  
for they shall be offspring blessed by the Lord— and their descendants as well.  
Before they call I will answer; while they are yet speaking I will hear.  
The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox;  
but the serpent—its food shall be dust!  
They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the Lord.

**ANTIPHON** (*unison*) **While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.**

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

### Scripture Reading

Luke 1:5–25

**Sermon** . . . . . *Joseph L. Morrow*

## **We Offer Ourselves**

### **Musical Reflection**

#### **\*Sharing of Gifts**

*In gratitude for the love and grace extended to us by God, we share our resources to support ministries of justice, mercy, and beauty. Please place your gifts and pledges in the plate as it passes.*

### **Offertory Music**

**\*Doxology** . . . . . "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

## **We Feast Together**

### **The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper**

#### **The Great Thanksgiving**

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** ..... “Angels We Have Heard on High” (*Refrain*)

## 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

*We celebrate an open table. All, including children, are invited to the Lord’s Table to receive Communion. You are invited to come forward, receive the bread (gluten-free bread is available—just ask), dip the bread into the nonalcoholic grape juice, and return to your seat by stopping at one of our prayer stations to offer your prayers of gratitude or sorrow.*

## We Go Out with Gratitude

### Prayer of Thanksgiving

Gracious God, you have invited us here

**to share the goodness at your table.**

You have invited us here

**to let our weary souls dream again.**

You have invited us here

**to make room in our lives for holy surprises.**

And for this generosity, we are thankful. Now send us out

**in wonder, newfound strength, and hope.**

Now send us out

**to question those who proclaim “Never” and “There is not enough.”**

Now send us out

**to share your promise of peace and flourishing wherever our paths lead. Amen.**

**\*Sending Song** ..... “Soon and Very Soon”

**\*Benediction**

**Sending Music**

## Worship Leaders

<b>Joseph L. Morrow</b>	Minister for Evangelism
<b>Nanette Sawyer</b>	Associate Pastor
<b>Leslie Beukelman</b>	Vocals
<b>Bryan Doherty</b>	Bass
<b>Marcus Evans</b>	Drums
<b>Amr Fahmy</b>	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 Prayer of Thanksgiving is adapted from a prayer written by Richard Bott ([liturgy.richardbott.com](http://liturgy.richardbott.com)). All rights reserved. Used with permission.

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## PASTORAL STAFF

**Shannon J. Kershner**, Pastor  
**Lucy Forster-Smith**, Senior Associate Pastor  
**Victoria G. Curtiss**, Associate Pastor for Mission  
**Matt Helms**, Associate Pastor for Children and Family Ministry  
**Nanette Sawyer**, Associate Pastor for Discipleship and Small Group Ministry  
**Rocky Supinger**, Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry  
**Judith L. Watt**, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care  
**Joseph L. Morrow**, Minister for Evangelism  
**Jeffrey Doane**, Parish Associate for Older Adults  
**Abbi Heimach-Snipes**, Pastoral Resident  
**Shawn Fiedler**, Ministerial Associate for Worship  
**John Buchanan**, Pastor Emeritus



# News and Opportunities

## Advent and Christmas

**Daily Advent devotions** are available on facebook.com/fourthchurch, Twitter (@FourthChicago), and www.fourthchurch.org; via email (subscribe at www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions); and in the literature racks.

**Help decorate the Sanctuary and Buchanan Chapel and also honor loved ones** by contributing to the purchase of Advent and Christmas flowers and garlands. A list of those remembered will be printed in the Christmas bulletin. Contributions can be made at www.bit.ly/FPCgifts or by using the forms in the literature racks. Contributions must be received by next Sunday, December 9 for names to appear in the bulletin.

**Ushers are needed** for Christmas Eve (4:00 p.m. Children's Pageant; 6:00 p.m. Family Service; 8:00 and 10:00 p.m. Lessons and Carols) and Christmas Day (11:00 a.m.). Contact Robert Crouch (312.981.3382; rcrouch@fourthchurch.org) for details.

**"Christmas with Chanticleer"** concerts are this Tuesday and Wednesday, December 4 and December 5 at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Tickets are available from the CSO (312.294.3000; www.cso.org); use promo code CHANTICLEER for 15 percent off tickets.

**The Lakeside Singers holiday concert** is this Friday, December 7 at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Tickets are available at www.lakesidesingers.com

**The Festival of Advent Lessons and Music** will be celebrated next Sunday, December 9 at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. A cookies-and-cocoa reception will follow.

**The Christmas with Tower Brass concert** will be next Wednesday, December 12 at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary; donations (*suggestion of \$20*) will be received at the door.

**Bella Voce's presentation of A Ceremony of Carols** will take place Friday, December 14 at 7:30 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel. Tickets are available at www.bellavoce.org

**Chicago a capella's holiday concert** will be Friday, December 14 at 8:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Tickets are available at www.chicagoacappella.org

**Decorated and filled Holiday Gift Bags** are needed by next Sunday, December 9 so we might give them to Fourth Church Meals Ministry guests of Sunday Night and Monday Night Suppers. A list of needed items and bags to decorate are available by contacting Mike Usiak (312.981.3599; musiak@fourthchurch.org).

**The "Christmas Wishes" project** needs individuals to shop for a gift for one of the Chicago Lights Tutoring students who might not otherwise receive one. For wish lists, contact Anne Ellis (aellis@fourthchurch.org).

**The "Longest Night" service**, which will be held Tuesday, December 18 at 6:30 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel, recognizes the feelings of loneliness, grief, and alienation that are often present during the holiday season.

**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/cdin2018

**A New Year's Eve Taizé service** will be held at 7:30 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel on Monday, December 31.

## News and Resources

**We are counting on gifts pledged for 2018 to be fully fulfilled by year end** to ensure the budgets of Fourth Church and Chicago Lights can be met. If you anticipate being unable to fulfill your pledge, please let Andrea Miller know (312.640.2576) so we might plan accordingly. Thank you!

## Mission

**Information about ways to support immigrants at the southern border** is available from Vicky Curtiss (vcurtiss@fourthchurch.org).

**Mission trips to Cuba** (May 6–15) and **Guatemala** (August 4–11) are being planned for 2019. Learn more or apply (*by January 15*) at [www.fourthchurch.org/mission/trips](http://www.fourthchurch.org/mission/trips). An **insight trip to Alabama and Mississippi** that focuses on the civil rights movement is being planned by the Racial Equity Council for October 26–November 2, 2019. Details are available from Vicky Curtiss (vcurtiss@fourthchurch.org).

## Enrichment

**Men's Bible Study** meets this Tuesday morning, December 4 in the Loop at 7:30 a.m. To RSVP (*required*), contact Anne Ellis (312.573.3369; aellis@fourthchurch.org).

**A Men's Faith Discussion Group** beginning in January will combine autobiography and listening to Jesus' life and teachings. Learn more on Tuesday, December 4 at 6:00 p.m. in the Randolph Room.

**"Longing for God: Faith Development over a Lifetime,"** a class with Lucy Forster-Smith, meets on Sundays at 11:00 a.m. in Room 5G.

**A weekday daytime training course for Stephen Ministers** will begin in the spring. Details for those interested in this fifty-hour class are posted at [www.bit.ly/fpcstephen](http://www.bit.ly/fpcstephen)

## Fellowship

**TwentiesThirties will gather for an Advent party** this Thursday, December 6 at 7:00 p.m. in Anderson Hall.

**The Cornerstones Christmas Sing-Along and dinner** for adults fifty and over will be held this Friday, December 7 at 6:00 p.m. in Room 4G. Registration is required by this Wednesday, December 5 and can be completed online: [www.bit.ly/cfpc1218](http://www.bit.ly/cfpc1218)

**Men's Breakfast** will meet this Saturday, December 8 at 8:00 a.m. in Room 4E.

## Volunteers Needed

**Volunteers to bake cookies and host the cookies-and-cocoa reception** following Advent Lessons and Music next Sunday evening, December 9

**Christmas Wishes volunteers** needed to help inventory and wrap gifts

**Volunteers to unload food trucks** on second and fourth Monday mornings

**Tutors** to work one-to-one with Chicago Lights Tutoring students one evening a week at the church; sign up for this week's December 3 orientation at [www.bit.ly/2QYB4bq](http://www.bit.ly/2QYB4bq)

*To sign up or to learn about other volunteer opportunities or donation needs, stop by Coffee Hour today or contact Robert Crouch (312.981.3382)*

## Children, Youth, and Family

**The youth ski retreat** will be January 18–20; register at [www.bit.ly/fpcski2019](http://www.bit.ly/fpcski2019) by December 23.

**Details about summer 2019 youth trips** to New Jersey, Detroit, and the Presbyterian Youth Triennium are posted at [www.bit.ly/summertrips19](http://www.bit.ly/summertrips19); register by January 15.

## Calendar for December 2–9, 2018

### Sunday, December 2 *First Sunday of Advent*

- 4:00 p.m. **Jazz at Four • Joe Morrow preaching** . . . . . Buchanan Chapel  
 5:00 p.m. Meals Ministry Sunday Night Supper . . . . . Anderson Hall

### Monday, December 3

- 9:00 a.m. Day School Preschool (*also Tues.–Fri.*) . . . . . Day School Classrooms  
 4:00 p.m. Meals Ministry Monday Night Supper . . . . . Catholic Charities  
 5:00 p.m. Chicago Lights Tutoring (*also Tues.–Thurs.*) . . . . . Fifth Floor, Gratz Center  
 6:00 p.m. New Tutor Orientation . . . . . Borwell Dining Room

### Tuesday, December 4

- 7:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study . . . . . (*see announcement*)  
 7:45 a.m. Sacred Pause Silent Meditation . . . . . Stone Chapel  
 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. Meals Ministry Bag Lunches (*also Wed., Thurs.*) . . . . . Anderson Hall  
 6:00 p.m. Men's Faith Discussion Group Informational Meeting . . . . . Randolph  
 7:00 p.m. Meditation with Replogle Center . . . . . Boyle Conference Room  
 7:30 p.m. Christmas with Chanticleer (*also Wed.*) . . . . . Sanctuary

### Wednesday, December 5

- 9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer . . . . . Buchanan Chapel  
 9:30 a.m. Benevolent Guild . . . . . Room 5B

### Thursday, December 6

- 7:00 p.m. TwentiesThirties . . . . . Anderson Hall

### Friday, December 7

- 12:10 p.m. Noonday Concert: Estrella Piano Duo . . . . . Buchanan Chapel  
 6:00 p.m. Cornerstones Christmas Gathering . . . . . Room 4G  
 7:30 p.m. Lakeside Singers Holiday Concert . . . . . Sanctuary

### Saturday, December 8

- 8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast . . . . . Room 4E

### Sunday, December 9 *Second Sunday of Advent*

- 8:00 a.m. **Worship • Lucy Forster-Smith preaching** . . . . . Sanctuary  
 8:00 a.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal . . . . . Buchanan Chapel Choir Loft  
 9:00/10:00/10:30 a.m. Cherub/Youth/Children's Choir Rehearsals . . . . . Room 4F  
 9:00, 10:30 a.m.; 12:00 p.m. Coffee Hour . . . . . Commons  
 9:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Nursery . . . . . Nursery / Day School  
 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. **Worship • Shannon J. Kershner preaching** . . . . . Sanctuary  
 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. Children in Worship | Sunday School . . . . . Sanctuary | Fourth Floor  
 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Youth Groups . . . . . Bumpus Room | Room 4G  
 10:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. Time of Prayer with Deacons . . . . . Stone Chapel  
 10:35 a.m. Men's Faith Discussion Group Informational Meeting . . . . . Room 5F  
 11:00 a.m. "Longing for God" . . . . . Room 5G  
 12:00 p.m. Sanctuary Tour . . . . . Sanctuary  
 12:15 p.m. Organ Tour . . . . . Sanctuary  
 4:00 p.m. **Jazz at Four • Nanette Sawyer preaching** . . . . . Buchanan Chapel  
 5:00 p.m. Meals Ministry Sunday Night Supper . . . . . Anderson Hall  
 6:30 p.m. **Advent Festival of Lessons and Music** . . . . . Sanctuary  
 7:30 p.m. Cookies-and-Cocoa Reception . . . . . Anderson Hall

## During Today's Worship

**All are encouraged to visit a prayer station** to offer joys and concerns by writing them on a prayer card. The cards will be collected at the end of worship, read by the pastoral staff during the week, and then displayed in an ongoing art project.

**We celebrate an open table at Communion. All, including children, are invited to the Lord's Table to receive Communion.** You are invited to come forward, receive the bread (gluten-free bread is available—just ask), dip the bread into the nonalcoholic grape juice, and return to your seat by stopping at one of our prayer stations to offer your prayers of gratitude or sorrow.

**Worship can be heard** through the "T" or "T-coil" setting of hearing aids.

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

**Printed copies of sermons** recently preached at Fourth Church are available in the literature racks. They are also available at [www.fourthchurch.org/sermons](http://www.fourthchurch.org/sermons) and by email: subscribe at [www.bit.ly/fpcsermons](http://www.bit.ly/fpcsermons)

## 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 Sunday, December 9 or January 13 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon in the Page Smith Room (register online for the class at [www.bit.ly/fpcinquirers](http://www.bit.ly/fpcinquirers)). 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 Joe Morrow ([member@fourthchurch.org](mailto:member@fourthchurch.org); 312.981.3399) or go to [www.bit.ly/fpcinquirers](http://www.bit.ly/fpcinquirers)

**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 (subscribe online at [www.bit.ly/newsfromfpc](http://www.bit.ly/newsfromfpc)).

**If you are interested in considering baptism or becoming a member** of Fourth Church during the 4:00 p.m. service, please contact Joe Morrow ([jmorrow@fourthchurch.org](mailto:jmorrow@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 23.

**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)).

**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)