

*The beginning of the prelude is a call to silent,
personal preparation for the worship of God.*

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

“Sleepers Wake!” A Voice Astounds Us Johann Sebastian Bach

Introit

“Our King and Savior Draweth Nigh” Stephen Sturk
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

Leader: *The days are surely coming, says the Lord,
when God will fulfill the promises made.*

People: Every valley shall be lifted up
and every mountain and hill be made low.

Leader: *In those days, God will cause a mighty branch to spring forth
who will execute justice and righteousness;*

People: steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
righteousness and peace will look down from the sky.

Leader: *Prepare the way of our Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.*

People: The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom.

Leader: *The people who have lived in the shadows have seen a great light;
those who live in the land of the deepest night,
on them the sun shall soon shine.*

People: The glory of God’s love shall soon be revealed,
and all the people shall see it and be made new.

*Hymn 88 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

*Stand as you are able. [†]Or “Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.”

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

O God, we live as if the light had never defeated the night in the world or in us. We confess that we ignore the Christ you sent to be among us, to be in us. We've kept the birth of your Son confined to the Christmas season and do not yearn for his birth each moment in our waiting hearts. Lord, you came to us in the fullness of time. Forgive us for not opening our eyes to your coming. It's time that we prepare for your coming. It's time that we prepare for your unending reign on earth. Hear us, O God, as we come before you in silence, confessing those sins we do not speak aloud, but hold in our hearts . . .

(Please hold silence.)

Kyrie (*sung*) The Hymnal, 551

Lord, have mercy; Christ have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy; Christ have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.

Declaration of Pardon

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

*Exchange of Peace

Leader: *The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.*
People: And also with you.
We invite you to greet those around you, wishing them "peace" or "the peace of Christ."

Concerns of the Church

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter (*sung*)

"Lord, to You My Soul Is Lifted" (Psalm 25) The Hymnal, 420

Anthem

"E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come" Paul Manz
Peace be to you and grace from him who freed us from our sins, who loved us all and shed his blood that we might saved be. Sing holy, holy to our Lord, the Lord almighty God, who was and is and is to come. Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein; rejoice on earth, ye saints below, for Christ is coming, is coming soon! E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, and night shall be no more; they need no light nor lamp nor sun, for Christ will be their all.

First Lesson

Jeremiah 33:14–16 Old Testament, page 694

Leader: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: Thanks be to God.

*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.

Second Lesson

Luke 21:25–36. New Testament, page 80

Leader: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Shannon J. Kershner

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 83 “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

*Affirmation of Faith 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;
on 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.

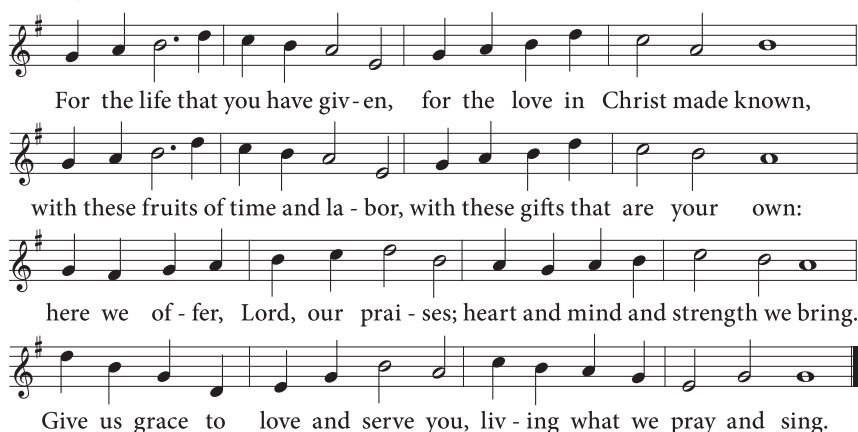
Offering

Offertory Voluntary

Come Thou, Jesu, from Heaven to Earth Johann Sebastian Bach

[†]Or “to the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Ghost.”

*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

Leader: *The Lord be with you.*

People: *And also with you.*

Leader: *Lift up your hearts.*

People: *We lift them up to the Lord.*

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

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

Prayer

Leader: *It is truly right and our greatest joy . . .*

. . . forever singing to the glory of your name:

Sanctus (*sung*) The Hymnal, 552

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power, God of 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.

Leader: *. . . 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.

The Lord’s Prayer (*unison*) The Hymnal, page 35

The Communion

Communion Anthem

“The Eyes of All Wait upon Thee” Jean Berger
*The eyes of all wait upon thee, and thou givest them their meat in due season.
Thou openest thine hand and satisfiest the desire of every living thing.*

*Prayer after Communion (*unison*)

Eternal God, you taught us that the night is far spent and the day is at hand.
Keep us awake and alert, watching for your kingdom, and make us strong
in faith through the meal you feed us, so that when Christ comes in glory
to judge the earth, we may joyfully give him praise; who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 357 “The Days Are Surely Coming”

*Benediction and Response

Postlude

On Jordan’s Banks the Baptist’s Cry Aaron David Miller

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.) Worshipers 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

Judith L. Watt, Shannon J. Kershner

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Larry and Alison Thomas

The Music Today

Chancel Choir

John W. W. Sherer, Organist and Director of Music

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

Justin Taylor, Organ Scholar

Worship Notes

THE “LIGHT UP A LIFE” OFFERING is being received throughout Advent.

“Light Up a Life” provides opportunity to support congregational programs, mission, and community outreach, including Chicago Lights programs.

“Light Up a Life” gifts can be made using the special offering envelopes found 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.fourthchurch.org/give-online

SOURCES AND CREDITS: 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.

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Lucy Forster-Smith Senior Associate Pastor

Associate Pastors

Victoria G. Curtiss Mission

Matt Helms Children and Family Ministry

Nanette Sawyer Discipleship and Small Group Ministry

Rocky Supinger Youth Ministry

Judith L. Watt Pastoral Care

Joseph L. Morrow Minister for Evangelism

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John Buchanan Pastor Emeritus

This worship bulletin is printed on recyclable paper that contains recycled post-consumer waste and is acid free. All bulletins and inserts left in the baskets by the doors are recycled.

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