

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

Gathering around the Word

Prelude :: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel Stuart Forster

Introit :: “Sanna, Sannanina” South African tune; arr. Greg Scheer
Hosanna!

*Doxology (*sung*). The Hymnal, 606
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Call to Worship

Leader: *In the days to come, the mountain of God’s house shall be the highest mountain.*

People: O come, O come, Emmanuel!

Leader: *Nations will stream to it and people will say,
“Let us go up to the mountain of the Lord.”*

People: O come, O come, Emmanuel!

Leader: *For in that day God will judge between nations
and they shall beat their swords into plowshares.*

People: O come, O come, Emmanuel! Come and dwell among us!

*Hymn 347 “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

O God, we live as if the light had never defeated the night in the world or in us.

We confess that we ignore the Christ you sent to be among us, to be in us.

We’ve kept the birth of your Son confined to the Christmas season and do not yearn for his birth each moment in our waiting hearts. Lord, you came to us in the fullness of time. Forgive us for not opening our eyes to your coming. It’s time that we prepare for your coming. It’s time that we prepare for your unending reign on earth. Hear us, O God, as we come before you in silence, confessing those sins we do not speak aloud, but hold in our hearts . . . (*Please hold silence.*)

*Stand as you are able.

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

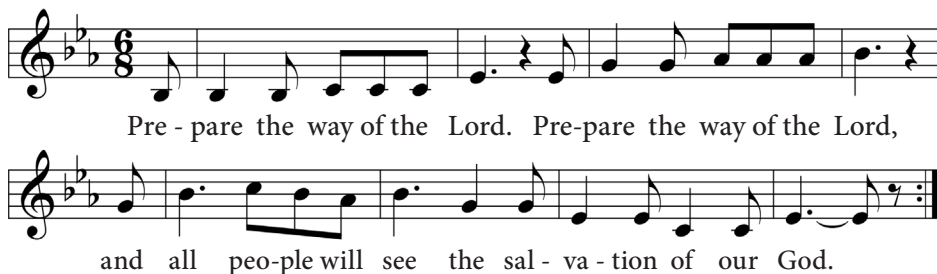
Anthem :: “Never Weather-Beaten Sail” Charles Wood

Never weather-beaten sail more willing bent to shore, never tired pilgrim limbs affected slumber more, than my weary spirit now longs to fly out of my troubled breast; O come quickly, sweetest Lord, and take my soul to rest! Ever-blooming are the joys of heaven’s paradise; old age deafe not there our ears nor vapor dims our eyes; glory there the sun outshines, whose beams the blessed only see; O come quickly, glorious Lord, and raise my soul to thee!

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter Psalm 122



Pre - pare the way of the Lord. Pre-prepare the way of the Lord,
and all peo-ple will see the sal - va - tion of our God.

*Acclamation (*sung*). The Hymnal, 583



Scripture Lesson :: Matthew 24:36–44. New Testament, page 26

Sermon :: “Watch!” Lucy Forster-Smith

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 384 “Soon and Very Soon”

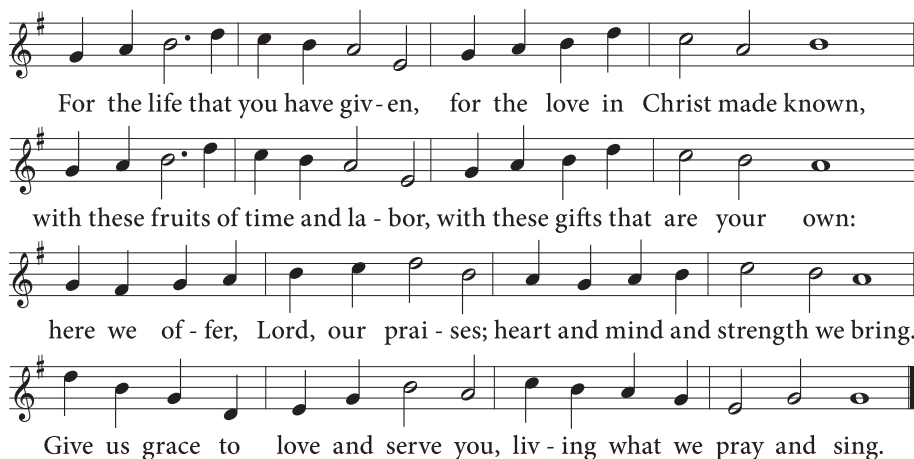
*Affirmation of Faith (*unison*) Apostles’ Creed

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; 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 :: Mein freund ist mein from *Cantata No. 140* Johann Sebastian Bach

*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, 572

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.

Leader: . . . *Great is the mystery of faith:*

Memorial Acclamation (*sung*) The Hymnal, 573

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

The Lord's Prayer (*unison*) The Hymnal, page 35

The Communion

Communion Anthem :: "In the Stillness" Arlen Clarke

*In the stillness of our darkness, in the shadows of the night,
earth is waiting for the promise, longing for the coming light.
Once before he came in blessing; still he comes, our hearts to win;
come, Lord Jesus, come in glory, let your heaven on earth begin.
Come, almighty to deliver, let us all thy grace receive;
suddenly return and never, nevermore our presence leave.
Light of light, shine through our darkness, turn our night to radiant day;
come, Lord Jesus, come in glory, open all our hearts to praise. Amen.*

Prayer after Communion (*unison*)

**Holy and loving God, we give thanks for your abundant gifts.
We are so blessed by your bounty, O God: for bread broken, cup shared;
for quenched thirst and hunger satisfied; for hearts brimming and hands to serve.
On this day and every day may we hold the way open for your love to wash over us
so we may love this world with abandon; through Christ. Amen.**

Bearing the Word into the World

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

*Benediction and Response

Postlude :: Savior of the Nations, Come Paul Manz

Worship Leaders

Rocky Supinger, Lucy Forster-Smith

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Ashley and Tom Swidnicki

The Music Today

Chancel Choir; Sarah van der Ploeg and Sean Stanton, soloists

John W. W. Sherer, Organist and Director of Music

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

Laura Bottei, 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. “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.

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.” 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.

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

John Buchanan Pastor Emeritus

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 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.

This worship bulletin is printed on acid-free paper. All bulletins and inserts left in the baskets by the doors are recycled.

The Fourth Church logo (*front cover*) is based on the Great East Window in the Sanctuary.

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