



Fourth Sunday of Advent

We Approach God

Gathering Music

*Call to Worship

Jesus, God sent you in mercy to be Emmanuel, God-with-us.

Let us welcome you with everlasting hope.

Jesus, your life took on flesh in the boldness of Mary.

Let us welcome you with her courage.

Jesus, your heritage was secured in the compassion of Joseph's welcome.

Let us welcome you with his tenderness.

Jesus, your way of justice was rooted in a family who struggled to find shelter in Bethlehem.

Let us welcome you with love.

* 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.

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*)

God of wonders, so often we trust only what we can easily see and touch,
yet you come to us through unexpected voices.
You seek us out in those mystifying moments when our world is turned upside down.
Confident in our narrow perspectives, leaning on our prejudices,
we fail to see your grace before us.
As you call us to greater faithfulness, we resist,
fearing the uncertainty it will bring.
Forgive our lack of faith.
Restore in us humility, and awaken us anew to your presence and promises.

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.

Prayer for Illumination

Canticle. Isaiah 7:10–17; 21–25 (*the congregation sings the antiphon*)

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted. The Lord will bring on you and on your people and on your ancestral house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria.”

ANTIPHON

On that day one will keep alive a young cow and two sheep, and will eat curds because of the abundance of milk that they give; for everyone that is left in the land shall eat curds and honey. On that day every place where there used to be a thousand vines, worth a thousand shekels of silver, will become briars and thorns. With bow and arrows one will go there, for all the land will be briars and thorns; and as for all the hills that used to be hoed with a hoe, you will not go there for fear of briars and thorns; but they will become a place where cattle are let loose and where sheep tread.

ANTIPHON

Scripture. Matthew 1:18–25

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 Love,
revive our hearts.

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*)

**Holy God, as the birth of Christ approaches, we feel a new day breaking.
Fed at the table of your love, we have glimpsed a coming time where all are reconciled.
But as we wait for its fulfillment, inspire us with visions of your new creation.
Lead us from this place full of hope, peace, joy, and love,
so that we might live in this time between times as people of daring and faith. Amen.**

***Closing Song** “Joy to the World”

***Benediction**

Sending Music

Worship Leaders

Joseph L. Morrow Minister for Evangelism

Nanette Sawyer Associate Pastor

Connie Chang Lay Liturgist

Jessica Wang 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

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.



We will gather for **four candlelight Christmas Eve services**: 4:00 p.m. Children's Pageant; 6:00 p.m. Family Service; 8:00 p.m. 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. * **Discounted parking** on Christmas Eve is available only at the 900 N. Michigan garage and only for those entering the garage after 3:00 p.m. Those who enter the garage after 3:00 p.m. will be able to park for \$6 with a validation ticket that can be picked up for free that day at the church. * 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 (and on the Fourth Church website), where it will also be available after Christmas Eve. * Beginning Sunday, December 29 we will also be **live streaming** weekly the Sunday morning 11:00 a.m. service at www.bit.ly/FPCworship and the Fourth Church website: www.fourthchurch.org * **Nursery care** on Christmas Eve will be available from 3:00 to 7:15 p.m. It will *not* be available during the last two services of the evening or on Christmas Day.



On **Christmas Day** we 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 at the church reception desk. * **Discounted parking** on Christmas Day is available only at the 900 N. Michigan garage and will be \$8 with a validation ticket that can be picked up for free that day at the church. * A **candlelit New Year's Eve Taizé service** will be held at 7:30 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel on Tuesday, December 31. This service offers space for prayer as well as meditative pause for reflecting on the year past and looking ahead to the year to come. * Beforehand a **New Year's Eve labyrinth walk** will be held between 6:00 and 7:30 p.m. in Anderson Hall.



"Where is Christ for you?" 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 is one week left in 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!

Today 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 at the bottom of this page. * On that Sign-Up Page you will also find details for registering for the **summer 2020 youth trips** to Ferncliff, Arkansas; Detroit; and Montreat, North Carolina; registrations for those trips are due in January. * 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 five and younger.



The **“Foundations of Faith” Bible study** led by pastoral staff resumes its Sunday schedule on January 12. You can view past sessions of the study at www.bit.ly/fpcbiblefoundations * Also on January 12, at 11:00 a.m., Dr. Barbara Wilson will begin a three-week course on **“Beloved Community: Shaping Our Lives Together,”** exploring biblical and theological foundations for working toward racial healing, reconciliation, and justice. * **Books by Women** will discuss *The Care and Feeding of Ravenously Hungry Girls* by Anissa Gray on January 14 at 6:00 p.m. * **Summer 2020 mission trips** offer opportunity to travel to Guatemala (July 5–12) and Colombia (August 1–8); applications are due January 15 and May 1 respectively.



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. * Our Replogle Center will also be offering several new groups and workshops in the new year, including a **Chronic Illness Support Group, Grief Groups**, a monthly **Men’s Group**, and a **“Strengthening Communication through the Enneagram”** workshop. For details see www.fourthchurch.org/rc/events.html or call the Center at 312.787.8425.



We are in need of volunteers to help with the **Book Nook** during Coffee Hours following the 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. services and **to 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).



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 * 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! * **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).

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

Calendar for December 22–29, 2019

Sunday, December 22	4:00 p.m.	Jazz at Four • Joseph L. Morrow preaching	Buchanan Chapel
Fourth Sunday of Advent	5:00 p.m.	Meals Ministry Sunday Night Supper	Anderson Hall
Monday, December 23	9:00 a.m.	Men's Book Club.	Room 4K
	4:00 p.m.	Meals Ministry Monday Night Supper	Catholic Charities
Tuesday, December 24	7:45 a.m.	Sacred Pause Meditation	Stone Chapel
Christmas Eve	12:00 to 1:00 p.m.	Meals Ministry Bag Lunches.	Anderson Hall
	3:00 p.m.	Children/Youth Choir Rehearsal	Bumpus Room
	4:00 p.m.	Children's Christmas Pageant	Sanctuary
	6:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Family Service	Sanctuary
	8:00 and 10:00 p.m.	Service of Lessons and Carols	Sanctuary
Wednesday, December 25. . .	11:00 a.m.	Christmas Day Worship.	Sanctuary
Christmas Day	12:15 p.m.	Christmas Dinner	Anderson Hall
Thursday, December 26.		<i>Church Office Closed</i>	
Friday, December 27.	12:10 p.m.	Noonday Concert: The Second Fire, vocal quartet	Sanctuary
Saturday, December 28.		<i>Church Office Closed</i>	
Sunday, December 29	8:00 a.m.	Worship • Joseph L. Morrow preaching	Sanctuary
Christmastide	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 and 11:00 a.m.	Worship • Christmas Lessons and Carols	Sanctuary
	10:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.	Time of Prayer with Deacons	Stone Chapel
	12:00 p.m.	Sanctuary Tour	Sanctuary
	12:15 p.m.	Organ Tour	Sanctuary
	4:00 p.m.	Jazz at Four • Joseph L. Morrow preaching	Buchanan Chapel
	5:00 p.m.	Meals Ministry Sunday Night Supper	Anderson Hall

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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 Carol Allerton at 312.640.5448 (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
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