



Second Sunday of Advent

We Approach God

Gathering Music

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship**

If life was a home, then we would pray,

May love be the foundation.

May God be the cornerstone.

May the Spirit be the windows ushering in light.

And may hope be the walls holding us together.

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

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

Let us give thanks for a foundation of love.

Let us worship Holy God.

* 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.

***Opening Song** (*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!”

We Tell the Truth about Ourselves

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

**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 the antiphon while masked*)

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

God Forgives and Blesses Us

Friends, believe the good news!
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson Luke 1:68–79

(congregation sings the canticle while masked)

CANTICLE: *You have come to your people and set them free.*

Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel;
you have come to your people and set them free.
You have raised up for us a mighty Savior,
born of the house of your servant David.
Through your holy prophets, you promised of old
to save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us,
to show mercy to our forebears,
and to remember your holy covenant.

CANTICLE

This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham:
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
free to worship you without fear, holy and righteous
before you, all the days of our life.
And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,
to give God’s people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of their sins.

CANTICLE

In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

CANTICLE

Second Lesson Luke 3:1–6

Sermon *Rocky Supinger*

We Offer Ourselves

Call for Offering

***Prayer of Dedication**

Holy God, you are our home.
You and your goodness are the place to which we return,
the place where we long to lay our head.
Take this offering and turn it into ministry.
Use these gifts to transform the world in which we live,
that it might reflect the home you have for us
a home of peace, built on the foundation of love.
Gratefully we pray. Amen.

We Feast Together

Musical Reflection

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!

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 Go Out with Gratitude

***Closing Song** (*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

***Benediction**

Sending Music

Worship Leaders

Rocky Supinger Associate Pastor
David Handley Interim Minister for Caring Ministries
Barbara Pearce Liturgist
The Fourth Church Jazz Quartet

Worship Notes

Our annual “Light Up a Life” offering is being received throughout the Advent 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. Gifts can also be placed in the offering boxes at the exit of the Chapel.

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

Words—“Prepare the Way, O Zion” © 1982 Hope Publishing Company. All rights reserved. Used with permission. OneLicense.net. License A-712340. Today’s Call to Worship, Prayer of Confession, and Prayer of Dedication are adapted from prayers by the Reverend Sarah (Are) Speed, A Sanctified Art LLC, sanctifiedart.org

PASTORAL STAFF

Shannon J. Kershner, Pastor
Lucy Forster-Smith, Senior Associate Pastor
Matt Helms, Associate Pastor for Children and Family Ministry
Joseph L. Morrow, Associate Pastor for Evangelism and Community Engagement
Nanette Sawyer, Associate Pastor for Discipleship and Small Group Ministry
Rocky Supinger, Associate Pastor for 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

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 Presbyterian 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.** * For those worshipping 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.** * Seating in the Chapel is set up for **social distancing.** 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. * **Worshippers are invited to sing while masked.** We invite those who are concerned about being near those who are singing to worship with us from home via our 10:00 a.m. livestream, which is also available for viewing later in the week, or our weekly **"Rhythm and Word"** videos. * **Worship in the Chapel can be heard** through hearing aids' "T" or "T-coil" setting. * **Please** silence electronic devices when in the Chapel. * The **doors open for worship** on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. For the 4:00 service, access is only by the Delaware doors to the Gratz Center. * **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. Validation tickets for the garage must be picked up from an usher.



For those who prefer to worship online or are unable to join us in person, we livestream our morning worship service at 10:00 a.m. at www.bit.ly/FPCworship and YouTube (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). * Each week we release a **new video in our Advent "Rhythm and Word: Midweek Music and Prayer"** series, a brief worship experience weaving together scripture, prayer, and music offered by the Fourth Church Jazz Quartet. You can **subscribe to our YouTube channel** (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos) and watch the videos there on Wednesday evenings or anytime during the week or **receive them by email** (*sign up at www.bit.ly/rhythmandwordemail*).

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*). * 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 **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*).



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 desire social distancing to worship with us at 6:00. 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*).



This Tuesday, December 7 at 7:00 p.m. the First Tuesday Book Club will discuss **IRL: Finding Realness, Meaning, and Belonging in Our Digital Lives** by Chris Stedman. For Zoom details, register at www.bit.ly/firsttuesday1221 * Also this Tuesday, December 7 at 7:00 p.m. there will be a **Muslim–Presbyterian interfaith dialogue about Maryam/Mary**. 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 for a seasonal celebration. For details, register at www.bit.ly/wf1221