



Fourth 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*)

Holy One, even as we await your new creation, you promise us your faithful presence.
But we hold fast to imperfect persons and cling to fleeting resources.
You assure us of your peace. But we seek lives of endless striving. You send us your signs.
But we rebuff them when they are inconvenient or come in distressing disguises.
You offer us abundance. But we use it to protect ourselves
rather than serve the vulnerable and love our neighbor.
Forgive our confused priorities, distrust, and greed.
Help us hear the angels’ message to quiet our doubt, to accept that we are beloved,
and to trust that your redemption is near. Keep loving us into your future.

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 share the peace of Christ with one another.

Celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism

Welcome

Canticle Revelation 21:1–4, 22–26 (*the congregation sings the antiphon*)

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth
had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem,
coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a lover adorned for their beloved.
And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals.
The holy One will dwell with them; they will be God’s peoples,
and God’s very self will be with them;
our Great Redeemer will wipe every tear from their eyes.
Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
for the first things have passed away.”

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

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

I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb.
And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light,
and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will
bring their glory into it. Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there.
People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations.

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

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

Scripture Reading

Luke 2:8–20

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 (*unison*)

**We give you thanks, God of the broken bread.
Let your selfless love be the love that dwells between us.
We praise you, God of the shared cup.
Let your covenant of peace be the peace that binds us.
We give you thanks, God of the cleansing font and the open table.
Let the generosity of your graces be the joy that fills us.
As we leave this place, renew us with Christmas hope,
so that we may share your goodness near and far. Amen.**

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

***Benediction**
Sending Music

Worship Leaders

Joseph L. Morrow	Minister for Evangelism
Nanette Sawyer	Associate Pastor
Hope Daniels	Lighting the Advent Wreath
Allison Orobia	Vocals
Bryan Doherty	Bass
Marcus Evans	Drums
Amr Fahmy	Piano

Baptized during worship today

Ari Isabella Andrews, child of Gion Pfützner and Elizabeth Andrews; Judith Watt, Celebrant

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 www.faithandworship.com.

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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/Christmas devotions 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

We will gather for four candlelight Christmas Eve services this 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. Worshipers arriving before the Sanctuary has been emptied following the previous service will be invited to join the queue in the Loggia (accessible through the glass doors on Michigan Avenue). After that queue has entered the emptied Sanctuary, access will be allowed via the Michigan Avenue Sanctuary doors.

Discounted parking on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day is available only at the 900 N. Michigan garage.

Those who enter the garage on Christmas Eve *prior* to 3:00 p.m. will need to purchase a parking validation ticket at the church for \$17. Those who enter *after* 3:00 p.m. will be able to park for \$8 with a different validation ticket that can be picked up for free that day at the church. Those parking on Christmas Day will need to purchase a validation ticket at the church for \$17 discounted parking.

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 or on Christmas Day.

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. Dinner reservations (*required*) can be made at the reception desk today.

A New Year's Eve Taizé service will be held at 7:30 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel on Monday, December 31. This candlelit service offers space for prayer as well as meditative pause for reflecting on the year past and looking ahead to the year to come. A labyrinth will be available to walk beforehand, between 6:00 and 7:30 p.m.

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.

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers to unload food trucks on second and fourth Monday mornings

Sunday Night Supper greeters and servers on Sundays from 3:45 to 6:15 p.m.

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).

News and Resources

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 at amiller@fourthchurch.org so we might plan accordingly. *(For information about making gifts through stock transfers or required distributions from one's IRA or prepaying one's 2019 pledge, contact Katy Frey Bever at kbever@fourthchurch.org)*

A weekday daytime training course for Stephen Ministers will begin in the spring. Information about this fifty-hour class is posted online at www.bit.ly/fpcstephen

Enrichment

"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 (*except Monday, January 21*) at 11:30 a.m. in the Page Smith Room. Nicholas Kristof, Jenna Bush Hager, and Craig Detweiler are among the lecturers. For a full list of speakers, see www.calvin.edu/january-series

Books by Women will discuss *A Walk Lillian Boxfish Takes* by Kathleen Rooney on Tuesday, January 8 at 6:00 p.m. in the Bumpus Room.

The Presbyterian Historical Society will present a program on Sunday, January 13 at 12:15 p.m. in Room 4G.

A "Connecting to the Heart" workshop will be offered by the Replogle Center on Saturday, February 9 at 10:00 a.m. Learn more and register at www.bit.ly/2Cdff9D

An Enneagram workshop will be offered by the Replogle Center on Saturday, February 23 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Learn more and register at www.bit.ly/2S18OWh

Children, Youth, and Family

There will be no Sunday School on December 30; parents are encouraged to have their children worship with them next Sunday. Nursery care will be available beginning at 9:00 a.m. for those three and younger.

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.

Today 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.

Mission

January 15 is the application deadline for mission trips to Cuba (May 6–15) and to **Guatemala** (August 4–11). Learn more or apply at www.fourthchurch.org/mission/trips

A 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. See www.bit.ly/crtip2019 for details and an application.

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

Take part in our chili cook-off on Sunday, January 13! Enter your chili into the contest by signing up online (at www.bit.ly/chili2019). Or come enjoy chili for lunch that day. Proceeds support our youth mission trips.

Calendar for December 23–30, 2018

Sunday, December 23 *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

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

Monday, December 24 *Christmas Eve*

- 3:00 to 7:15 p.m. **Nursery** Nursery / Day School
 4:00 p.m. **Meals Ministry Monday Night Supper** Catholic Charities
 4:00 p.m. **Christmas Pageant • Matt Helms preaching** Sanctuary
 6:00 p.m. **Family Service • Shannon J. Kershner preaching** Sanctuary
 8:00 p.m. **Lessons and Carols • Shannon J. Kershner preaching** Sanctuary
 10:00 p.m. **Lessons and Carols • Shannon J. Kershner preaching** Sanctuary

Tuesday, December 25 *Christmas Day*

- 11:00 a.m. **Worship • Lucy Forster-Smith preaching** Sanctuary
 12:15 p.m. **Christmas Dinner** Anderson Hall

Wednesday, December 26 *Church Office Closed*

Thursday, December 27

- 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. **Meals Ministry Bag Lunches** Anderson Hall

Friday, December 28

- 12:10 p.m. **Noonday Concert: Beena David, mezzo-soprano** Buchanan Chapel

Saturday, December 29 *Church Office Closed*

Sunday, December 30 *First Sunday after Christmas*

- 8:00 a.m. **Worship • Lucy Forster-Smith preaching** Sanctuary
 9:00, 10:30 a.m.; 12:00 p.m. **Coffee Hour** Anderson Hall / Commons
 9:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. **Nursery** Nursery / Day School
 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. **Worship • Christmas Lessons and Carols** Sanctuary
 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
 4:00 p.m. **Jazz at Four • Christmas Lessons and Carols** 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

Church office: 126 E. Chestnut Street, Chicago, IL 60611.2014; www.fourthchurch.org
312.787.4570; Fax: 312.787.4584; www.facebook.com/fourthchurch