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FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT • NOVEMBER 29, 2020

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“Spark of Divinity” by Hannah Garrity | Paper lace | Inspired by Mark 13:24–37 (See page 11)

*Hannah Garrity*

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THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO

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# First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2020

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## Gathering around the Word

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### Prelude

“Sleepers, Wake!” A Voice Astounds Us . . . . . Johann Sebastian Bach  
Savior of the Nations, Come . . . . . J. S. Bach

Introit ✠ “Of the Father’s Love Begotten” . . . . . Plainsong; arr. C. Winfred Douglas

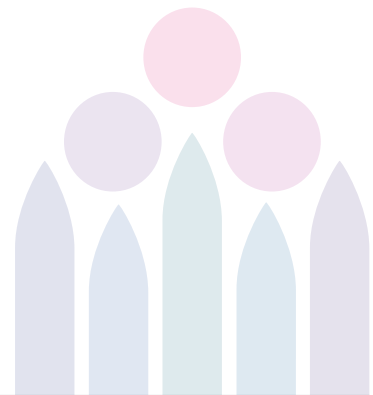
*Of the Father’s love begotten, ere the worlds began to be, he is Alpha and Omega; he the source, the ending he, of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see, evermore and evermore! O ye heights of heaven, adore him; angel hosts his praises sing; powers, dominions, bow before him, and extol our God and King. Let no tongue on earth be silent; every voice in concert ring, evermore and evermore! Christ, to thee with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanksgiving and unwearied praise be. Honor and glory, and dominion, and eternal victory, evermore and evermore. Amen.*

### \*Doxology (sung)

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.

### Welcome and Call to Worship

### Prayer of Praise



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†Or “praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.”

Hymn . . . . . “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.

Israel’s strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,  
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Original Dreamer,

over and over again in scripture we hear your dream for a beautiful world.

We hear your dream for peace and reconciliation.

We hear your dream for harmony and togetherness.

We hear your dream for community and hope.

We hear your dreams, and yet we do not open our eyes.

We continue to live with the curtains drawn,

the covers pulled tight, eyes shut to the realities of the world.

Forgive us. Kindle a hope in us that will burn through the darkest nights.

Give us the strength and the will to keep awake in this sleeping world.

With hope we pray. Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Declaration of Pardon

Leader: *Friends, believe the good news:*

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Solo :: “Quia respexit” from *Magnificat* . . . . . Johann Sebastian Bach

*For God has looked with favor on his lowly servant.*

*From this day all generations will call me blessed.*

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## Listening for the Word

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### Prayer for Illumination

Psalter . . . . . Psalm 80:1–7, 17–19

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;  
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,  
stir up your strength and come to help us.

Restore us, O God;  
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

O Lord God of hosts,  
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?

You have fed them with the bread of tears;  
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

You have made us the derision of our neighbors,  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

Restore us, O God of hosts;  
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,  
the one you have made so strong for yourself.

And so will we never turn away from you;  
give us life, that we may call upon your name.

Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;  
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

### Gloria Patri (*unison*)

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

Scripture Lesson . . . . . Mark 13:24–37

Sermon . . . . . Matt Helms

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<sup>†</sup>Or “to the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Ghost.”

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## Responding to the Word

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Hymn . . . . . “Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning”

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning; keep your lamps trimmed and burning;  
keep your lamps trimmed and burning, for the time is drawing nigh.

*Refrain*

Sisters, don't grow weary; brothers, don't grow weary;  
children, don't grow weary, for the time is drawing nigh.

### Prayers of the People

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.

### Offering and Prayer of Dedication

Offertory Solo ♪ “Fullness of Grace” . . . . . Keith and Kristyn Getty, Stuart Townend

*Fullness of grace in man's human frailty: this is the wonder of Jesus.  
Laying aside his power and glory, humbly he entered our world.  
Chose the path of meanest worth, scandal of a virgin birth.  
Born in a stable cold and rejected, here lies the hope of the world.  
Fullness of grace, the love of the Father, shown in the face of Jesus.  
Stooping to bear the weight of humanity; walking the Calvary road.  
Christ, the holy innocent took our sin and punishment.  
Fullness of God, despised and rejected; crushed for the sins of the world.  
Fullness of hope in Christ we had longed for; promise of God in Jesus.  
Through his obedience we are forgiven, opening the floodgates of heaven.  
All our hopes and dreams we bring gladly as an offering.  
Fullness of life and joy unspeakable; God's gift in love to the world.*

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## Bearing the Word into the World

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Hymn ..... “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates;  
behold the King of glory waits;  
the King of kings is drawing near;  
the Savior of the world is here.

Fling wide the portals of your heart;  
make it a temple, set apart  
from earthly use for heaven’s employ,  
adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer, come! I open wide  
my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide.  
Let me thy inner presence feel;  
thy grace and love in me reveal.

Charge and Benediction

Postlude ♯ O Come, O Come, Emmanuel ..... Adolphus Hailstork



Today is the first day of a new church year, the **First Sunday of Advent**. Throughout this Advent season we prepare our hearts and lives to receive the gift that comes to us in the stable and we embrace what it means to travel through life guided by the Light that darkness cannot overcome. \* **Daily Advent devotions** written by Fourth Church members and staff are available as a **resource for personal meditation and prayer**. You can receive them in your inbox (sign up online at [www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions](http://www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions)) or read them online ([www.fourthchurch.org/devotions](http://www.fourthchurch.org/devotions)), via Facebook ([www.facebook.com/fourthchurch](http://www.facebook.com/fourthchurch)), or Twitter ([www.twitter.com/fourthchicago](http://www.twitter.com/fourthchicago)).

Throughout Advent we are receiving a **“Light Up a Life” offering**, which helps shine God’s light of love on those who need it most this season, including those in need of the warmth, clothing, and nourishment provided by our Fourth Church Meals Ministry and Chicago Lights Social Service Center programs. Gifts can be made to this offering by noting “Light Up a Life” in the comments section (*or memo line of a check payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church*) when giving online via Venmo or the Fourth Church website ([www.fourthchurch.org/give-online](http://www.fourthchurch.org/give-online)).

Again this holiday season we have a variety of additional opportunities to share love and light as well. You can **honor a loved one with a contribution toward the Christmas flowers and garlands** that will decorate the Sanctuary for our online worship services. A list of those individuals remembered will be printed in the Christmas bulletin. Contributions can be made online at [www.bit.ly/FPCgifts](http://www.bit.ly/FPCgifts); contributions must be received by next Friday, December 11 for names to appear in the bulletin. For more information about gifts toward Christmas flowers or our “Light Up a Life” offering, contact Andrea Miller ([amiller@fourthchurch.org](mailto:amiller@fourthchurch.org)). \* **Fulfilling Christmas wishes for our Chicago Lights Tutoring students** continues this year, with each student receiving a gift card, a book, and a mask. The selected books can be ordered online at [www.bit.ly/christmaswishes20](http://www.bit.ly/christmaswishes20); contributions toward gift cards can be made online at [www.fourthchurch.org/give-online](http://www.fourthchurch.org/give-online) (choose “Congregational Life” as your designation, and write “Christmas Wishes” in the comments). \* **Christmas gift bags for guests of Sunday and Monday Night Suppers** are being prepared by Meals Ministry staff and volunteers. Donations toward purchasing the items for the bags—which will include a food gift card, gloves, hygiene items, and a mask—can be made at [www.bit.ly/giftbags2020](http://www.bit.ly/giftbags2020). \* Although we will not have our annual Cookies-and-Cocoa reception this year, Women at Fourth is still **inviting individuals to bake cookies, brownies, and other sturdy sweets** to share with our Sunday Night Supper guests on December 20. For details, email Anne Ellis ([aellis@fourthchurch.org](mailto:aellis@fourthchurch.org)).

**Ensure you receive the latest updates** from Fourth Church by adding your email address to our distribution list. Simply sign up at [www.bit.ly/newsfromfpc](http://www.bit.ly/newsfromfpc)

This Saturday morning, the Spiritual Formation Council will host an online **Advent exploration of how to use ritual making as a way to reconnect us** to ourselves, our faith, and our God. Lois Snavelly, a former seminary intern at Fourth Church, will lead this workshop on “**Rites of Passage: Creating Sacred Ritual in a Time of Pandemic**” via Zoom on Saturday, December 5 at 10:00 a.m. For Zoom details, email Carol Allerton ([callerton@fourthchurch.org](mailto:callerton@fourthchurch.org)). \* This Friday, December 4 at 5:30 p.m. **Cornerstones**, a fellowship opportunity for those fifty and older, will gather via Zoom for a **Christmas concert by John Sherer and tenor Cole Seaton**. Register online by Thursday, December 3 at [www.bit.ly/cornerstones1220](http://www.bit.ly/cornerstones1220) for Zoom details. \* This year’s **Christmas with Tower Brass concert** will be online on Saturday, December 19 at 5:00 p.m. at [www.bit.ly/fpcprograms](http://www.bit.ly/fpcprograms)

**The Longest Night Service**, for those experiencing grief and loss this season, will be held via Zoom on Tuesday, December 15 at 6:30 p.m. For Zoom details, email Carol Allerton ([callerton@fourthchurch.org](mailto:callerton@fourthchurch.org)). \* **On Thursday, December 24**, we will have two online services: the **Children’s Pageant** at 4:00 p.m. and the **Christmas Eve service** at 8:00 p.m. (*with a choral prelude beginning at 7:30 p.m.*). The services will be available at [www.bit.ly/FPCworship](http://www.bit.ly/FPCworship) as well as via **Facebook Live** ([www.facebook.com/fourthchurch](http://www.facebook.com/fourthchurch)) and **YouTube** ([www.bit.ly/fpcvideos](http://www.bit.ly/fpcvideos)), where they can also be viewed afterwards. Those without Internet access are invited to join the services by **listening to them via phone by calling 888.916.9166 (toll-free)** at the time of the service. \* Our online **Christmas Day service** will be available via the same platforms, including by phone, at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, December 25. \* Likewise our online **New Year’s Eve Taizé service** will be available at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 31.

If you would like to connect with others for a time of fellowship following worship today, please join us following the postlude for **virtual Coffee Hour via Zoom at [www.bit.ly/fpcfellowship](http://www.bit.ly/fpcfellowship)** (Zoom details are posted at [www.fourthchurch.org](http://www.fourthchurch.org)). You can also take part in Coffee Hour **by phone**: dial 312.626.6799 and enter meeting ID number 963 5583 1751#. \* Another opportunity to connect with others is in our **small groups**, which meet via Zoom once a week for four to six weeks. To learn more or express interest in joining one of the groups forming in upcoming months, email Anne Ellis ([aellis@fourthchurch.org](mailto:aellis@fourthchurch.org)).

**Sunday School and family activities** are being held online. For details, email Briana Belding-Peck ([bbelding-peck@fourthchurch.org](mailto:bbelding-peck@fourthchurch.org)). For details about **youth groups and Confirmation**, email Katie Patterson ([kpatterson@fourthchurch.org](mailto:kpatterson@fourthchurch.org)). \* **TwentiesThirties** offers online opportunities for young adults. For details, email Joe Morrow ([jmorrow@fourthchurch.org](mailto:jmorrow@fourthchurch.org)). \* For details about the **Center for Life and Learning** lectures and exercise classes for adults sixty and over, see [www.fourthchurch.org/cll](http://www.fourthchurch.org/cll) or email Susan Quaintance ([squaintance@fourthchurch.org](mailto:squaintance@fourthchurch.org)).

Watch our **website** ([www.fourthchurch.org](http://www.fourthchurch.org)) for additional resources and ways to connect. Online events are posted on the church calendar at [www.fourthchurch.org/calendar](http://www.fourthchurch.org/calendar); we also encourage you to follow us on **Facebook** ([facebook.com/fourthchurch](http://facebook.com/fourthchurch)) and **Instagram** ([instagram.com/fourthchurch](http://instagram.com/fourthchurch)) for updates.



It is **through the generosity of each of us** that Fourth Church is able to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those God calls us to love and serve as a light in the city. You can **give online at [fourthchurch.org/give-online](http://fourthchurch.org/give-online)** (or via the **“To Make a Gift” button** on our website: [www.fourthchurch.org](http://www.fourthchurch.org)); **via Venmo (@Fourth-Church)**; or by check made payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church (mailed to 126 E. Chestnut, Chicago, IL 60611.2014). \* For the foreseeable future we are gathering online for **livestream-only worship**. \* In addition to livestreaming our 11:00 a.m. Sunday service at **[www.bit.ly/FPCworship](http://www.bit.ly/FPCworship)** (*where the service is available throughout the week*), we make the service available via **Facebook Live** ([facebook.com/fourthchurch](https://facebook.com/fourthchurch)) and **YouTube** ([www.bit.ly/fpcvideos](http://www.bit.ly/fpcvideos)) at 11:00 a.m. on Sundays. \* Those without Internet access are invited to join the service by **listening to the service live via phone by calling 888.916.9166 (toll-free)** at the time of the service (*the prelude typically begins around 10:45 a.m.*). \* During the week we also make the service and sermon available via **podcast on iTunes and Spotify** ([www.bit.ly/FPCpodcast](http://www.bit.ly/FPCpodcast)); you can also receive our sermons **by email** ([www.bit.ly/fpcsermons](http://www.bit.ly/fpcsermons)).

On Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m., David Handley is leading a class on Harry Emerson Fosdick’s ***The Meaning of Prayer***. For Zoom details, register at [www.bit.ly/prayermeaning](http://www.bit.ly/prayermeaning) \* Also meeting via Zoom are **Men’s Bible Study** on Tuesdays at 7:30 a.m. and the **Horizons Bible Study for women** on second and fourth Wednesdays at 12:00 p.m. For details, email Anne Ellis ([aellis@fourthchurch.org](mailto:aellis@fourthchurch.org)). \* Resuming next Sunday, December 6, Joe Morrow will continue guiding us in a closer look at **“Scriptural Journeys: The Enduring Power of Migrations in the Bible,”** the current theme in our “Foundations of Faith: An Hour a Week with the Bible” class, which meets via Zoom on Sundays at 12:30 p.m. For Zoom details, register at [www.bit.ly/fpcff20](http://www.bit.ly/fpcff20)

**The First Tuesday Book Club** next meets this Tuesday, December 1 at 7:00 p.m. The Zoom discussion will again focus on the book ***The Cross and the Lynching Tree* by James Cone** and will be led by Nanette Sawyer. Register for Zoom details at [www.bit.ly/firsttuesdaybooks](http://www.bit.ly/firsttuesdaybooks) \* **Books by Women** will meet via Zoom on Tuesday, December 8 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss ***An Invisible Thread* by Laura Schoff**. For details, email Anne Ellis ([aellis@fourthchurch.org](mailto:aellis@fourthchurch.org)).

We are looking for Fourth Church members with **gifts for compassionate listening** to become Stephen Ministers and walk alongside individuals experiencing life challenges. The next fifty-hour **training course for new Stephen Ministers** will be offered in March 2021; for information about applying for the training, see [www.fourthchurch.org/caring/stephen-ministers.html](http://www.fourthchurch.org/caring/stephen-ministers.html)

If you would like to have a **one-time phone conversation with a Stephen Minister or arrange for ongoing talks**, please leave a confidential message at 312.573.3365. \* **If you have a prayer request**, Dave Handley ([dhandley@fourthchurch.org](mailto:dhandley@fourthchurch.org)) is receiving these requests as part of our Morning Prayer and Deacon Prayer Ministries. \* **If you would like to talk to a pastor**, please call the church (312.787.4570). \* **To explore options for teletherapy** with our Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being, call the Center at 312.787.2729, ext. 2260. \* On Wednesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. we gather for **Morning Prayer via Zoom**. Email Carol Allerton ([callerton@fourthchurch.org](mailto:callerton@fourthchurch.org)) for the details.

## Worship Leaders

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Nanette Sawyer, Joseph L. Morrow, Matt Helms

## Lighting the Advent Wreath

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Don and Francie Coe

## The Music Today

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Sarah van der Ploeg, Soloist

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

## Worship Notes

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EACH SUNDAY DURING ADVENT we will sing, after the sermon, one verse of “Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning.” This traditional gospel blues song, which is included in many hymnals, is attributed to Willie Johnson, an African American singer and evangelist who recorded about thirty songs between 1927 and 1930.

THE POSTLUDE TODAY was composed by African American composer Adolphus Hailstork (b. 1941) who has written many works for chorus, voice, various chamber ensembles, and band. His “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel,” written in 1983, takes the ancient chant and transforms it into an energetic toccata with a great deal of syncopation.

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**Shannon J. Kershner** Pastor  
**Lucy Forster-Smith** Senior Associate Pastor

Associate Pastors

**Matt Helms** Children and Family Ministry

**Joseph L. Morrow** Minister for Evangelism and  
Community Engagement (*Associate Pastor-Elect*)

**Nanette Sawyer** Discipleship and Small Group Ministry

**Rocky Supinger** Youth Ministry

**David Handley** Interim Minister for Caring Ministries

**Jeffrey Doane** Parish Associate for Older Adults

**Maggie Shreve** Parish Associate for Jail Ministry

**John Buchanan** Pastor Emeritus

SOURCES AND CREDITS: The Prayer of Confession is by Sarah Are, A Sanctified Art, LLC ([www.sanctifiedart.org](http://www.sanctifiedart.org)).

### THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO

Church office: 126 E. Chestnut Street, Chicago, IL 60611.2014

[www.fourthchurch.org](http://www.fourthchurch.org) [www.facebook.com/fourthchurch](http://www.facebook.com/fourthchurch)

312.787.4570 Voicemail: 312.787.2729 Fax: 312.787.4584

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TO NOTIFY PASTORAL STAFF of personal concerns, illness, hospitalization, or deaths or to request prayer, contact David Handley ([dhandley@fourthchurch.org](mailto:dhandley@fourthchurch.org); 312.573.3360). (Please note: hospitals do not inform churches when a member is admitted.) Those experiencing difficult times are invited to consider meeting with a Stephen Minister: leave a confidential message at 312.573.3365.

*(On page 1)*

## “Spark of Divinity”

by Hannah Garrity

Inspired by Mark 13:24-37 | Paper lace

This paper lace explores the poetic patterns in this Mark text. Stars fall to the lower part of the frame as a fig tree leafs out in the central circle. The fig tree creates a circular motif reminding us of the tree of life while also representing the sun and the moon in this text. With a celestial flow, lines circulate around the edges of the piece, replicating the pupil of an eye. “And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

In the time of COVID and in this season of Advent, we can see, now. We can see that systemic change is not just possible, but immediate. God has tried this before—we have glimmers in history. Can the human collective bring about God’s dream for the new heaven and the new earth? I can reach out and touch it. It is possible, immediately. We must choose it.

In one of Oprah Winfrey’s masterclasses, the late John Lewis shared how he was shaped by his mentor:

“Jim Lawson taught us the whole concept of the Beloved Community, this idea that in the bosom of every human being there is the spark of divinity and it is the spark of something that is sacred, and holy, and special, and that we don’t have a right to destroy.”

The stars in this image depict that divine spark we are born with—that hope, those stars that have fallen from heaven and lodged themselves within each of us. Let us not be found asleep in this moment, this movement. Let us live into our spark. Let us seek it in each person we meet.

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