



Third Sunday of Advent

We Approach God

Gathering Music

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship

A voice calls out in the wilderness.

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

We could choose to ignore it.

We could drown out that song. We could choose not to listen.

Instead, we come into this space.

We let the world grow quiet. We listen.

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

We hear it. In listening, we worship.

Let us draw near to 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*) "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (*verses 1-4*)

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.

We Tell the Truth about Ourselves

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 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 Isaiah 12:2–6

(congregation sings the canticle while masked)

CANTICLE: *God, you are my strength, my rock, my fortress and deliverer.
God, you are my rock, my shield, the horn of my salvation.*

Surely God is my salvation;
I will trust and will not be afraid,
for the Lord God is my strength and my might;
he has become my salvation.
With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

CANTICLE

And you will say in that day:
Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name;
make known his deeds among the nations;
proclaim that his name is exalted.
Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously;
let this be known in all the earth.
Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

CANTICLE

Second Lesson Luke 3:7–18

Sermon *Lucy Forster-Smith*

Musical Reflection

We Feast Together

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 Offer Ourselves

Call for Offering

***Prayer of Dedication**

**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.

We Go Out with Gratitude

***Closing Song** (*congregation sings while masked*) “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (*verses 5–7*)

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.

***Benediction**

Sending Music

Worship Leaders

Lucy Forster-Smith Senior Associate Pastor

Joseph L. Morrow Associate Pastor

Clyde Yancy 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—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**

This evening at 6:30 p.m. is our **Festival of Advent Lessons and Music**, a festive worship service that will be held in the Sanctuary and livestreamed at www.fourthchurch.org. We invite you to join us for this opportunity to hear readings for the season and sing together favorite Advent hymns. * 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.



Today is the last day to make a contribution toward the Christmas flowers, wreaths, and garlands that will decorate the Sanctuary and Chapel for our worship this season. 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).



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 includes among its episodes **“Top Ten Advent Hymns and the Bible Verses Behind Them.”** You can find it at fourthchurch.org/podcast



Our Christmas worship this year will include a variety of in-person and online services: * The **“Longest Night”** service, for those experiencing grief and sadness, will be Tuesday, December 21 at 6:30 p.m. (*in person only*) in Buchanan Chapel. * The **Christmas Eve Children’s Pageant**, which will be online only, will be streamed on Friday, December 24 at 4:00 p.m. * Our **Christmas Eve Family Service** will be at 6:00 p.m. and will be in person only, with socially distanced seating. * We will have 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 on Christmas Eve to worship with us at 6:00.** Please note that the socially-distanced-only seating will **significantly limit the capacity in the Sanctuary at the 6:00 service** to approximately 200 people. 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. 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 will take place 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*).



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).

