

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

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Two Settings of “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” David Johnson
and Gerald Near
My Soul Doth Magnify the Lord Johann Sebastian Bach
Of the Father’s Love Begotten Wilbur Held

*Call to Worship

Leader: *The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all.*

People: **Glory to God in the highest!**

Leader: *The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light!*

People: **Glory to God in the highest!**

Leader: *To us is born in the city of David
a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord.*

People: **Glory to God in the highest!**

Leader: *Christ is born! Christ is among us! O earth, sing to the Lord!*

People: **Glory to God in the highest! Amen.**

Prayer of Praise

*Hymn 133 “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us as a light shining in darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light or trusted good news to be good. We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst, expecting little and hoping for less. Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope, so that we may receive the fullness of your grace and live in the truth of Christ the Lord, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

Leader: *Friends, believe the good news:*

People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

Words of Welcome

**Stand as you are able.*

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter (*sung*)

“God Reigns! Let Earth Rejoice!” (Psalm 97) The Hymnal, 365

Solo

“A Child My Choice” Richard Dirksen

First Lesson

Isaiah 9:2–7 Old Testament, page 600

Leader: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: Thanks be to God.

*Gloria Patri (*sung*) The Hymnal, 581

Glorify 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 2:8–20 New Testament, page 54

Leader: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: Thanks be to God.

Christmas Meditation

“Glory to Glory” Lucy Forster-Smith

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 132 “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

*Affirmation of Faith (*unison*). A Christmas Creed from Latin America

I believe in Jesus Christ and in the power of the Gospel
which began in Bethlehem.

I believe in the One whose spirit glorified a small village,
of whose coming the shepherds saw the sign,
and for whom there was no room in the inn.

I believe in the One whose life changed the course of history,
for whom the kings of the earth had no power,
and who was not understood by the proud.

I believe in the One to whom the poor, the oppressed, the discouraged,

the afflicted, the sick, the blind, and the leprous gave welcome and accepted as Savior.

I believe in the One who, with love
changed the hearts of the proud and, with his life,
showed that it is more important to serve than to be served
and that the greatest joy is in giving your life for others.
I believe in peace, which means justice
among all peoples and nations and love among all.
I believe in reconciliation, forgiveness, and
the transforming power of the gospel, now and forever. Amen.

A Litany for Christmas Day

Leader: *Let us pray to Jesus Christ our Savior:*

Christ, born in a stable, give courage to all who have no home and seek safety, warmth, and welcome. Jesus, Savior,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Leader: *Christ, for whom the angels sang, give the song of the kingdom to all who watch, weep, and mourn this day. Jesus, Savior,*

People: **hear our prayer.**

Leader: *Christ, worshiped by the shepherds, give peace on earth to all who are oppressed, who seek to breathe the breath of freedom and liberation. Jesus, Savior,*

People: **hear our prayer.**

Leader: *Christ, before whom the wise ones knelt, give humility and wisdom to all who govern this and every nation. Jesus, Savior,*

People: **hear our prayer.**

Leader: *Christ, whose radiance filled a lowly manger, give the glory of your resurrection to all who rest in you, especially those we remember this day. Jesus, Savior,*

People: **hear our prayer.**

Leader: *Almighty God, receive the worship we offer in joy and gladness, joining our praise with Mary, Joseph, and the saints through Christ who is your Word made flesh, who taught us to pray. . . .*

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.

Offering

Offertory Solo

“To Bethlehem” David McK. Williams

*Offering 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.

*Prayer of Dedication

God of mystery and might, we praise and worship you,
 for you came in silence, while all lay sleeping,
 to enter our world as a child of humble birth.
 In Christ’s face we behold your glory,
 for in his life, as in his death, is the gift of salvation.
 We give thanks for the greatest gift that we can imagine.
 May your generosity abound in every act
 of love and care we extend this day and throughout our days.
 Through the Child of Bethlehem we pray. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 134 “Joy to the World”

*Benediction

Postlude

Improvisation: “On This Day Earth Shall Ring”

Gifts supporting Christmastime Sanctuary adornments have been made in memory and in honor of family, friends, and loved ones.

In Memory of

Mary Shawn Addington
Carolyn Albro
Hubert M. Allen
Roy and Evelyn Anderson
Ruth Andrews
Evelyn Artwick
Bonnie Bader
James and Joan Bailey
Mary, Clyde, and Alice Ball
Helen and Oscar Ban
Mr. and Mrs. Orville Banker
Richard Baron
Henry and Eleanor Bates
Richard Beiffuss
E. James Bennett
Mrs. M. A. Binnendijk-Bacas
Barbara Blakemore
Mary E. Bolton
Marvin and Anna Bomgaars
Allan and Florence Book
Sonja Bowen
Alice and Clyde O. Bowles Jr.
John H. Boyle
Hildur Satre Brees
Eleanor T. and Colver R. Briggs
Walter and Mathilda Broders
Elna Brown
Blanche and Robert Buchanan
Steve Bumpus
Bess Burns
Michael Campanella
Sarah Campbell
Sally Kathleen Carpenter
Chester and Lillie Stean Carter
Ida M. and Salvatore R. Cerasale Jr.
Catherine and Hal Clark
Mary Jane Cleveland
Hunter Quigley Coe
Sally, Mike, and Mary Alice Conlon
Edwin and Barbara Cook
George J. Cotsirilos
Allan Cox
Robert and Arvilla Crouch
Chet Currier
Elam and Grace Davies
Wilbert and Beth Doak
Roy Duffens
Mr. and Mrs. William
Stewart Edgar
Helen and Elliott Faulk
Peggy Faulkner
Bill and Emmie Lou Fedoryk
Robert D. Ferguson
F. Craig Fisher
Mr. and Mrs. Edward C. Fordney

Matthew C. Fox
Carl Freeberg
The Freeberg-Celeski Family
Vera Gaines and Bob and Ginny
Jacob-Gaines
Sydney, Ruth, and Ken Gerrans
Ed and Dorothy Goerling
Helen and F. Wendell Gooch
Cecile R. Gorno
Darrell and Muriel Green
Cecile Maxwell Griffith
Paul and Dorothy Grueninger
Gordon Gubbins
Jeff Gubbins
Albert Guevara
Jean and Ray Guido
Armon C. and Margaret Haagen
Frank and Jeanne Habicht
John Heizer
Mary Patric Herbst
Larry and Julia Hipp
Donald, Nancie, and
Cynthia Hodgman
Bob Hornaday
George H. Horsman
Dmitri Hvorostovsky
Tom Jackson
Oscar and Florine Jacobs
Dwight and Jerry Jeffers
Chris Joseph
George Jousma
Sherry Kahn
Bertha and Robert M. Kearney
Joyce and Robert S. Kearney
Richard and Dorothy Kerch
Patricia Krampe Frees and
James William Kilman
Robert and May Kinzer
Helmut Knapp
Mary Lou Koop
Helene Kozlowsky
Stephanie Shambaugh Kramer
Jeanette Krenek
Edward A. Kuhn
Jeanine Marie Kumar
Clifford, Betty, and
Dannen Latherow
Tom Leahy
Dayna Less
Alfred and Mildred Loeser
Junior Long
Lavaughn Long
John R. Lopatka
Rudolph and Mary Lopatka
Verna Lueneburg
George and Evelyn Lutman
Barbara Maggio

Sebastian Maggio
George and Lucile Maier
Robert Dean Marshall
Jeannine R. Masaitis
Lydia and Ray Mayo
Charles D. McAdams Jr.
Delia and Warren McClurg
Mac and Maxine McEnroe
Grace McFarlane
Pamela McGaan
Kenton Randall McKissack
Ramsey Paul McKissack
Irene Michaels
Marcus J. and Betty Cole Miller
Orrin and Ruby Millie
Margaret Lyon Morgan and
Howard M. Morgan
Peg and Burt Morgan
Andrew and Dorothy Morrison
Susan Allison Moser
William A. and Helen L. Munson
William and Inez O'Connell
Pat and Ken Ohr
Cheddy Ohr
Elizabeth and David Forbes Orwig
David, Mildred, and David Ostfeld
Bruce Pangborn
Alice Perry
Donald J. Peters
Robert Petkus
Helena Plante
Robert Plante
Sally Hoffmann Plante
Marlin Potter
Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Powell
Karen Ann Prins
Robert W. Proconier
Marion E. Radtke
Richard J. Radtke Sr.
Susan Barnett Rech
Thomas and Rosaria Rinkoski
Dorothy Ritchie
Brenton and Betty Ruppel
Mr. and Mrs. Ben Samanta
Elsie Sargis
Ivory and Ada Satre
Thomas Satre
Mary Helen Schaafsma
Calvin Schemper
Chester Schemper
Garrietta Schemper
Adeline and Lawrence Schramm
Tom, Bill, and Jim Schramm
Walter and Lois Schuessler
Fred Schwartz Jr.
Harold, Adgie, and John Shade
Burton Sherrod

Marc Sherrod
Jill Shownkeen
Frances and Robert Shreve
Charles and Carolyn Simons
Mercedes Freeman Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Lowell D. Snorf Jr.
Hyman Dale Spann Jr.
Frederick L. Stone
Hazel and Doug Storer
Nancy Swenson
Cecy R. Szuba
Helen Szuba
Barbara D. Thomsen
Janine Toman
Julia Toman
Karen Trabert
Diane, Mildred, and
Thomas Tramba
John Vanderzyden
William S. Wardrop
Jeanne M. Whitmer
Joey Whitmer
Robert W. Whitmer
Samuel F. Wilch
William Lee Wimbish
Roy and Rosemary Winkler
Edward and Anna Wosylus
Frances M. Youngwirth
Ruth and Eugene C. Zeltmann

In Honor of

Kristin and Erik Anderson
Katherine Bennett
Jay Brees
Mr. and Mrs. Carl Broders
Gwynne Geuther
Mr. and Mrs. Frances Hoeltgen
Josephine Horsman
Greg Kershner
Andy McGaan
Ro Montgomery
My Loved Ones
Joseph Guy and Alice Marie Nance
Nancy L. Niemi
Linda Ost
Jack and Gwen Pixler
Jane Potter
Bruce Smith
Faye Sturhahn Smith
Ted A. Smith
Anne Murtha Walsh
Steven R. Whitmer

THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO

Church office: 126 E. Chestnut Street, Chicago, IL 60611.2014 • 312.787.4570

www.fourthchurch.org • www.facebook.com/fourthchurch

Worship Leaders

Shawn M. Fiedler, Lucy Forster-Smith

The Music Today

Carol Carpenter, soloist

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

Worship Notes

THE “LIGHT UP A LIFE” OFFERING is being received this Christmas season. “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 or by writing “Light Up a Life” on the memo line of a check made payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church.

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US FOR WORSHIP throughout the Christmas season. On Sunday, December 30 we will gather here in the Sanctuary at 8:00 a.m. for worship with Communion and at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. for Christmastide Lessons and Carols. That afternoon at 4:00 p.m. we will have a Christmas Jazz at Four service (with Communion) in Buchanan Chapel.

Our annual candlelit New Year’s Eve Taizé service will also be held in Buchanan Chapel on Monday, December 31 at 7:30 p.m.

On Epiphany, Sunday, January 6, we will again worship at 8:00 a.m. (Communion), 9:30, and 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary and at 4:00 p.m. for Jazz at Four (Communion) in Buchanan Chapel.

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 of Confession is from *Book of Common Worship*. A Litany for Christmas Day is adapted by Shawn Fiedler from the Church of England (2018). 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 M. Fiedler Ministerial Associate for Worship

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.

THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO

Church office: 126 E. Chestnut Street, Chicago, IL 60611.2014

www.fourthchurch.org | www.facebook.com/fourthchurch

312.787.4570 | Voicemail 312.787.2729 | Fax: 312.787.4584