



Second Sunday of Advent

We Approach God

Gathering Music

***Call to Worship**

Awake! Rejoice! Prepare to meet your God!

Christ is coming. Open the door. Sweep the path. Prepare the way!

Christ came at Christmas to live as one of us.

Christ comes today to love us and to lead us.

Christ will come tomorrow, wherever we may be.

Come quickly, Lord Jesus!

* 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** “Prepare the Way, O Zion”

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.

For details on the licenses, permission to reprint, and copyright information for the musical pieces not included here, please see the “Acknowledgments” page later in this bulletin.

We Tell the Truth about Ourselves

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

**When our spirits despair and we deny our blessedness—
forgive us, O God.**

**When we ignore the mighty things you have done;
when we doubt your mercy—
forgive us, O God.**

**When we are proud in the thoughts of our hearts;
when our power rests on the oppression of others;
when our wealth causes others to go hungry—
forgive us, O God.**

(Please hold silence.)

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 Isaiah 11:1–10 (*the congregation sings the antiphon*)

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a branch will bear fruit.
 The Spirit of God will rest on them—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
 the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of God—
 and they will delight in the fear of God.

They will not judge by what they see with their eyes,
 or decide by what they hear with their ears;
 but with righteousness they will judge the needy,
 with justice they will give decisions for the poor of the earth.

They will strike the earth with the rod of their mouth;
 with the breath of their lips they will slay the wicked.

Righteousness will be their belt and faithfulness the sash around their waist.

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The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat,
 the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them.

The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together,
 and the lion will eat straw like the ox.

The infant will play near the cobra’s den,
 and the young child will put its hand into the viper’s nest.

They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain,
 for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of God as the waters cover the sea.

In that day the root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples;
 the nations will rally to them, and their resting place will be glorious.

ANTIPHON

Scripture Matthew 3:1–12

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

Thanks be to God.

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 Wisdom,
grant us peace.

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 after Communion** (*unison*)

Gracious God, you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth.
As we go from this place out into your world, we pray for all those whom we will encounter.
May we live as messengers of your grace and proclaimers of your goodness.
May all of our love be your love reaching out into the life of the world;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***Closing Song** "Freedom Is Coming"

*Benediction

Sending Music

Worship Leaders

Shannon J. Kershner Pastor

Joseph L. Morrow Minister for Evangelism

Yolanda Ayubi Lay Liturgist

The Fourth Church Jazz Quartet

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 available from the greeters or by writing “Light Up a Life” on the memo line of a check made payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church. You can also make your gift using Venmo or online (at www.fourthchurch.org/give-online).

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

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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

Maggie Shreve, Parish Associate for Jail Ministry

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.



Today is the last day to make **contributions toward the Christmas flowers and garlands** that decorate the church in honor of 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 today for names to appear in the bulletin. * Our **Christmas Wishes project**, which collects gifts for Chicago Lights Tutoring students, concludes this week. See the Sign-Up Page for more information (noted below). * 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. * The Christmas Day service will be followed by a **traditional Christmas dinner** at 12:15 p.m. in Anderson Hall as a time to share Christmas with friends new and old. Reservations (*required*) can be made online: www.bit.ly/cdin2019



This evening 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. * 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 popular **Christmas with Tower Brass** concert will take place on Saturday, December 21 at 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. * This year's **Christmas Cantata** will be *A Winter's Night* by Cecilia McDowall, sung by the Morning Choir during 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. worship on Sunday, December 22.



"What prayers are you planting to take root in the world?" In this Advent season we invite you to stop by one of the tree-topped tables in Allison Library, the Narthex, or the Commons. Write on a ribbon strip what prayers you are planting, and tie the strip to the tree. These ribbons will then be used to line the manger on Christmas Eve. * Join the **Advent Photo-a-Day Challenge**. Details are posted at www.fourthchurch.org/advent-photo. Search Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter for #adventfpc2019 to see what others have posted! * **Daily Advent devotions** are available via Twitter (@FourthChicago), email (sign up at www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions); at facebook.com/fourthchurch, and www.fourthchurch.org as well as in the literature racks.



A **congregational meeting** will take place next 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.



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 next 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. * Volunteers are needed to help with the **Book Nook** during Coffee Hour following the 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. services. * A volunteer is needed to provide assistance to a church program by **creating and managing spreadsheets** one day a week (flexible schedule). * For details, please see the Sign-Up Page noted below, or email Robert Crouch (rcrouch@fourthchurch.org).



Books by Women will meet on Tuesday, December 10 to discuss *The Chilbury Ladies Choir* by Jennifer Ryan. * Applications for mission trips to **Guatemala** (July 5–12) and **Colombia** (August 1–8) are due January 15 and May 1 respectively. * The weekly **“Foundations of Faith” Bible study** led by pastoral staff continues to meet on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. If you would like to view past sessions of the study, you can do so at www.bit.ly/fpcbiblefoundations



Expectations for the holidays can be different from the realities. Feelings of grief over losses can be heightened. Such experiences need not be dealt with alone. Fourth Church's Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being offers various resources and a supportive environment for reflecting on, exploring, and coping with such experiences. To learn how the Counseling Center can help, call the Center at 312.787.8425.



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!



Calendar for December 8–15, 2019

Sunday, December 8	4:00 p.m.	Jazz at Four • Shannon J. Kershner preaching.	Buchanan Chapel
<i>Second Sunday of Advent</i>	5:00 p.m.	Meals Ministry Sunday Night Supper	Anderson Hall
	6:30 p.m.	Festival of Advent Lessons and Music	Sanctuary
Monday, December 9	9:00 a.m.	Day School (<i>also Tues.–Fri.</i>)	Day School Classrooms
	4:00 p.m.	Meals Ministry Monday Night Supper	<i>Catholic Charities</i>
	5:00 p.m.	Chicago Lights Tutoring (<i>also Tues.–Thurs.</i>)	Gratz Fifth Floor
Tuesday, December 10	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
	6:00 p.m.	Books by Women	Bumpus Room
Wednesday, December 11	9:00 a.m.	Day School Storytime	Room 4A
	9:30 a.m.	Morning Prayer	Stone Chapel
	9:30 a.m.	Benevolent Guild	Room 5B
	12:00 p.m.	<i>Horizons</i> Bible Study	Room 5H
Thursday, December 12	7:00 a.m.	Men’s Faith Discussion Group	Randolph Room
Friday, December 13	12:10 p.m.	Noonday Concert: David Baer, piano	Buchanan Chapel
	8:00 p.m.	<i>Holidays a cappella</i>	Buchanan Chapel
Sunday, December 15	8:00 a.m.	Worship • Judith L. Watt preaching.	Sanctuary
<i>Third 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
	9:30 a.m.	“A Year with the Bible”	Room 5E
	9:30 a.m.	“Jehovah’s Favorite Choir”	Room 5G
	9:30 a.m.	Junior High Youth Group.	Bumpus Room
	9:30 and 11:00 a.m.	Sunday School	Gratz Fourth Floor
	9:30 and 11:00 a.m.	Worship • Judith L. Watt 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 Hall and Library
	11:00 a.m.	Confirmation.	Room 4G
	11:00 a.m.	Senior High Youth Group.	Bumpus Room
	11:00 a.m.	“Spiritual Discernment”.	Room 5E
	12:00 p.m.	Sanctuary Tour	Sanctuary
	12:15 p.m.	Organ Tour	Sanctuary
	12:15 p.m.	Congregational Meeting	Sanctuary
	4:00 p.m.	Jazz at Four • Nanette Sawyer preaching	Buchanan Chapel
	5:00 p.m.	Meals Ministry Sunday Night Supper	Anderson Hall

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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