



Second Sunday after Christmas

January 3, 2021

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright Dieterich Buxtehude
Prelude on the Introit for Epiphany Maurice Duruflé

Introit :: “Raise a Song of Gladness” Jacques Berthier

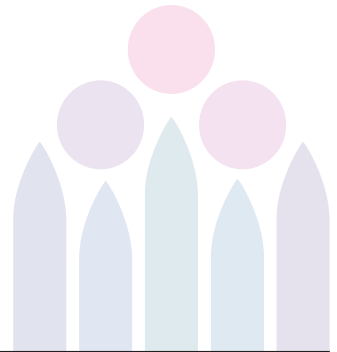
*Raise a song of gladness, peoples of the earth.
Christ has come, bringing peace, joy to every heart.
Alleluia, joy to every heart!*

*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



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

Hymn “What Child Is This”

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!

Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail, the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high. The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Gracious God, grant us humble and open hearts today as we come confessing our sins. We admit our prejudices run deep, and our judgments often come from cold and hard hearts. We would much rather point out the wrongs in others than admit the wrongs we have done. So often we can only see our own point of view, and so we surround ourselves with those who are like us, rarely venturing outside our comfort zones.

We come to you admitting our hardness of heart toward the poor and those who have been shortchanged from getting the justice they deserve. Sometimes we blame those who are suffering and in need, instead of standing by them. Open our eyes, compassionate Savior; give us your vision to see the good and the strength of those who have great burdens to bear. Breathe into us your Holy Spirit, so our hearts may be tender again and overflowing with your love. Now hear our silent, personal prayers of confession . . . (*Please hold silence.*)

Declaration of Pardon

Leader: *Friends, believe the good news:*

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Solo :: “The Little Road to Bethlehem” Michael Head

*As I walked down the road at set of sun,
the lambs were coming homewards, one by one;
I heard a sheep bell softly calling them
along the little road to Bethlehem.
Beside an open door, as I drew nigh,
I heard sweet Mary sing a lullaby.
She sang about the lambs at close of day
and rocked her tiny King among the hay.
Across the air the silver sheep bell rang,
“The lambs are coming home,” sweet Mary sang,
“Your star of gold is shining in the sky,
so sleep my little King, go lullaby.”*

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson Genesis 1:1–5

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth,
the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep,
while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.
Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light.
And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness.
God called the light Day, and the darkness God called Night.
And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. (NRSV)

Gloria Patri (*unison*)

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.

Second Lesson John 1:1–18

Sermon :: “Knowing God” David Handley

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

Responding to the Word

Hymn “There’s a Star in the East”

There’s a star in the east on Christmas morn.

Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

It will lead to the place where the Christ was born.

Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

Refrain

Follow, follow; rise up, shepherd, and follow.

Follow the star of Bethlehem. Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

If you take good heed to the angel’s words, rise up, shepherd, and follow.

You’ll forget your flocks, you’ll forget your herds.

Rise up, shepherd, and follow. *Refrain*

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 :: “The Kings” Peter Cornelius; arr. K. Lee Scott

Three kings from Persian lands afar to Jordan follow the pointing star, and this the quest of the travelers three, where the newborn King of love may be. Full royal gifts they bear for the King, gold, incense, myrrh are their offering. The star shines out with a steadfast ray, the kings to Bethlehem make their way, and there in worship they bend the knee, as Mary’s child in her lap they see. Their royal gifts they show to the King; gold, incense, myrrh are their offering. O earthly child, lo, to Bethlehem the kings are traveling, travel with them! The star of mercy, the star of grace shall lean thy heart to its resting place. Gold, incense, myrrh thou canst not bring; offer thy heart to the infant King, offer thy heart!

Bearing the Word into the World

Hymn “Gentle Mary Laid Her Child”

Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger;
there he lay, the undefiled, to the world a stranger.
Such a babe in such a place, can he be the Savior?
Ask the saved of all the race who have found his favor.

Angels sang about his birth; wise men sought and found him;
heaven’s star shone brightly forth, glory all around him.
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight, heard the angels singing;
all the plains were lit that night; all the hills were ringing.

Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger;
he is still the undefiled, but no more a stranger.
Son of God, of humble birth, beautiful the story;
praise his name in all the earth; hail the King of glory!

Charge and Benediction

Postlude :: March of the Magi Kings Theodore Dubois



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

If you missed our online **Children’s Pageant, Christmas Eve service, or Christmas Day Service**—or would like to share them with others—we invite you to view them at **www.bit.ly/FPCworship** or YouTube (**www.bit.ly/fpcvideos**). * Similarly, if you missed our online **Christmas with Tower Brass concert** or **John Sherer’s organ concert of Christmas favorites**, you can still enjoy them online at **www.bit.ly/fpcprograms** or YouTube. * Our weekly **Friday Noonday Concerts** take place at 12:10 p.m. at www.bit.ly/fpcprograms as well as on YouTube and via Facebook Live.

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** (*where the service is available throughout the week*), the service is available via **Facebook Live** (facebook.com/fourthchurch) and **YouTube** (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos) at 11:00 a.m. on Sundays. * Those without Internet access are invited to **listen 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); you can also receive our sermons **by email** (www.bit.ly/fpcsermons).

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** (Zoom details are posted at 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#. * To express interest in connecting with others in a **small group**, which will meet via Zoom once a week for four to six weeks, email Anne Ellis (aellis@fourthchurch.org).

The Session of Fourth Church has called an **online congregational meeting** for Sunday, January 10 following 11:00 a.m. worship. The meeting will be online at www.bit.ly/fpcprograms (call in at 888.916.9166). The purpose of the meeting will be to elect an **Associate Pastor Nominating Committee** to identify and recommend a candidate to serve Fourth Presbyterian Church as **Associate Pastor for Caring Ministries and Spiritual Formation**.

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**

Daily devotions written by Fourth Church members and staff are available by email (sign up online at www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions) or read them online (www.fourthchurch.org/devotions), via Facebook (www.facebook.com/fourthchurch), or Twitter (www.twitter.com/fourthchicago).

On Wednesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. we gather for **Morning Prayer via Zoom**. Email Carol Allerton (callerton@fourthchurch.org) for the details. * **If you have a prayer request**, Dave Handley (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. * 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.

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

Those who are interested in **becoming a member of Fourth Church** are invited to join us online for a one-session Inquirers' Class on Sunday, January 17 at 9:00 a.m. To register for this class (*required for membership*) and discover more about Fourth Church history, mission, and congregational life as well as the Presbyterian Church (USA), sign up to receive Zoom details at www.bit.ly/inquirer0121

The winter term of **Center for Life and Learning** online lectures and exercise classes for adults sixty and over begin the week of January 4; for details, see www.fourthchurch.org/cll or email Susan Quaintance (squaintance@fourthchurch.org). * **Sunday School and family activities** also meet online For details, email Briana Belding-Peck (bbelding-peck@fourthchurch.org). * For details about **youth groups and Confirmation**, email Katie Patterson (kpatterson@fourthchurch.org). * **TwentiesThirties** offers online opportunities for young adults. For details, email Joe Morrow (jmorrow@fourthchurch.org).

The First Tuesday Book Club next meets this Tuesday, January 5 at 7:00 p.m. The Zoom discussion will focus on the book ***The Luminous Web: Essays on Science and Religion*** by **Barbara Brown Taylor** and will be led by Lucy Forster-Smith and Jim Ford. Register for Zoom details at www.bit.ly/firsttuesdaybooks * 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 Bible study details, email Anne Ellis (aellis@fourthchurch.org). * **Books by Women** will meet via Zoom on Tuesday, January 12 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss ***The Optimist's Daughter*** by **Eudora Welty**. Newcomers to this book group are welcome. For details, email Anne Ellis (aellis@fourthchurch.org).

We encourage you to mark your calendars for three events planned for this January:

“Faith in Uncertain Times: Reflecting on the Past and Envisioning the Future” is an online Michigan Avenue Forum that will be held Thursday, January 14 at 7:00 p.m. That evening Lucy Forster-Smith will moderate a panel discussion bringing together Shannon Kershner; Horace Smith, Pastor of Apostolic Faith Church; Otis Moss III, Senior Pastor of Trinity United Church of Christ; David Crawford, President of McCormick Theological Seminary; and Ozzie Smith Jr., Pastor Emeritus of Covenant United Church of Christ. The event will be livestreamed at www.bit.ly/fpcprograms * Explore **“Journal Writing as a Spiritual Formation”** in a Zoom workshop hosted by the Spiritual Formation Council on Saturday morning, January 16. For details about this event led by the Reverend Christine Vogel, email Carol Allerton (callerton@fourthchurch.org). * On Saturday, January 23 at 10:00 a.m., David Hogue, Professor Emeritus of Pastoral Theology and Counseling at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary will lead a workshop on **“Loving Our Neighbor in a Time of Social Distancing.”** For details, email Carol Allerton (callerton@fourthchurch.org).

Also on the calendar this year is the **Chicago Lights Gala of Hope at Home** on Friday, March 5 at 7:00 p.m. The gala annually benefits the life-changing youth development and social service programs of Chicago Lights—the community outreach arm of Fourth Church—and the community support efforts of our Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being. For more information, email Laura Woods (lwoods@chicagolights.org).

Watch our **website** (www.fourthchurch.org) for additional resources and ways to connect. Online events are posted on the church calendar at www.fourthchurch.org/calendar; we also encourage you to follow us on **Facebook** (facebook.com/fourthchurch) and **Instagram** (instagram.com/fourthchurch) for updates, sermon quotes, images from Fourth Church, and more.

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

Worship Leaders

Nanette Sawyer, Jerry Johnson, Lucy Forster-Smith, David Handley

The Music Today

Gretchen Adams, Soloist

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

Worship Notes

THE AFRICAN AMERICAN SPIRITUAL “THERE’S A STAR IN THE EAST” provides a reminder that the good news of Christmas should lead Christians not only to awe and adoration but also to living and acting in ways that make God’s love and purposes known to others.

OFFERING GIFTS can be made at fourthchurch.org/give-online (or via the “To Make a Gift” button on our website: www.fourthchurch.org); via Venmo (@Fourth-Church); or via a check made payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church.

Shannon J. Kershner Pastor

Lucy Forster-Smith Senior Associate Pastor

Associate Pastors

Matt Helms Children and Family Ministry

Joseph L. Morrow Associate Pastor-Elect for Evangelism
and Community Engagement

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



THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO

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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; 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.