

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

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Savior of the Nations, Come Johann Sebastian Bach

Introit

“Our King and Savior Now Draws Near” Iain Quinn

*Our King and Savior now draws near; come let us adore him. Glory to the Father,
and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever
shall be. Amen.*

*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: *Beloved Community, believe it: God is our salvation.*

People: Happy is she who believe God's promises!

Leader: *Beloved Community, believe it: God is our strength.*

People: Happy is he who believes God's promises!

Leader: *Beloved Community, believe it: God is our comfort.*

People: Happy are we who believe God's promises!

*Hymn 348 “Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending”

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

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

God of our salvation, in Christ you have done great things—
our hearts are filled with joy.

By your power you lifted us out of the desert of sin
and brought us with joy and gladness into your kingdom.

Salvation is your gift to us.

But we confess that often we try to replace your gift with our own efforts.

We try to complete what is already perfect;

we try to add to what is already full; we try to earn what we already have.

Forgive us for our foolishness. Help us to focus on your grace.

Help us to live grateful lives in return.

O God, you alone know our hearts;

hear us as we come before you in silence.

(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

Anthem

“Veni redeptor gentium” Jacob Handl

*Come, thou redeemer of the earth and manifest thy virgin birth. Let every age
adoring fall; such a birth befits the God of all.*

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Canticle (*sung*)

“Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above” The Hymnal, 645

*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.

Scripture Lesson

Luke 1:39–45 New Testament, page 53

Leader: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Rocky Supinger

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 93 “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

*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.

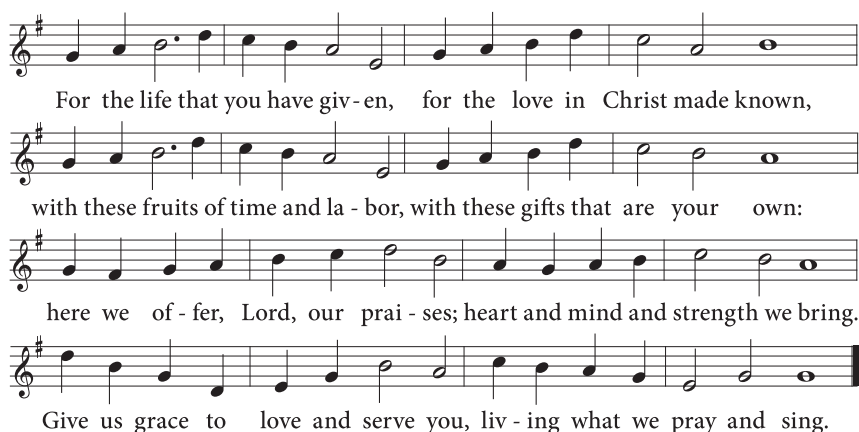
Offering

Offertory Solo

“Sweet Little Jesus Boy” African American Spiritual
arr. Robert MacGimsey

[†]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 and 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

"Creator of the Stars of Night" Plainsong; arr. Dale Wood

*Prayer after Communion (*unison*)

O God, you have so greatly loved us,

long sought us, and mercifully redeemed us.

Give us grace, that in everything we may yield ourselves,

our wills, and our works,

a continual thank-offering to you,

through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 104 "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You"

*Charge

*Benediction and Response

Postlude

Savior of the Nations, Come Nikolaus Vetter

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

Lucy Forster-Smith, Rocky Supinger

The Music Today

Chancel Choir; Jerry Johnson, soloist

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, as well as denominational efforts. “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

THE ADVENT BANNERS, in the form of wings, convey the idea of Advent stillness and of waiting in the presence of angels. They were designed and painted by Eliza Linley of Berkeley, California.

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 Prayer after Communion is from *A Wee Worship Book*, Fourth Incarnation, Wild Goose Resource Group, 1999. 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.

Shannon J. Kershner Pastor

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

Jeffrey Doane Parish Associate for Older Adults

Abbi Heimach-Snipes Pastoral Resident

Shawn Fiedler Ministerial Associate for Worship

John Buchanan Pastor Emeritus

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