



Fourth Presbyterian Church

Second Sunday of Advent

December 5, 2021 • 10:00 a.m.

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

“Sleepers, Wake!” A Voice Astounds Us Jacobus Kloppers
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel Robert Lau
People, Look East Barbara Harbach

Introit :: “Come, Come, Emmanuel” Lynn Shaw Bailey and Becki Slagle Mayo
Come, come, Messiah, come. Come, Emmanuel, come, O Promised One, come Emmanuel.
Prophets of old have told of your coming; long we have waited, long we have prayed.
Kingdoms and kings will bow down before you. Come, Emmanuel, today.

***Doxology** (*congregation sings while masked*)

*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.*

***Call to Worship**

Leader: *If life was a home, then we would pray,*

All: *May love be the foundation. May God be the cornerstone.*

Leader: *May the Spirit be the windows ushering in light.*

All: *And may hope be the walls holding us together.*

Leader: *In this hour of worship, let us work toward building that home together.*

All: *We may not know the path ahead, but God is here, even now.*

Leader: *Let us give thanks for a foundation of love.*

All: *Let us worship Holy God.*



**Please rise in body or spirit. †Or “Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.”*

***Hymn 347** (*congregation sings while masked*) “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood,
he will give to all the faithful his own self for heavenly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way,
as the Light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day,
that the powers of hell may vanish as the shadows clear away.

At his feet the six-winged seraph, cherubim, with sleepless eye,
veil their faces to the presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry,
“Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Lord most high!”

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Holy God,
when John was born, Zechariah leaned down and whispered words of love into his ear.
We know that you do the same for us, day in and day out, yet we fail to hear it.
We forget that in the beginning we were made good.
We doubt that we could possibly be enough.
We hustle for our self-worth and wear ourselves out aiming for perfection.
We deflect words of praise. We hide behind shiny first impressions.
Forgive us. Trusting our worth is the hardest job.
Open our ears as you open our hearts, so that we might rest on the foundation of
goodness you have laid for us. Gratefully we pray. Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Kyrie (*congregation sings while masked*) The Hymnal, 551

Lord, have mercy; Christ have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy; Christ have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.

Declaration of Pardon

Leader: *Friends, believe the good news:*
All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Welcome and Announcements

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson Luke 1:68–79

***Gloria Patri** (*congregation sings while masked*)

*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 Luke 3:1–6

Sermon Shannon J. Kershner

Responding to the Word

***Hymn 106** (*congregation sings while masked*). “Prepare the Way, O Zion”

Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley a level way appear.
Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.

Refrain:

O blest is Christ who came in God’s most holy name.
He brings God’s rule, O Zion; he comes from heaven above.
His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth, and love.
Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding.

Refrain

Fling wide your gates, O Zion; your Savior’s rule embrace,
and tidings of salvation proclaim in every place.
All lands will bow rejoicing, their adoration voicing.

Refrain

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

***Affirmation of Faith** (*unison*). From a *Brief Statement of Faith* (PCUSA)

We trust in God the Holy Spirit.

In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage

to pray without ceasing,

to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,

to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,

to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,

and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,

we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives,

even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

Offering

Offertory Anthem :: "Comfort Ye, My People" Claude Goudimel; arr. Mark Schweizer

Comfort, comfort, ye my people, speak ye peace, thus saith your God; comfort those who sit in darkness, bowed beneath oppression's load; speak ye to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them; tell her that her sins I cover and her warfare now is over. Hark, the voice of one that crieth in the desert far and near, bidding all folk to repentance since the kingdom now is here. O, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way; let the valleys rise to meet him and the hills bow down to greet him. Make ye straight what long was crooked; make the rougher places plain; let your heart be true and humble, as befits his holy reign, for the glory of the Lord now o'er earth is shed abroad, and all flesh shall see the token that his word is never broken. Amen.

***Offertory Response** (*congregation sings while masked*) The Hymnal, 144 (*verse 4*)

What can I give him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;

if I were a wise man, I would do my part;

yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

Sealing the Word

Invitation

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We will lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Prayer

Leader: It is truly right and our greatest joy . . . forever singing to the glory of your name:

SanctusThe Hymnal, 552

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

Leader: . . . Great is the mystery of faith:

Memorial Acclamation (*sung*)The Hymnal, 553

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

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

Psalm 23 *(unison)*

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul; he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies; thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

*Prayer after Communion *(unison)*

Holy God, you are our home and the table to which we return.
Here, everything you have is ours. Now take this offering and turn it into ministry.
Through it, transform the earth in the image of heaven,
so that your will of love and peace and justice would be done. Gratefully we pray. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 104 *(congregation sings while masked)* "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You"

O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you aright?
Your people long to greet you, my hope, my heart's delight!
O kindle, Lord most holy, a lamp within my breast,
to do in spirit lowly all that may please you best.

Love caused your incarnation; love brought you down to me;
your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty.
O love beyond all telling, that led you to embrace
in love, all loves excelling, our lost and fallen race.

You come, O Lord, with gladness, in mercy and goodwill,
to bring an end to sadness and bid our fears be still.
In patient expectation we live for that great day
when your renewed creation your glory shall display.

***Charge and Benediction**

*Worshippers who wish to do so are invited to sing along (while masked)
with the choir during the Benediction responses.*

Postlude

“Sleepers Wake” A Voice Astounds Us Sigfrid Karg-Elert

*We invite you to enjoy the postlude.
If you need to leave prior to the end of the postlude,
please do so quietly out of respect for those who choose to stay.*

WE WILL BE CELEBRATING THE LORD’S SUPPER during worship this morning. Those worshipping in the Sanctuary who did not receive individually prepackaged Communion elements upon entering the Sanctuary can request those elements from an usher prior to Communion; after the service, please drop off the recyclable cup and packaging at the exit. Those worshipping at home are encouraged to have bread and juice on hand as we share in this meal together.



Those attending a Fourth Church worship service in person are entering an area where photography, video, and audio recording may occur on behalf of Fourth Church—including the weekly live stream of the Sunday morning service. By entering the worship service, you consent to the non-commercial use of the resulting visual and audio records; you waive all rights you may have to any claims of compensation for the use of these records; you release Fourth Church from any liability for the use of these records; and you waive the right to inspect or approve any of these records.





We are glad to be worshiping with you 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.



On the Fourth Church campus, including in worship, **everyone is required to wear masks, fully covering the nose and mouth.** Anyone not vaccinated against COVID-19 is also required to practice social distancing. ✳️ For those worshiping with us in person, we are not checking vaccination status, but **by entering the Fourth Church campus you certify** that (a) you do not currently have COVID-19; (b) you are not experiencing COVID symptoms; (c) you have no reason to quarantine; and (d) you will practice social distancing if you are not vaccinated against COVID-19.



If you like to join us for **in-person worship**, we gather each Sunday for a **10:00 a.m. service** in the Sanctuary and a **4:00 p.m. Jazz at Four service** in Buchanan Chapel. ✳️ In the Sanctuary, the **front section is for those required to or choosing to practice social distancing.** The remainder of the Sanctuary is open seating. Seating for Jazz at Four is set up for social distancing. ✳️ **The congregation is invited to sing while masked.** We encourage those who are concerned about being near those who are singing to consider the socially distanced seating section or join those who worship with us from home via livestream. ✳️ **Nursery care** is not available at this time. ✳️ **Worship can be heard** in the Sanctuary and Chapel through the “T” or “T-coil” setting of hearing aids. ✳️ Please silence **electronic devices** when in the Sanctuary or Chapel. ✳️ On Sundays the **doors open for worship** at 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. For the morning service, access is by the Michigan Avenue doors to the Sanctuary and the Delaware doors to the Gratz Center. For the Jazz at Four service, access is only by the Delaware doors. ✳️ **Sunday parking** is available at 900 N. Michigan (*access from Rush or Walton*) at the rate of \$9 between 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. and at the Hancock garage (*875 N. Michigan, enter from Delaware or Chestnut*) at the rate of \$10 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Validation tickets for the garages must be picked up from an usher.

You can read more about the guidelines in place for in-person worship as well as information about continued online opportunities **at www.fourthchurch.org/reopening**

Following the 10:00 a.m. service, Deacons are available in Stone Chapel (*through the door to the right of the pulpit*) to pray with **individuals who would like to offer prayers of praise or concern.** ✨

On Wednesdays we gather at 9:30 a.m. for **Morning Prayer via Zoom**. In December, we are also offering **in-person Morning Prayer** at 10:00 a.m. in Buchanan Chapel (*masks required*). Prior to this prayer time, Buchanan Chapel is open for **opportunity to walk the labyrinth** between 9:00 and 9:45 a.m. on Wednesdays. For Zoom details or information about walking the labyrinth or in-person Morning Prayer, email Rocky Supinger (rsupinger@fourthchurch.org). ✨ **A Sacred Pause time of meditation** is hosted virtually by our Replogle Center on Tuesday mornings (7:45 a.m.) and Saturday mornings (8:30 a.m.) at facebook.com/reploglecenterforcounselingandwellbeing



For those who prefer to worship online or who are unable to join us in person, we livestream our morning worship service at 10:00 a.m. at www.bit.ly/FPCworship and on our YouTube channel (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos). (*The prelude begins at approximately 9:45 a.m.*) The service is also available for viewing afterwards. ✨ **Those without Internet access** are invited to listen to the morning service via phone by calling 888.916.9166 at the time of the service. ✨ During the week we make the **service and sermon available via podcast** on iTunes and Spotify (www.bit.ly/FPCpodcast).



For those who are facing life's challenges, **Stephen Ministers** provide a listening presence and regular spiritual support. 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. ✨ To explore options for teletherapy, please call our **Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being** at 312.787.2729, ext. 2260. ✨ If you would like **to talk to a pastor** or notify the pastoral staff of personal concerns, illnesses, hospitalizations, or deaths, please call the church at 312.787.4570. ✨ **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.



For resources and ways to connect with Fourth Church and one another, watch our website (fourthchurch.org), Facebook (facebook.com/fourthchurch), and Instagram (instagram.com/fourthchurch). ✨ Online events are posted on our **church calendar**, which is accessible from the home page of our website and at www.fourthchurch.org/calendar ✨ Those interested in **becoming Fourth Church members** are invited to contact Joe Morrow (jmorrow@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

As a **resource for personal meditation and prayer** in this season, Fourth Church members and staff have written **Advent devotions** you can **receive daily by email** (*sign up at www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions*) or read online (*fourthchurch.org/devotions*). ✨ Also available is an **Advent “Rhythm and Word” video series**. These brief worship experiences, which weave together scripture, prayer, and music by the Fourth Church Jazz Quartet, are released on **our YouTube channel** (*www.bit.ly/fpcvideos*) on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. (*They are also available for viewing afterwards*). To **receive them by email**, sign up online at www.bit.ly/rhythmandwordemail ✨ The newly launched **“Bible Top Ten” podcast** hosted by Matt Helms and Rocky Supinger features as its latest episode **“Top Ten Advent Hymns and the Bible Verses Behind Them.”** You can find it at fourthchurch.org/podcast



Our annual **Fair Trade Bazaar is taking place this weekend—online!** You can browse handcrafted goods—including folk art, ceramics, textiles, baskets, jewelry, skin care products, and more from Chicago and around the world—and then shop for a difference at **fourthchurch.org/mission/fair-trade.html** ✨ We invite you to remember or honor a loved one with a contribution toward the **Christmas flowers, wreaths, and garlands** that will decorate the Sanctuary and Chapel. A list of those individuals remembered and honored will be printed in the Christmas bulletin. **Contributions can be made online at www.bit.ly/fpcgift** and must be received by Sunday, December 12 for names to appear in the bulletin. For more information, contact Andrea Miller (*amiller@fourthchurch.org*). ✨ Through our annual **Christmas Wishes project, Chicago Lights Tutoring students** will each receive a gift card and a book purchased by Women at Fourth. **Monetary contributions to support the book purchases** can be made to Fourth Church, noting “Christmas Wishes” in the comments or memo line. For details, email Simon Crow (*scrow@fourthchurch.org*).



Our Christmas worship this year will include a variety of in-person and online services: the **Children’s Pageant**, which will be online only, streamed on Friday, December 24 at 4:00 p.m. ✨ Our **Christmas Eve Family Service** at 6:00 p.m. (*in person only*); seating will be socially distanced. ✨ Two **Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols Services**, one at 8:00 p.m. (*in person and livestreamed*) and one at 10:00 p.m. (*in person only*). There will be no socially distanced seating at either 8:00 or 10:00 p.m., so we invite those who prefer social distancing to worship with us at 6:00 p.m. For health reasons, at all three in-person services on Christmas Eve we will be using battery-operated tea lights rather than lit candles during “Silent Night” so that worshipers do not have to blow out candles. ✨ Our **Christmas Day Service** on Saturday, December 25 at 10:00 a.m. (*in person only; those who would like an online worship opportunity on Christmas Day are invited to watch the online Christmas Day service from last year or the Christmas Eve service*).

Our **Festival of Advent Lessons and Carols** returns next Sunday, December 12 at 6:30 p.m. (*in person and livestreamed*), when we will hear readings for the season and sing together favorite Advent hymns. ✨ The annual **Christmas with Tower Brass** concert will take place Saturday, December 18 at 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary and will also be livestreamed. ✨ The **Longest Night** service, for those experiencing grief and sadness, will be Tuesday, December 21 at 6:30 p.m. (*in person only*).



One of our most popular adult education classes has been “God in the Modern Wing,” exploring spiritual and artistic expression in the work of modern abstract artists. Today at 11:00 a.m. in Borwell Dining Room, Walter Hansen will lead a one-session class, “**God in the Modern Wing: The Book,**” looking at the book that grew out of those presentations and following it with an optional walk to the Art Institute to view some of the works. ✨ Next Sunday, Don Allerton will lead the two-week class “**Architecture of Fourth Church.**” In commemoration of the church’s 150th anniversary, this class—which will meet at 11:00 a.m. in Borwell Dining Room December 12 and 19—gives us opportunity to learn about the architectural aspects of our building and take a tour of the campus. ✨ **Men’s Bible Study** meets online on Tuesdays at 7:30 a.m., and **Horizons Bible Study for women** offers two online sessions this Wednesday, December 8, one at 12:00 p.m. and one at 6:30 p.m. For details for these Bible studies, email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org). ✨ **TwentiesThirties Bible Study** for young adults meets online on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. Email Joe Morrow (jmorrow@fourthchurch.org) for details.



This Tuesday evening, December 7 at 7:00 p.m. the **First Tuesday Book Club** will discuss via Zoom **IRL: Finding Realness, Meaning, and Belonging in Our Digital Lives** by Chris Stedman. For details, register at www.bit.ly/firsttuesday1221 ✨ On Tuesday, December 14 **Books by Women** will meet via Zoom at 6:00 p.m. to discuss people’s favorite **Agatha Christie books**. For details, email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org).



Fourth Church offers a variety of ways to connect with one another, whether in person or online. Those worshipping with us in person are invited to **greet one another in Anderson Hall or the Commons** following the service. ✨ A **Muslim–Presbyterian interfaith dialogue about Maryam/ Mary** will take place online this Tuesday, December 7 at 7:00 p.m. For Zoom details, register at www.bit.ly/dialogue120721 ✨ On Thursday, December 16 at 6:00 p.m. **Women at Fourth** will gather via Zoom to celebrate the festive and joyous spirit of the Christmas season with fun, games, readings, laughter, and fellowship. For Zoom details, register at www.bit.ly/wf1221

Worship Leaders

David Handley, Kate Hempstead, Sofia Fajardo, Victoria Fajardo,
Rocky Supinger, Shannon J. Kershner

The Music Today

The Morning Choir; Members of the Cherub, Children's, and Youth Choirs

Katy Sinclair, Associate Director of Music for Children and Youth

Hsing-Huei Huang, Pianist

Michael Rees, Organ Scholar

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

Worship Notes

OUR ANNUAL "LIGHT UP A LIFE" OFFERING is being received throughout the Advent and Christmas seasons. Gifts to "Light Up a Life" support the mission and outreach efforts of Fourth Church and Chicago Lights as they extend mercy, kindness, and love to those who are most vulnerable. You can make a gift to this offering by noting "Light Up a Life" 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 made payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church. Those worshipping in the Sanctuary can also use the special offering envelopes found in the pew racks.

THE COMPOSER OF THE PRELUDE "People, Look East," Barbara Harbach (b. 1946), has been Professor of Music at the University of Missouri–St. Louis since 2004. An active performer and composer, she founded Women in the Arts–St. Louis to highlight and create opportunities for performances by female musicians and composers. She also created Vivace Press to publish music by underrepresented composers and is a cofounder and editor of *Women of Note Quarterly*.

Shannon J. Kershner Pastor

Lucy Forster-Smith Senior Associate Pastor

Associate Pastors

Matt Helms Children and Family Ministry

Joseph L. Morrow 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

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THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO

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