



Third Sunday of Advent

We Approach God

Gathering Music

Greeting

***Call to Worship**

* Please rise in body or spirit

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.

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)*

God our Savior, we ask for your mercy.

Though we have heard Mary's song,

we still seek security in pride and power and possessions.

Though we know your story, we resist the costs of following you.

We pass by those considered lowly in this world.

We turn away from hungry people who still wait to be filled.

Hear us, O God—as we turn to you anew,

seeking to be renewed and refreshed . . .

(Please hold silence.)

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.

We Proclaim the Story

Canticle Zephaniah 3:14–20 (*the congregation sings the antiphon*)

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel!
Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem!
The Lord has taken away the judgments against you;
the Lord has turned away your enemies.
The sovereign of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.

ANTIPHON (*unison*) **Come, Savior, quickly come; come, Savior, quickly come.**
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak.
The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory;
the Lord will rejoice over you with gladness, the Lord will renew you in his love;
the Lord will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival.

ANTIPHON (*unison*) **Come, Savior, quickly come; come, Savior, quickly come.**
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

The Lord proclaims: I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.
I will deal with all your oppressors at that time.
And I will save the lame and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth.
At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you;
for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes before your eyes.

ANTIPHON (*unison*) **Come, Savior, quickly come; come, Savior, quickly come.**
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

Scripture Reading

Luke 1:26–38

Sermon Shannon J. Kershner

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 “In the Bleak Midwinter” by Gustav Holst

***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 (*unison*)

**O Holy God, you have blessed us with your love and given us a glimpse of your glory,
a vision of angels, the warmth of your love in candle flames.
Open our eyes to see you in our world, all around us.
Open our hands, that we may bless the world with your generous love.
Ready our hearts, that we may welcome your coming to us
through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

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

***Benediction**
Sending Music

Worship Leaders

Shannon J. Kershner	Pastor
Shawn Fiedler	Ministerial Associate for Worship
Clyde and Robin Yancy	Lighting the Advent Wreath
Allison Orobia	Vocals
Bryan Doherty	Bass
Marcus Evans	Drums
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

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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

Advent Jazz worship with Communion is held Sundays at 4:00 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel.

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

The “Longest Night” service will be hosted by our Stephen Ministers this Tuesday, December 18 at 6:30 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel. This “Blue Christmas” service recognizes the feelings of loneliness, alienation, and grief—personal and collective—that can make it difficult to share in the joyous celebrations of the Christmas season.

Next Sunday the Christmas cantata *A Ceremony of Carols* by Benjamin Britten will be sung by the Morning Choir as part of the 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. services on December 23.

We will gather for four candlelight Christmas Eve services on Monday, December 24:

4:00 p.m. Children’s Pageant

6:00 p.m. Family Service

8:00 p.m. Lessons and Carols

10:00 p.m. Lessons and Carols

For those worshipping at 6:00, 8:00, or 10:00, all entry to the Sanctuary will be from Michigan Avenue entrances; those worshipers arriving before the Sanctuary has been emptied after the previous service will be invited to join the queue that will start at the glass Loggia doors (accessible via Michigan Avenue). Once those lines have dissipated, access will be allowed via the Sanctuary entrance on Michigan Avenue.

Nursery care on Christmas Eve will be available from 3:00 to 7:15 p.m. It will not be available during the last two services of the evening.

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 will also be available after Christmas Eve.

We will worship on Christmas Day at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, December 25.

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 candlelit New Year’s Eve Taizé service will be held at 7:30 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel on Monday, December 31. This service offers space for prayer as well as meditative pause for reflecting on the year past and looking ahead to the year to come.

News and Resources

Expectations for the holidays can be different from the realities, and feelings of grief over losses can be 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 Center at 312.787.8425.

In order to conclude 2018 with a balanced budget, we are counting on gifts pledged for 2018 to be fully fulfilled by year end and welcome additional generosity where it is possible! If you anticipate being unable to fulfill your pledge, please let Andrea Miller know (312.640.2576) so we might plan accordingly. Thank you!

A weekday daytime training course for Stephen Ministers will begin in the spring. Those interested in this fifty-hour class—and making a two-year commitment to this ministry of caring—can find information at www.bit.ly/fpcstephen

The Deacons' Connection Corner during Coffee Hour offers opportunity to discover ways to get involved in the life of Fourth Church.

Worship

Sacred Pause meditative silence—hosted by the Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being as well as our Spiritual Formation Council—is offered on Tuesdays at 7:45 a.m. in Stone Chapel.

Morning Prayer is held on Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. in Buchanan Chapel as a time to join staff in prayer for Fourth Church members and those in need.

Mission

Fourth Church Prison Ministry is looking for volunteers to visit with men in a minimum-security space at the Cook County Jail. Learn more at an informational meeting today at 12:20 p.m. in Room 5F.

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

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 and a trip application are available at www.bit.ly/crtrip2019

Information about ways to support immigrants at the southern border is available at www.bit.ly/fpcimmref or by contacting Vicky Curtiss (vcurtiss@fourthchurch.org).

The Gala of Hope—benefiting Chicago Lights, the nonprofit community outreach arm of Fourth Church, and the Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being—will be held Friday, March 1 at the Radisson Blu Aqua. Tickets will be available in January.

Enrichment

Men's Bible Study meets this Tuesday morning, December 18 in the Loop at 7:30 a.m. To RSVP (*required*), contact Anne Ellis (312.573.3369; aellis@fourthchurch.org).

Children, Youth, and Family

Sunday School meets Sundays at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. on the fourth floor of the Gratz Center. Next Sunday, December 23, rehearsal for the Christmas Pageant will follow the 11:00 a.m. session. There will be no Sunday School on December 30.

"Cookies, Cocoa, and Caroling" Family Night will be held this Friday evening, December 21 at 5:30 p.m. in Borwell Dining Room and will include a shared meal, cookie decorating, games, crafts, and caroling.

Our Day School will hold an open house on Saturday, January 12 from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. as a time for parents and children to learn about our weekday preschool program.

Next Sunday is the last day to sign up for the youth ski retreat, which will be the weekend of January 18–20; register at www.bit.ly/fpcski2019

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

Calendar for December 16–23, 2018

Sunday, December 16 *Third Sunday of Advent*

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

Monday, December 17

- 9:00 a.m. Day School Preschool (*also Tues.–Fri.*) Day School Classrooms
 4:00 p.m. Meals Ministry Monday Night Supper Catholic Charities

Tuesday, December 18

- 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 Anderson Hall
6:30 p.m. "Longest Night" Service Buchanan Chapel
 7:00 p.m. Meditation with Replogle Center Boyle Conference Room

Wednesday, December 19

- 9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer Buchanan Chapel
 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. Meals Ministry Bag Lunches Anderson Hall

Thursday, December 20

- 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. Meals Ministry Bag Lunches Anderson Hall
 6:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal Sanctuary

Friday, December 21

- 12:10 p.m. Noonday Concert: John Sherer, Organ Sanctuary
 5:30 p.m. "Cookies, Cocoa, and Caroling" Family Night Borwell Dining Room

Saturday, December 22

Sunday, December 23 *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

- 8:00 a.m. Worship • Victoria G. Curtiss preaching Sanctuary**
 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. Sunday School Fourth Floor, Gratz Center
 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Youth Groups (*see announcement*)
 10:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. Time of Prayer with Deacons Stone Chapel
 12:00 p.m. Sanctuary Tour Sanctuary
 12:15 p.m. Organ Tour Sanctuary
 12:15 p.m. Christmas Pageant Rehearsal Sanctuary
4:00 p.m. Jazz at Four • Joseph L. Morrow preaching Buchanan Chapel
 5:00 p.m. Meals Ministry Sunday Night Supper 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 and by email: subscribe at 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, January 13 or February 10 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon in the Page Smith Room (register online for the class at 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; 312.981.3399) or go to 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), our page on Facebook (facebook.com/fourthchurch), and in our weekly email newsletter (subscribe online at 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) 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).

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

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