



First Sunday of Advent

We Approach God

Gathering Music

***Call to Worship**

When I scan other skies for signs of hope,
and when I walk other paths with a longing for home,

**God of exile,
lead me back through my own door.**

Tell me my forgotten stories,
feed me the words I have given away.

**Draw my gaze from the far horizon,
that I may see the lights in my own sky.**

* 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.

***Opening Song** “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

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

Litany of Confession

Holy God, as your people we seek to live lives worthy of our calling,
but we restlessly yearn for what cannot satisfy.

Why did you give us such tender skin and ask us to carry fire?

Gracious God, in our pride we call ourselves self-sufficient,
but forget how bound our destiny is with all peoples.

We are consumed by our own smoldering, hardly knowing the power we carry to scald.

Loving God, in our fear, we turn away from those who need help;
hurting others as well as ourselves.

Dress the wounds we have borne and given from our own burning.

Make us wise to the fire in our bones that it may be for warmth and light.

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.

Community Life

Prayer for Illumination

Canticle (*congregation sings the antiphon*) Isaiah 2:1–5; 12–18

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.
In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths."
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.
He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.
O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

ANTIPHON

For the Lord of hosts has a day against all that is proud and lofty,
against all that is lifted up and high; against all the cedars of Lebanon, lofty and lifted up;
and against all the oaks of Bashan; against all the high mountains,
and against all the lofty hills; against every high tower, and against every fortified wall;
against all the ships of Tarshish, and against all the beautiful craft.
The haughtiness of people shall be humbled, and the pride of everyone shall be brought low;
and the Lord alone will be exalted on that day.
The idols shall utterly pass away.

ANTIPHON

Scripture Matthew 24:36–44

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.
Thanks be to God.

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

... God of Hope,
renew our world.

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.

Communion Music

We Go Out with Gratitude

***Prayer of Thanksgiving** (*unison*)

God of new beginnings, through scripture and song, in simple bread and a common cup,
you have nourished our souls and renewed our strength. As we take our leave,
kindle in us the fire of your Spirit. Let all who encounter us feel the warmth of Christ.
In Jesus, our Emmanuel, we pray. Amen.

***Closing Song** "Canticle of the Turning"

*Benediction

Sending Music

Worship Leaders

Joseph L. Morrow Minister for Evangelism

Nanette Sawyer Associate Pastor

Clark Costen Lay Liturgist

Samme Orwig Lay Liturgist

Clyde Yancy Lay Liturgist

Robin Yancy Lay Liturgist

The Fourth Church Jazz Quartet

The “**Light Up a Life**” offering being received today 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 available from the greeters.

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 Call to Worship is adapted from “The Story Blanket” by Jan Richardson. The Litany of Confession is adapted from Jan Richardson’s *The Night I Landed* (janrichardson.com). All rights reserved.

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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

John Buchanan, Pastor Emeritus

News and Opportunities

We are glad to have you with us today and hope you will explore the many opportunities for learning, serving, and community building at Fourth Church! * **Inspired by the radical hospitality of Jesus Christ**, we welcome everyone, without exception, into the life of this congregation. * **We invite you to join us** at this intersection of faith and life as we share God's grace with one another and the world through worship and ministries of healing, reconciliation, and justice.



"Where do you see hope breaking out lately?" In this Advent season we invite you to stop by one of the tree-topped tables in the Narthex, Commons, or Allison Library. Write on a ribbon strip there where it is you see hope breaking out, and tie the strip to the tree. These ribbons will then be used to line the manger on Christmas Eve. * Are you ready for an **Advent Photo-a-Day Challenge**? Posted on www.fourthchurch.org/advent-photo is a word for each day of the season. (Today's continues our theme of #Hope.) We invite you to take a photo that captures what that word means to you this season and post it to Instagram, Facebook, or Twitter. Tag the photo @fourthchurch on Instagram and Facebook and @fourthchicago on Twitter. Then add the hashtags #adventfpc2019 and #[whatever the theme of the day is]. * **Daily Advent devotions** are available via email (sign up at www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions); at facebook.com/fourthchurch, Twitter (@FourthChicago), and www.fourthchurch.org as well as in the literature racks.



Contributions toward the **Christmas flowers and garlands** that decorate the Sanctuary honor the loved ones in whose names the gift is given. A list of those remembered will be printed in the Christmas bulletin. Contributions can be made online at www.bit.ly/FPCgifts or by using the forms in the literature racks. Contributions must be received by next Sunday, December 8 for names to appear in the bulletin. * We will gather for **four candlelight Christmas Eve services** on Tuesday, December 24: 4:00 p.m. Children's Pageant; 6:00 p.m. Family Service; 8:00 p.m. Lessons and Carols (which will be live streamed at www.bit.ly/FPCworship); and 10:00 p.m. Lessons and Carols. * On **Christmas Day** we will gather for worship at 11:00 a.m.



Next Sunday, December 8, we will gather in the Sanctuary at 6:30 p.m. for a favorite tradition of the season: the **Festival of Advent Lessons and Music**. A cookies-and-cocoa reception will follow. To help with the reception, contact Anne Ellis (312.573.3369; aellis@fourthchurch.org). * The **"Longest Night" service**, which will be held Tuesday, December 17 at 6:30 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel, recognizes the feelings of loneliness, grief, and alienation that are often present during the holiday season.



The **Cornerstones dinner and Christmas sing-along** for people fifty and over will be this Friday, December 6 at 6:00 p.m. in Room 4G. RSVP (see our online Sign-Up Page highlighted below) by this Tuesday, December 4. * **Books by Women** will meet on Tuesday, December 10 to discuss *The Chilbury Ladies Choir* by Jennifer Ryan.

Our **Christmas Wishes** project collects gifts for Chicago Lights Tutoring students. See the Sign-Up Page noted below for wish lists and sign-up sheets for helping with gift wrapping and inventory. * You are also invited to decorate and fill **holiday gift bags** for guests of our Sunday and Monday Night Suppers. Filled bags are due next Sunday, December 8. * Our annual **Fair Trade Gift Bazaar** on Saturday, December 7 (9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.) and Sunday, December 8 (9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.) is an occasion to shop for a difference, with purchases helping global artisans earn a living wage, enabling them to provide food, shelter, and education for their family.



A **congregational meeting** will take place on Sunday, December 15 in the Sanctuary following the 11:00 a.m. service. Session has called the meeting for the purpose of our acting to dissolve the pastoral relationship with Judy Watt, who is retiring on December 15. A reception for Judy will take place in Anderson Hall following the meeting.



Did you know that you can now **make gifts to Fourth Church using Venmo?**

Scan the QR code or open the Venmo app and, after tapping the Pay button, search for Fourth Church (@Fourth-Church). Enter a gift amount, write a quick note, and tap Pay! * We are counting on **gifts pledged for 2019** to be fully fulfilled by year end to ensure the budgets of Fourth Church and Chicago Lights can be met. If you anticipate being unable to fulfill your pledge, please let Andrea Miller know (amiller@fourthchurch.org) so we might plan accordingly. Thank you!



Our LGBTQIA Widening Our Welcome group invites you to join in celebrating the **diversity of our Fourth Church families!** You are invited to submit a favorite photo of your family along with a brief caption to be included in a video display during Coffee Hour in January. From the submissions, several images will be selected to be displayed in a Loggia Gallery exhibit from January 6 through February 26. Photos should be submitted by Sunday, December 15 at as high a resolution as possible. See www.fourthchurch.org/familyphotos for more details.



Ushers are needed to greet and welcome those attending the Christmas Eve services at 4:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m., 8:00 p.m., and 10:00 p.m. For details, please see the Sign-Up Page noted below, or email Robert Crouch (rcrouch@fourthchurch.org). * We are looking for runners to join the **Chicago Lights Marathon Team**. For details, also see the online Sign-Up Page.



A two-week class on “Jehovah’s Favorite Choir: **The Biblical Story in the Songs and Shows of the Grateful Dead,**” taught by Andy McGaan, begins next Sunday, December 8 at 9:30 a.m. * An Interfaith Coalition Against Racism forum on “**Criminal Justice Reform: Policing and Prosecution**” will take place in Buchanan Chapel on Thursday, December 5 at 6:30 p.m. Panelists will include Toni Preckwinkle, Kim Foxx, Paula Wolff, and Michelle Day. * Applications for mission trips to **Guatemala** (July 5–12) and **Colombia** (August 1–8) are due January 15 and May 1 respectively.

Calendar for December 1–8, 2019

Sunday, December 1	4:00 p.m.	Jazz at Four • Joseph L. Morrow preaching	Buchanan Chapel
<i>First Sunday of Advent</i>	5:00 p.m.	Meals Ministry Sunday Night Supper	Anderson Hall
Monday, December 2	9:00 a.m.	Day School (<i>also Tues.–Fri.</i>)	Day School Classrooms
	4:00 p.m.	Meals Ministry Monday Night Supper	Catholic Charities
	5:00 p.m.	Chicago Lights Tutoring (<i>also Tues.–Thurs.</i>)	Gratz Fifth Floor
	6:00 p.m.	New Tutor Orientation	Borwell Dining Room
Tuesday, December 3	7:45 a.m.	Sacred Pause Meditation	Stone Chapel
	12:00 to 1:00 p.m.	Meals Ministry Bag Lunches (<i>also Wed.–Thurs.</i>)	Anderson Hall
	7:30 p.m.	Christmas with Chanticleer (<i>also Wed.</i>)	Sanctuary
Wednesday, December 4	9:00 a.m.	Day School Storytime	Room 4A
	9:30 a.m.	Morning Prayer	Buchanan Chapel
	9:30 a.m.	Benevolent Guild	Room 5B
Thursday, December 5	6:30 p.m.	“Criminal Justice Reform” Forum.	Buchanan Chapel
Friday, December 6	12:10 p.m.	Noonday Concert: Natasha Stojanovska, piano	Sanctuary
	6:00 p.m.	Cornerstones.	Room 4G
Saturday, December 7	9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.	Fair Trade Bazaar	Anderson Hall
	10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.	Discover Fourth Open House	Sanctuary
	7:30 p.m.	“Candelight Carols” by St. Charles Singers.	Sanctuary
Sunday, December 8	8:00 a.m.	Worship • Matt Helms preaching.	Sanctuary
<i>Second Sunday of Advent</i>	8:00 a.m.	Handbell Choir Rehearsal	Buchanan Chapel Choir Loft
	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.	Anderson Hall / Commons
	9:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.	Nursery.	Nursery / Day School
	9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.	Fair Trade Bazaar	Anderson Hall
	9:30 a.m.	“A Year with the Bible”	Room 5E
	9:30 a.m.	Junior High Fellowship	Bumpus Room
	9:30 a.m.	“Biblical Stories and the Grateful Dead”.	Room 5G
	9:30 and 11:00 a.m.	Sunday School	Gratz Fourth Floor
	9:30 and 11:00 a.m.	Worship • Shannon J. Kershner preaching.	Sanctuary
	10:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.	Time of Prayer with Deacons	Stone Chapel
	10:30 a.m.	All-Youth Fellowship	Allison Library
	11:00 a.m.	Confirmation	Room 4G
	11:00 a.m.	“Spiritual Discernment”.	Room 5E
	12:00 p.m.	Sanctuary Tour	Sanctuary
	12:15 p.m.	Organ Tour	Sanctuary
	4:00 p.m.	Jazz at Four • Lucy Forster-Smith preaching . . .	Buchanan Chapel
	5:00 p.m.	Meals Ministry Sunday Night Supper	Anderson Hall
	6:30 p.m.	Festival of Advent Lessons and Music	Sanctuary

To sign up for opportunities described on these pages,
please see the Sign-Up Page: www.fourthchurch.org/sign-up

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 and is also a prerequisite for membership. Attend Sunday, January 12 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 January 26.

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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