



**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

## **We Approach God**

### **Gathering Music**

### **Welcome and Announcements**

### **\*Call to Worship**

We are seeking—deeper faith, a place to belong,  
**the feeling that God is here in this room.**

We are seeking—joy that overflows, the movement of the Spirit,  
**a hand to hold, when loneliness overwhelms.**

We are seeking—the freedom to be, the courage to love,  
**the conviction to act in the face of injustice.**

We are seeking, but here in this space,  
**we are found.**

God is here. Let us worship God together.

\* Please rise in body or spirit

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*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*) . . . . . “My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout”

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*)

**We Tell the Truth about Ourselves**

**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**

**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!**

## We Proclaim the Story

### Prayer for Illumination

**First Lesson** . . . . . Luke 1:39–45

*(congregation sings the canticle while masked)*

**CANTICLE:** *May God give strength to the people, may God bless the people with peace.*

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country,  
where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.  
When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb.

#### **CANTICLE**

And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry,  
"Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.  
And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me?  
For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy.  
And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment  
of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

#### **CANTICLE**

**Second Lesson** . . . . . Luke 1:46–55

**Sermon** . . . . . *Joseph L. Morrow*

### 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 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.

**We Go Out with Gratitude**

**\*Closing Song** (*congregation sings while masked*) . . . . . "Go Tell It on the Mountain"

*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*)

**\*Benediction**

**Sending Music**

## Worship Leaders

**Joseph L. Morrow** Associate Pastor

**Nanette Sawyer** Associate Pastor

**Clark Costen** Liturgist

**Samme Orwig** 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](http://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](http://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.

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## 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

# 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](http://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](http://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.*

**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). \* **Nursery care will not be available** on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.

# 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](http://www.bit.ly/FPCworship) and YouTube ([www.bit.ly/fpcvideos](http://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](http://www.bit.ly/FPCpodcast)). \* Each week in December we release **a new video in our Advent and Christmas "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](http://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](http://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](http://www.bit.ly/newsfromfpc)**

As a **resource for meditation and prayer** in this season, Fourth Church members and staff have written **Advent and Christmas devotions** you can **receive daily by email** (*sign up at [www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions](http://www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions)*) or read online (*[fourthchurch.org/devotions](http://fourthchurch.org/devotions)*). \* 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](http://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 this 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](mailto:scrow@fourthchurch.org)*). \* For information about **TwentiesThirties Bible Study** for young adults, email Joe Morrow (*[jmorrow@fourthchurch.org](mailto:jmorrow@fourthchurch.org)*).



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](http://www.bit.ly/1619class) \* **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 online at [www.bit.ly/firsttuesday122](http://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](mailto:scrow@fourthchurch.org)*).



**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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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.



**Our congregation is celebrating its sesquicentennial!** During this 150th anniversary year we encourage you to visit the web page **[www.fourthchurch.org/150](http://www.fourthchurch.org/150)** to read historical accounts and view video messages.



**The Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago**

Church office: 126 E. Chestnut Street, Chicago, IL 60611.2014 • [www.fourthchurch.org](http://www.fourthchurch.org)  
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