



Fourth Presbyterian Church

Third Sunday of Advent

December 12, 2021 • 10:00 a.m.

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel Kenneth Leighton

Three Advent Hymn Improvisations. Paul Manz

“Sleepers, Wake!” A Voice Astounds Us

Comfort, Comfort, Now My People

Savior of the Nations, Come

Introit :: “Our King and Savior Now Draws Near” Iain Quinn

Our King and Savior now draws near; come let us adore him.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be. Amen.

***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: *A voice calls out in the wilderness.*

All: *It sings of a home for all. It speaks of justice and peace.*

Leader: *We could choose to ignore it.*

All: *We could drown out that song. We could choose not to listen.*

Leader: *Instead, we come into this space.*

All: *We let the world grow quiet. We listen.*

Leader: *A voice calls out in the wilderness. Do you hear it?*

All: *We hear it. In listening, we worship.*

Leader: *Let us draw near to God.*



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

***Hymn 88** (*congregation sings while masked*) “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who orderest all things mightily:
to us the path of knowledge show; and teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times didst give the law in cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Root of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save and give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Expansive God, we know that the church is your house,
and your house has room for everyone.
Yet too often instead of setting the table for our neighbors, we block the door.
Instead of welcoming all, we judge others by our own standards.
Instead of sharing our second coat, we hide it in the attic,
holding on to fear instead of letting go with love.
Remind us that your home is a home for all, that truth requires hard work,
that truth requires uncomfortable justice.
Help us to be bold enough to see it and brave enough to live it.
With hope 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

Anthem :: “Prepare the Way, O Zion” German chorale; arr. Robert Lau

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. O blest is Christ that 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, justice, truth, and love. Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding.

O blest is Christ that came in God’s most holy name. Fling wide your gates, O Zion, your Savior’s

rule embrace. His tidings of salvation proclaim in every place. All lands will bow before him, their

voices will adore him. O blest is Christ that came in God’s most holy name. Prepare!

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson Isaiah 12:2–6

***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 3:7–18

Sermon Shannon J. Kershner

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

Responding to the Word

***Hymn 96** (*congregation sings while masked*). “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings!
Then cleansed be every life from sin; make straight the way for God within,
and let us all our hearts prepare for Christ to come and enter there.
We hail you as our Savior, Lord, our refuge and our great reward;
without your grace we waste away like flowers that wither and decay.
Stretch forth your hand; our health restore, and make us rise to fall no more.
O let your face upon us shine and fill the world with love divine.

***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

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.

Call to Offering

Offertory Anthem :: People, Look East” French folk melody; arr. Robert Evans

*People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth, and set the table.
People, look east, and sing today; Love the Guest is on the way.
Birds, though ye long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be filled.
Even the hour when wings are frozen, he for fledging time has chosen.
People, look east, and sing today; Love the Bird is on the way.
Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east, and sing today; Love the Star is on the way.
Angels, announce to man and beast him who cometh from the east.
Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east, and sing today; Love the Lord is on the way.*

***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.

***Prayer of Dedication** (*unison*)

God who welcomes us home, who creates space,
who leaves a chair with our name on it—
we have two coats and we are giving one away.
This offering is our second coat. It's our hearts on our sleeves.
It's our audacious hope that there can indeed be a better world than this one.
So take these gifts and use them to move us closer to that promised day.
Gratefully we pray. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

***Hymn 97** (*congregation sings while masked*) “Watchman, Tell Us of the Night”

Watchman, tell us of the night, what its signs of promise are.
Traveler, what a wondrous sight: see that glory-beaming star.
Watchman, does its beauteous ray news of joy or hope foretell?
Traveler, yes; it brings the day, promised day of Israel.

Watchman, tell us of the night; higher yet that star ascends.
Traveler, blessedness and light, peace and truth its course portends.
Watchman, will its beams alone gild the spot that gave them birth?
Traveler, ages are its own; see, it bursts o’er all the earth.

Watchman, tell us of the night, for the morning seems to dawn.
Traveler, shadows take their flight; doubt and terror are withdrawn.
Watchman, you may go your way; hasten to your quiet home.
Traveler, we rejoice today, for Emmanuel has come!

***Charge and Benediction**

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

Postlude

Toccata on “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” Adolphus Hailstork

*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.*

Christmas Worship

“Longest Night” Service | Tuesday, December 21

6:30 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel | In person only

A worship opportunity for those for whom the celebration of Christmas is made difficult by feelings of loneliness, grief, alienation, and sadness.

Christmas Eve Services | Friday, December 24

Christmas Eve Children’s Pageant

4:00 p.m. | Online only, streamed at www.fourthchurch.org

For health reasons, all three in-person services on Christmas Eve (below) will use battery-operated tea lights rather than lit candles during “Silent Night” so worshipers do not have to blow out candles.

Christmas Eve Family Service

6:00 p.m. | In person only • All seating will be socially distanced by families

We invite those who prefer socially distanced seating to worship with us at 6:00 p.m. Please note that the socially-distanced-only seating will significantly limit the capacity in the Sanctuary to approximately 200 people at the 6:00 service. Once that capacity is reached, Buchanan Chapel and Borwell Dining Room will be opened for additional socially distanced seating. There will not be reserved seating or reservations for the services.

Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols

8:00 p.m. | In person and livestreamed at www.fourthchurch.org

No socially distanced seating

Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols

10:00 p.m. | In person only | No socially distanced seating

Christmas Day Service | Saturday, December 25

10:00 a.m. | In person only | Socially distanced section at the front of the Sanctuary

Those who prefer an online option are invited to watch the online Christmas Day service from last year or the Christmas Eve service.





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

Today is the last day to make a contribution toward the Christmas flowers, wreaths, and garlands that will decorate the Sanctuary for our Christmas services. These gifts can be made in honor or memory of friends and loved ones, with their **names appearing in the Christmas bulletin** for contributions received no later than Sunday, December 12. Contributions can be made online at www.bit.ly/fpcgift; for more information, contact Andrea Miller (amiller@fourthchurch.org).



This evening we will gather for our Festival of Advent Lessons and Music. This 6:30 p.m. service—which will include readings for the season and our singing together favorite Advent hymns—will also be livestreamed at www.fourthchurch.org, and afterwards Women at Fourth will distribute homemade cookies and cocoa in to-go bags for those joining us in the Sanctuary.



The annual **Christmas with Tower Brass** concert will take place this Saturday, December 18 at 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary and will also be livestreamed. ✨ The day before, on Friday, December 17, our **Organist John Sherer will play music of the season** at our weekly **Noonday Concert** at 12:10 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Our concerts are livestreamed and available to view later on our YouTube channel (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos) and at www.bit.ly/fpcprograms. *We will not host Noonday Concerts on December 24 or December 31; they will resume on Friday, January 7.*



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/rhythmwordemail ✨ The newly launched **“Bible Top Ten” podcast** hosted by Matt Helms and Rocky Supinger includes among its latest episodes **“Top Ten Advent Hymns and the Bible Verses Behind Them.”** You can find it at fourthchurch.org/podcast



Men’s Bible Study meets online on Tuesdays at 7:30 a.m., and **Horizons Bible Study for women** will host two online sessions on Wednesday, December 22, 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). ✨ For information about **TwentiesThirties Bible Study** for young adults, email Joe Morrow (jmorrow@fourthchurch.org).

Today Don Allerton will lead the first session of **“The Architecture of Fourth Church,”** which will meet at 11:15 a.m. in Borwell Dining Room; next Sunday’s class will include a tour of our campus. ✱ A four-session class on **“The 1619 Project,”** discussing slavery’s continuing legacy of injustice and inequality, begins Sunday morning, January 9. Guest speakers will lead conversation about the history of slavery; cultural and religious practices brought to America from Africa; the history of the Great Migration in Chicago; the 1919 race riot and its origins; and present-day socioeconomic struggles in America’s and Chicago’s Black community. For details, register at www.bit.ly/1619class



Fourth Church offers a variety of ways to connect with one another, whether in person or online. Those worshiping with us in person are invited to **greet one another in Anderson Hall or the Commons** following the service. ✱ This 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). ✱ On Wednesday morning, December 15, **Benevolent Guild**—which has counted among its projects sewing face masks and making stuffed animals and taggies for children in the hospital—will meet at the church. Register in advance (*required*) with Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org). ✱ 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



Volunteers are needed to help with the Meals Ministry Bag Lunch program, which has moved back indoors after twenty months of serving to-go meals outdoors. Bag lunches and hot drinks are now served in Anderson Hall each Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., with limited seating to allow for social distancing. You can sign up to help with Bag Lunch or with Sunday Night Supper by using VOMO (www.bit.ly/fpcvolunteers), our Volunteer Ministry platform. *All individuals volunteering in person must be vaccinated against COVID-19; proof of vaccination can be sent to vaxproof@fourthchurch.org* ✱ Chicago Lights Social Service Center is in need of **donations of men’s pants, sweaters, coats, gloves, scarves, any warm weather wear, and backpacks.** We are accepting new and gently used donations of these items that are clean and free from any rips, stains, or tears. (*We are not accepting children’s clothing, household supplies, or used underwear or used socks at this time.*) Donations can be dropped off at 126 E. Chestnut on Sundays through Fridays between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Worship Leaders

Lucy Forster-Smith, Marcus and Roel Mason-Vivit, Jeffrey Doane, Shannon J. Kershner

The Music Today

The Morning Choir

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 POSTLUDE “Toccata on ‘O Come, O Come, Emmanuel,’” Adolphus Hailstork (b. 1941), is an African American composer and educator currently living in Virginia Beach, Virginia. He received degrees from the Manhattan School of Music and a PhD in composition from Michigan State University. He has taught music at several universities and is currently Professor of Music and Eminent Scholar at Old Dominion University in Virginia.

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

SOURCES AND CREDITS: 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.

THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO

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