



**Third Sunday of Advent**

**We Approach God**

**Gathering Music**

**\*Call to Worship**

For all the generations that have prepared the way;  
**for all the unseen hands that have made ready every space;**  
for those who light the fires of welcome;  
**for those who tend to every resting place,**  
O God of every pilgrim, we bless you with our thanks.  
**O God of every way-maker, we gather to worship you.**

\* 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** . . . . . "My Soul Gives Glory to My God"

**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*)

**Our bodies carry scars not visible to the naked eye,  
but they are there, telling the stories our lips hesitate to utter,  
of how we settled for less than you longed for us to know.  
Gracious God, we hunger for the touch that reminds us  
we are in your image, and we ache for the tender knowing  
that hallows flesh and soul, that honors sacredness of skin  
and reminds us we are whole.**

## **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 35:1–10 (*the congregation sings the antiphon*)

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.  
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.  
They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.  
Say to those who are of a fearful heart, “Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God.  
God will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. God will come and save you.”  
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

**ANTIPHON**

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;  
the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way;  
the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God’s people;  
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.

And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

**ANTIPHON**

**Scripture** . . . . . Matthew 11:2–11

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon** . . . . . *Nanette Sawyer*

## **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 compassion,  
**heals us and bring us joy.**

### **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*)

**God of making and unmaking, of tearing down and re-creating,  
you are our home and habitation, our refuge and place of dwelling.  
In your hollows we are re-formed, given welcome and benediction,  
and made ready and sent forth.  
Go with us into the world, that we may be carriers of your grace. Amen.**

**\*Closing Song** ..... "Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning"

## \*Benediction

### Sending Music

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## Worship Leaders

**Nanette Sawyer** Associate Pastor  
**Joseph L. Morrow** Minister for Evangelism  
**Lois Snavelly** Liturgical Dancer, Seminary Intern  
**Sam and Terry Evans** Lay Liturgists

### 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](http://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

*Words*—The Call to Worship is adapted from “In the Mary, Mother of God Chapel” by Jan Richardson ([janrichardson.com](http://janrichardson.com)). All rights reserved. The Prayer of Confession is adapted from “Kneading Hope” by Jan Richardson ([janrichardson.com](http://janrichardson.com)). All rights reserved. The Prayer of Thanksgiving is adapted from “Stripping” by Jan Richardson ([janrichardson.com](http://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  
**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.



**The "Longest Night" service**, which will be held this Tuesday, December 17 at 6:30 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel, recognizes the feelings of loneliness and grief that are often present during the holiday season. \* **Expectations for the holidays** can be different from the realities. 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. Call the Center at 312.787.8425 for details.



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; and 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**; those worshipers arriving before the Sanctuary has been emptied after the previous service will be invited to join the queue that will start at the glass Loggia doors (accessible via Michigan Avenue). Once those lines have dissipated, access will be allowed via the Sanctuary entrance on Michigan Avenue. \* 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 will be available at [www.bit.ly/FPCworship](http://www.bit.ly/FPCworship) (and on the Fourth Church website), where it will also be available after Christmas Eve.



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. Dinner reservations (*required*) can be made online [www.bit.ly/cdin2019](http://www.bit.ly/cdin2019) \* A **candlelit New Year's Eve Taizé service** will be held at 7:30 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel on Tuesday, December 31.



This weekend we have three musical treats for you: our organist John Sherer will present the free **Friday Noonday Concert** this week. \* The popular **Christmas with Tower Brass** concert will take place this Saturday at 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. \* On Sunday, December 22, the 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. worship services will include this year's **Christmas Cantata: A Winter's Night** by Cecilia McDowall.



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

**“What prayers are you planting to take root in the world?”** Stop by one of the tree-topped tables in the Narthex, Commons, or Allison Library and write on a ribbon strip what prayers you are planting. These ribbons will then line the manger on Christmas Eve. \* There are two weeks left in the **Advent Photo-a-Day Challenge**. Details are posted at [www.fourthchurch.org/advent-photo](http://www.fourthchurch.org/advent-photo). Search Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter for #adventfpc2019 to see what others have posted!



**“Cookies, Cocoa, and Caroling” Family Night** will be Friday evening, December 20 at 5:30 p.m. in Borwell Dining Room. \* Next Sunday, December 22 is the last day to sign up for the **youth ski trip** to Cascade Mountain, Wisconsin, January 17–19. Details are on the online Sign-Up Page noted below. \* There will be **no Sunday School** on December 29 and January 5; parents are encouraged to have their children worship with them those Sundays. Nursery care will be available during the 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. services for those three and younger.



Gifts to our **“Light Up a Life”** offering make it possible for Fourth Church to be a welcoming, serving presence for our neighbors, providing a shower and clean clothing for those living on the street, meals for those who are hungry, a warm place to escape the winter cold, a listening ear for those searching for a supportive community, and so much more. Please consider making a “Light Up a Life” gift today, whether by using the special envelopes available from the greeters, through Venmo (@Fourth-Church), or online at [www.fourthchurch.org/give-online](http://www.fourthchurch.org/give-online) \* 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](mailto:amiller@fourthchurch.org)) so we might plan accordingly. Thank you! \* **For information about making gifts** through stock transfers or required distributions from one’s IRA or prepaying one’s 2020 pledge, please contact Katy Frey Bever ([kbever@fourthchurch.org](mailto:kbever@fourthchurch.org)).



**Today is the last day to submit a favorite photo of your family** along with a brief caption for the LGBTQIA Widening Our Welcome group’s celebration of the diversity of our Fourth Church families! From the submissions, several images will be selected to be displayed in a Loggia Gallery exhibit from January 6 through February 26. See [www.fourthchurch.org/familyphotos](http://www.fourthchurch.org/familyphotos) for more details on how to submit a photo at as high a resolution as possible. \* The monthly **LGBTQIA brunch** will be next Sunday, December 22 at 12:15 p.m. at a nearby restaurant. \* Applications for mission trips to **Guatemala** (July 5–12) and **Colombia** (August 1–8) are due January 15 and May 1 respectively.



We are in need of volunteers 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.; \* help with the **Book Nook** during Coffee Hours following the 9:30 and 11:00 services; \* **create and manage spreadsheets** one day a week for a church program. \* For details, please see the Sign-Up Page noted below, or email Robert Crouch ([rcrouch@fourthchurch.org](mailto:rcrouch@fourthchurch.org)). \* If you have volunteered with Fourth Church previously, you will have received **an email invitation to register with our new volunteer management software, VOMO**, to make it possible for you to easily sign up for and manage your volunteer opportunities. If you have not done so already, we encourage you to register soon.

**To sign up for opportunities described on these pages, please see the Sign-Up Page: [www.fourthchurch.org/sign-up](http://www.fourthchurch.org/sign-up)**

## Calendar for December 15–22, 2019

<b>Sunday, December 15</b> . . . . . 4:00 p.m.	<b>Jazz at Four • Nanette Sawyer preaching</b> . . . . . Buchanan Chapel
<i>Third Sunday of Advent</i> . . . . . 5:00 p.m.	Meals Ministry Sunday Night Supper . . . . . Anderson Hall
<b>Monday, December 16</b> . . . . . 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
<b>Tuesday, December 17</b> . . . . . 7:30 a.m.	Men’s Bible Study . . . . . Offsite
. . . . . 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
. . . . . <b>6:30 p.m.</b>	<b>The Longest Night Service</b> . . . . . Buchanan Chapel
<b>Wednesday, December 18</b> . . . . . 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
<b>Thursday, December 19</b> . . . . . 7:00 a.m.	Men’s Faith Discussion Group . . . . . Randolph Room
<b>Friday, December 20</b> . . . . . 12:10 p.m.	Noonday Concert: John W. W. Sherer, organ . . . . . Sanctuary
. . . . . 5:30 p.m.	“Cookies, Cocoa, and Caroling” Family Night . . . . . Borwell Dining Room
<b>Saturday, December 21</b> . . . . . 5:00 p.m.	A Tower Brass Christmas . . . . . Sanctuary
<b>Sunday, December 22</b> . . . . . <b>8:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Worship • Rocky Supinger preaching</b> . . . . . Sanctuary
<i>Fourth 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.	Junior High Youth Group . . . . . Bumpus Room
. . . . . 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.	Sunday School . . . . . Gratz Fourth Floor
. . . . . <b>9:30 and 11:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Worship • Shannon J. Kershner preaching</b> . . . . . 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.	Senior High Youth Group . . . . . Bumpus Room
. . . . . 12:00 p.m.	Sanctuary Tour . . . . . Sanctuary
. . . . . 12:15 p.m.	Organ Tour . . . . . Sanctuary
. . . . . 12:15 p.m.	LGBTQIA Brunch . . . . . Coffee Hour
. . . . . <b>4:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Jazz at Four • Joseph L. Morrow preaching</b> . . . . . 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](http://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](http://www.fourthchurch.org/sermons) and by email: subscribe at [www.bit.ly/fpcsermons](http://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](http://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](mailto:member@fourthchurch.org); 312.981.3399) or go to [www.bit.ly/fpcinquirers](http://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](http://www.fourthchurch.org)), our page on Facebook ([facebook.com/fourthchurch](https://facebook.com/fourthchurch)), and in our weekly email newsletter (subscribe online at [www.bit.ly/newsfromfpc](http://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](mailto: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 Carol Allerton at 312.640.5448 ([callerton@fourthchurch.org](mailto:callerton@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](http://www.fourthchurch.org)  
312.787.4570; Fax: 312.787.4584; [www.facebook.com/fourthchurch](https://www.facebook.com/fourthchurch)