Fourth Presbyterian Church

Fourth Sunday of Advent December 19, 2021 • 10:00 a.m.

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Noel	Claude Daquin
Three Christmas Carols	
The Snow Lay on the Ground.	Leo Sowerby
Of the Father's Love Begotten	David Lasky
Good King Wenceslas	Virgil Fox
A Child Is Born	Everett Titcomb
Introit " "Savior of the Nations, Come"	Richard Benedum
*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	Ra
Leader: We are seeking—deeper faith, a place to belong,	
All: the feeling that God is here in this room.	533
Leader: We are seeking—joy that overflows, the movement of the Spirit,	398
All: a hand to hold, when loneliness overwhelms.	312
Leader: We are seeking—the freedom to be, the courage to love,	ASIB
All: the conviction to act in the face of injustice.	ANIS
Leader: We are seeking, but here in this space,	ANG
All: we are found.	an Bie
Leader: God is here. Let us worship God together.	RE

*Please rise in body or spirit. [†]Or "Father, Son, and Holy Ghost."

My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great, and my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait. You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?

Refrain: My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn. Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.

Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me, and your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be. Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn. (*Refrain*)

From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a stone will be left on stone. Let the king beware for your justice tears every tyrant from his throne. The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn; there are tables spread; every mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn. (*Refrain*)

Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast: God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp. This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around. *(Refrain)*

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Holy God, too often we wait silently for the world to change around us instead of speaking up for the things we need. Forgive us for failing to care for ourselves the way you would care for us. Give us the courage to be more like Mary, who in the face of great change went and boldly sought your help and comfort. Help us to be more like Elizabeth, who greeted Mary with laughter and contagious joy. Give us the courage of Mary and the grace of Elizabeth. Gratefully we pray. Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Lord, have mercy; Christ have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us. (sung twice)

Declaration of Pardon

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

Welcome and Announcements

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Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination
First Lesson
*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
Sermon

Responding to the Word

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,

of Jesse's lineage coming, by faithful prophets sung.

It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind;

with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.

To show God's love aright she bore for us a Savior, when half spent was the night.

This flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,

dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere.

Enfleshed, yet very God, from sin and death he saves us and lightens every load.

*Affirmation of Faith (unison)	Ecumenical Affirmation ((UMC)
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We believe in God, Creator of all things, heavenly father and mother,

Soul of infinite love, wisdom, and power, ruler of all that is and all that is to come, who is mystery, yet revealed.

- We follow Christ, God's chosen one, who loved and served humbly, who healed the broken and included the outcast,
- who chose to suffer rather than harm for the sake of the healing of all creation, who gave his life for our redemption, and who was raised by God to new life.
- In his teaching, in his death and resurrection,

and in his presence with us in all circumstances, he reveals God to us.

- He calls us to serve him for the sake of proclaiming God's grace.
- We trust that he accompanies us and will help, guide, heal, and defend us through all difficulty and suffering.

We believe the Holy Spirit sustains us,

and guides us and empowers us as servants of God's grace.

We live as the body of Christ, in the power of forgiveness and the reality of resurrection and the light of eternal life. 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

Christmas Cantata **#** "Christmas Day" Gustav Holst

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; give ye heed to what we say; news, news, Jesus Christ is born today. Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now. Christ is born today! God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay; remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas day, to save us all from woe and sin, when we were gone astray. O tidings of comfort and joy. In Bethlehem this blessed babe was born and laid within a manger, upon that holy morn; that which his mother, Mary, did nothing take in scorn. O tidings of comfort and joy. Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye hear of endless bliss; joy, joy, Jesus Christ was born for this! He hath opened the heavenly door, and we are blessed evermore. *Christ was born for this. Come, ye lofty, come, ye lowly, let your songs of gladness ring; in a stable* lies the holy, in a manger rests the King. See, in Mary's arms reposing, Christ by highest heaven adored. Come, your circle round him closing, pious hearts that love the Lord. Come, ye poor, no pomp of station robes the child your hearts adore. He, the Lord of all salvation, shares your want, is weak and poor. Oxen round about behold them; rafters naked, cold and bare, see the shepherds, God has told them that the prince of life lies there. Come, ye children, blithe and merry, this one child your model make; Christmas holly, leaf, and berry, all be prized for his dear sake; come, ye gentle hearts, and tender; come, ye spirits, keen and bold; all in all your homage render, weak and mighty, young and old. High above a star is shining, and the wise men haste from far; come, glad hearts and spirits pining, for you all has risen the star. Let us bring our poor oblations, thanks and love and faith and praise. Come, ye people, come, ye nations, all in all draw nigh to gaze. The first Nowell, the angels did say, was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay; in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep. Nowell, born is the King of Israel. Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; give ye heed to what we say, news, news, Jesus Christ is born today. Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now, Christ is born today! Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye hear of endless bliss: joy, joy, Jesus Christ was born for this! He hath opened the heavenly door, and we are blessed evermore. Christ was born for this. Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place, and with true love and brotherhood each other now embrace; this holy tide of Christmas all others doth deface. O tidings of comfort and joy. Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye need not fear the grave: peace, peace, Jesus Christ was born to save. Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall. Christ was born to save!

*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 for all, receive our offering as a sign of our audacious hope that there can be a better world than this one.Take these gifts and use them to move us closer to that promised day. Gratefully we pray. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

Refrain: Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night, behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. (*Refrain*)

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. (*Refrain*)

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born, and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. (*Refrain*)

*Charge and Benediction

Worshipers 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" Andrew Carter

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.

All entry for in-person Christmas Eve services will be through the glass Loggia doors by the courtyard on Michigan Avenue.

Christmas Eve Family Service

6:00 p.m. | In person only • All seating will be socially distanced by families • Seating begins at 5:15 p.m.

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 inperson 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).

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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.

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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**

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. ****** First Tuesday Book Club will discuss On the Spectrum: Autism, Faith, and the Gifts of Neurodiversity by Daniel Bowman Jr. on January 4 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. For details, register at www.bit.ly/firsttuesday122 ****** On Tuesday, January 11 Books by Women will meet via Zoom at 6:00 p.m. to discuss Nine Tailors by Dorothy Sayers. For details, email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org).



Today Don Allerton will lead the final session of **"The Architecture of Fourth Church,"** which will meet at 11:15 a.m. in Borwell Dining Room and includes 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



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 ** The Social Service Center (SSC) has an urgent need for volunteers to help with sorting, sizing, and organizing donated clothes for distribution to our participants. If you are interested in volunteering Monday through Friday between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. please contact Lynn Milligan (lmilligan@ chicagolights.org; 312.981.3591, ext 2357). * 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.

Discounted **Christmas Eve parking** will be available at 900 N. Michigan (access from Rush or Walton) at the rate of \$9 **for those entering the garage after 5:00 p.m.** Validation tickets for the garage must be picked up from an usher that day. ***** Discounted **parking on Christmas Day** will be available at 900 N. Michigan with a validation ticket purchased at the church that morning for \$20 (cash or check only). ***** For in-person services **on Christmas Eve, entry will only be through the glass Loggia doors** on Michigan Avenue. *** Seating for the 6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Family Service** will begin at 5:15 p.m. *** Nursery care** will not be available on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.



As a **resource for meditation and prayer**, Fourth Church members and staff have written **Advent and Christmas devotions**, which you can **receive daily by email** (*sign up at www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions*) or read online (*fourthchurch.org/devotions*). ***** Also available is our **Advent and Christmas "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 December Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. on **our YouTube channel** (*www.bit.ly/fpcvideos*); they are also available for viewing afterwards. To **receive them by email,** sign up online at www.bit.ly/rhythmandwordemail ***** The new **podcast *Bible Top Ten**" hosted by Matt Helms and Rocky Supinger includes among its episodes "Top Ten Advent Hymns and the Bible Verses Behind Them" as well as the newest episode: "Top Ten Dates to Know from Biblical History." You can find them at fourthchurch.org/podcast

Men's Bible Study meets online on Tuesdays at 7:30 a.m., and *Horizons* Bible Study for women hosts two online sessions this Wednesday, December 22, one at 12:00 p.m. and one at 6:30 p.m. For details for these studies, email Simon Crow (*scrow@fourthchurch.org*). *** For information about TwentiesThirties Bible Study for young adults, email Joe Morrow (*jmorrow@fourthchurch.org*).

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Our congregation is celebrating its sesquicentennial! During this 150th anniversary year we encourage you to visit the web page **www.fourthchurch.org/150** to read **historical accounts** and letters from Chicago's faith leaders. There you can also hear greetings from Fourth Church friends from across the globe and **view videos of pastors who formerly served at Fourth Church** as they share memories of their time with our congregation. These collections continue to grow, so do check back periodically!

Worship Leaders

Nanette Sawyer, Akiko Ikeda, Joseph L. Morrow, Shannon J. Kershner

The Music Today

The Morning Choir Carol Carpenter, Devon Desmond, Laura Perkett, Phil Pierick, and Sean Stanton, Soloists 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 worshiping in the Sanctuary can also use the special offering envelopes found in the pew racks.

THE COMPOSER OF THIS MORNING'S CHRISTMAS CANTATA, Gustav Holst (1874–1934), was an English teacher and composer best known for his orchestral suite *The Planets*. "Christmas Day" was written in 1910 for the music students of Morley College, where Holst taught at the time, and is a festive collection of favorite Christmas carols.

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. "My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout" words copyright © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Used with permission. OneLicense.net. License A-712340. The Affirmation of Faith is adapted from an affirmation by Steve Garnaas-Holmes, the General Board of Discipleship, United Methodist Church.

THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO Church office: 126 E. Chestnut Street, Chicago, IL 60611.2014 www.fourthchurch.org www.facebook.com/fourthchurch 312.787.4570 Voicemail: 312.787.2729 Fax: 312.787.4584

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