

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

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## Gathering around the Word

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### Prelude

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright . . . . . Johann Pachelbel  
Star of Hope . . . . . Richard Keys Biggs

Introit :: “What Child Is This” . . . . . English Ballad

*What child is this, who laid to rest, on Mary’s lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste, to bring him laud, the babe, the Son of Mary!*

\*Doxology (*sung*) . . . . . The Hymnal, 606

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise God, all creatures here below;  
praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.† Amen.

### \*Call to Worship

Leader: *The dawn of a new day has arisen.*

People: **O come, let us worship. What wondrous things God has done!**

Leader: *The magi studied the heavens and followed the radiance of your guiding star.*

People: **O come, let us worship. What wondrous things God has done!**

Leader: *A people who lived in shadows beheld your glory in a child.*

People: **O come, let us worship. What wondrous things God has done!**

Leader: *In the coming of Christ,*

*you unveiled the hidden promise of your hope for the world.*

People: **O come, let us worship. What wondrous things God has done!**

### \*Prayer of Praise

\*Hymn 150 . . . . . “As with Gladness Men of Old”

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\*Stand as you are able. †Or “Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.”

## Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

God of grace and truth, too often we diligently seek you but chase the wrong guiding stars. We spot ambition rising from the horizon and hitch our lives to its restless instruction. We glimpse wealth and hope its light will brighten the gloomy corners of our lives. We chase after affection, giving our treasure to those who care little for it. So much that dazzles cannot satisfy the deep need within us. Forgive us lost pilgrims. Draw us toward the star of your way that forever provides warmth and illumines the path to peace.

## Concerns of the Church

Anthem :: “O Nata Lux” . . . . . Thomas Tallis

*O born of light, you are light indeed, Jesus, our Savior in need. Abide with us and be near, hear our praise and prayer. In human flesh you came and paid with your life for all sinners. Grant that we may reach our goal, to be made one with you in heart and soul.*

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## Listening for the Word

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## Prayer for Illumination

Psalter . . . . . Psalm 72:1–7, 10-14

Leader: *Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king’s son;*

People: **that he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice;**

Leader: *that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,  
and the hills, in righteousness.*

People: **Let him defend the needy among the people,  
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**

Leader: *May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,  
from one generation to another.*

People: **Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,  
like showers that water the earth.**

Leader: *In his time may the righteous flourish;  
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.*

People: **May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles pay tribute,  
and the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.**

Leader: *May all kings bow down before him, and all the nations do him service.*

People: **For the king delivers the poor who cry out in distress,  
the oppressed, and those who have no helper.**

Leader: *He has compassion on the lowly and poor and preserves the lives of the needy.*

People: **From oppression and violence he redeems their lives,  
and precious is their blood in his sight.**

\*Gloria Patri (*sung*) . . . . . The Hymnal, 581

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:†  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen. Amen.

Scripture Lesson :: Matthew 2:1-12 . . . . . New Testament, page 1

Sermon . . . . . Joseph L. Morrow

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## Responding to the Word

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\*Hymn 152 . . . . . “What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright”

\*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.

Prayers of the People

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†Or “to the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Ghost.”

## 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.

Prayer Response :: "Amen" ..... Max Bruch

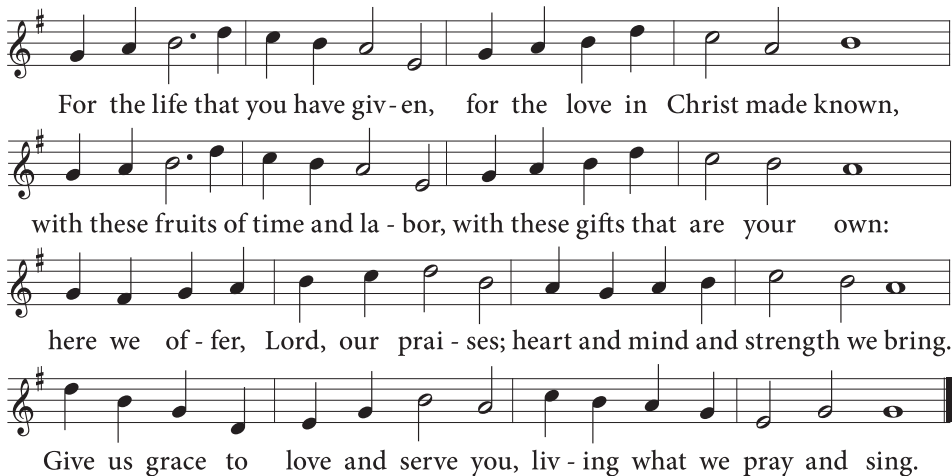
## Minute for Mission

### Offering

Offertory Anthem :: "Dies Sanctificatus" ..... Giovanni Croce

*Day of sanctification, illuminate us; day of consecration, illuminate us.  
Come all ye nations and let us worship the Lord our God;  
for upon this day descended a great light on the earth,  
and this day, the Lord of hosts has made. Let us all be joyful and rejoice in it.*

### \*Presentation of the Offering and 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.

\*Prayer of Dedication (*unison*)

God of every good gift,  
no treasure can surpass the abundance you offer us and all creation,  
and yet we give from the depths of our hearts in response to the work of your Spirit.  
We ask your blessings on these, the fruits of our labors,  
so that your loving care reaches into us and out to all the world. Amen.

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Bearing the Word into the World

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\*Hymn 151 ..... “We Three Kings of Orient Are”

\*Benediction and Response

Postlude :: What Star Is This, with Beams so Bright ..... Aaron David Miller

## Worship Leaders

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Jeff Doane, Annette Bacon (9:30), Kat Evans (11:00), Lucy Forster-Smith, Joseph L. Morrow

## The Music Today

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Morning Choir; John W. W. Sherer, Organist and Director of Music

## Worship Notes

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TODAY WE CELEBRATE THE EPIPHANY OF CHRIST. *Epiphany* is a Greek word meaning “appearance,” “manifestation,” or “coming to light.” On this day we remember the magi following the light of the star to worship Jesus as king of all people.

TODAY’S MINUTE FOR MISSION is presented by Mairlyn Ezri on behalf of the Employment Network, a partnership between Fourth Church and the St. Sabina Employment Resource Center.

THE “LIGHT UP A LIFE” OFFERING is received throughout the Christmas season. “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. You can also make your gift using Venmo (@Fourth-Church) or online (at [www.fourthchurch.org/give-online](http://www.fourthchurch.org/give-online)).

If you give electronically or make your contributions on a monthly or annual basis, we encourage you to take part in today’s offering by placing in the offering plate an “I give” card that you will find in the pew racks.

WE ARE LIVE STREAMING TODAY’S 11:00 A.M. SERVICE at [www.bit.ly/FPCworship](http://www.bit.ly/FPCworship), where it can also be watched in the coming week.

THE BULLETIN COVER photo depicts the wintertime lights on Michigan Avenue, twinkling like so many stars, in front of the Great East Window.

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**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

**Joseph L. Morrow** Minister for Evangelism

**Jeffrey Doane** Parish Associate for Older Adults

**Maggie Shreve** Parish Associate for Jail Ministry

**John Buchanan** Pastor Emeritus

SOURCES AND CREDITS: The Call to Worship is adapted from Kenneth I. Morse ([rockhay.tripod.com](http://rockhay.tripod.com)). Hymn tune names—as well as composers of the music and authors of the text—are listed in the hymnal with each hymn. The Prayer of Confession is adapted from [ruminari.wordpress.com](http://ruminari.wordpress.com). 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.

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