



Fourth Presbyterian Church

First Sunday after Christmas

December 26, 2021 • 10:00 a.m.

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Canonic Variations on “From Heaven Above to Earth I Come” . . . Johann Sebastian Bach

Introit :: “Under the Stars” George F. Reynolds

Under the stars one holy night, a little babe was born.

Over his head a star shone bright and glistened 'til the morn.

*And wise men came from far away, and shepherds wandered
where he lay upon the lowly bed of hay, under the stars one night.*

***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: *God is here! The Messiah has come!*

All: We open our eyes to see him and lift our eyes to worship him.

Leader: *We lift our voices in prayer.*

All: We lift our voices in praise.

Leader: *We have come giving thanks for Jesus, our Savior and King.
Come, let us worship.*

All: Come, let us adore him: Christ the Lord!



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

***Carol 134** (*congregation sings while masked*) “Joy to the World”

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

O Lord, even as the joy of Christmas continues to reverberate all around us,
we confess that we have not always lived lives
that proclaim your joy or witness to your hope.

We have not searched for signs of your love in the world
or trusted your good news to be good.

We ask you to make us humble and loving like Jesus—
who did not come to be served but to serve,
and who said that it is better to give than to receive—
so that in his name we may devote ourselves
to the care and service of all who are in need.

We ask all this in the name of the one
who came to show us how to walk in your ways. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

Leader: *Friends, believe the good news:*

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Welcome and Announcements

Anthem :: “Love Came Down at Christmas” John Rutter

*Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, love divine;
Love was born at Christmas, star and angels gave the sign.
Worship we the Godhead, Love incarnate, love divine;
worship we our Jesus, but wherewith for sacred sign?
Love shall be our token, Love be yours and love be mine;
love to God and all souls, Love to plea, and gift and sign.*

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter Psalm 148

***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.*

Scripture Lesson Luke 2:41–52

Sermon Rocky Supinger

Responding to the Word

***Carol 115** (*congregation sings while masked*) “Away in a Manger”

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky, and stay by my side until morning is nigh.
Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

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

***Affirmation of Faith** (*unison*) from *A Brief Statement of Faith* (PCUSA)

In life and in death we belong to God.

Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,
whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.

Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:

preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives,
teaching by word and deed and blessing the children,
healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts,
forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

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 :: "En Natus est Emanuel" Michael Praetorius

Behold is born Emmanuel, Christ the Lord, him foretold by Gabriel, Christ the Lord, the Savior of the world. He lieth in a manger bed, Christ the Lord, wondrous little boy he is, Christ the Lord, the Savior of the world. The light appeareth on this day, Christ the Lord, born of Mary, virgin maid, Christ the Lord, the Savior of the world.

***Offertory Response** (*congregation sings while masked*) The Hymnal, 712 (*verse 3*)

In gratitude and humble trust we bring our best today,
to serve your cause and share your love with all along life's way.
O God who gave yourself to us in Jesus Christ your Son,
help us to give ourselves each day until life's work is done.

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

God of wonder, we offer you these humble gifts,
signs of your goodness and mercy.
Receive them with our gratitude,
that through us all people may know
the riches of your love in the Word-made-flesh. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

***Carol 132** (*congregation sings while masked*) “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven’s door, and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude :: Good Christian Friends, Rejoice J. S. Bach

*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.*



We are glad to be worshipping 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 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 would 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.** We also offer **in-person Morning Prayer** on Wednesdays 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).

Fourth Church offers a variety of ways to connect with one another, whether in person or online.

Those worshipping 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).



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. The speakers will be Joseph L. Morrow, Associate Pastor for Evangelism and Community Engagement; Natalie Moore, WBEZ journalist and author of *The South Side: A Portrait of Chicago and American Segregation*; David Daniels III, Professor of Church History, McCormick Theological Seminary; and Bradford Hunt, History Department Chair, Loyola University. 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 served in Anderson Hall on Tuesdays (except December 28), Wednesdays, and Thursdays 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) needs **volunteers to help with sorting, sizing, and organizing donated clothes** for distribution to participants. If you are interested in volunteering in the new year on 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). ✨ The **Benevolent Guild** will meet on Wednesday, January 5 at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom. For details, email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org).

The church office will be closed this week on Monday and Tuesday, December 27 and 28 for the staff observance of Christmas and on Friday, December 31 for New Year's.



While we will not be gathering for a New Year's Eve service this year, we invite you to find time on Friday, December 31 to **watch our 2020 online New Year's Eve Taizé service**, which was cohosted by Holy Name Cathedral. This worship experience invites you to **reflect on the year past and the year to come**. You can find the video, to watch whenever it fits your schedule, on our YouTube channel at www.bit.ly/newyearstaize2020



If you missed our online **Children's Pageant** or **Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols** service—or would like to enjoy them again or share them with others—we invite you to view them at www.bit.ly/FPCworship or YouTube (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos). ✱ Similarly, if you missed our **Christmas with Tower Brass** concert or **John Sherer's organ concert of Christmas favorites** on December 17, you can still enjoy them online at www.bit.ly/fpcprograms or YouTube.



For those wanting to **make a year-end gift or fulfill their 2021 Stewardship pledge by credit card**, charges must be made to the card by 11:59 p.m. on Friday, December 31 in order for those gifts to be credited on 2021 giving statements. For those wanting to **make a gift or pledge fulfillment by check** and have the gift credited on 2021 giving statements, please be sure the envelope is postmarked December 31. ✱ For information about making gifts through **stock transfers or required distributions from one's IRA** or **prepaying one's 2022 pledge**, please contact Katy Frey Bever (kbever@fourthchurch.org).



Our **Interim Minister for Caring Ministries, Dave Handley**, will be ending his term as Interim Minister on Sunday, January 9. We are deeply grateful for Dave and all that he has brought to Fourth Church caring ministries and spiritual formation—and for his time with us as Associate Pastor from 1973 to 1981! There will be opportunity to express gratitude to Dave during fellowship time following worship on January 9, and for those who will not be with us in person, we invite you to email your well wishes to Dave (dhandley@fourthchurch.org).

As a **resource for meditation and prayer**, Fourth Church members and staff have written **Christmas devotions**, which you can **receive daily by email** (*sign up at www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions*) or read online (*fourthchurch.org/devotions*). ✨ Also available will be our **Christmastide “Rhythm and Word” video**. This brief worship experience, which weaves together scripture, prayer, and music by the Fourth Church Jazz Quartet, will be released on Wednesday, December 29 at 6:00 p.m. on **our YouTube channel** (*www.bit.ly/fpcvideos*), where it will also be available for viewing afterwards. Our “Rhythm and Word” video series will then take a break during January and return on Wednesdays in February. To **receive the videos by email**, sign up online at www.bit.ly/rhythmwordemail



Men’s Bible Study meets online on Tuesdays at 7:30 a.m., and **Horizons Bible Study for women** hosts two online sessions on Wednesday, January 12, 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*). ✨ If you haven’t yet had time to listen to the new **podcast “Bible Top Ten”** hosted by Matt Helms and Rocky Supinger, we invite you to take twenty minutes to enjoy one of the episodes in this lively, often lighthearted, always interesting podcast about the Bible as explored through a rotating series of top ten lists. You can find it at fourthchurch.org/podcast



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! ✨ **On Sunday, February 13, 2022**, we will conclude our sesquicentennial year with a festive service of worship at 10:00 a.m. **John Buchanan, Pastor Emeritus, will preach** that morning, and we hope that current and former members and staff will come together in worship that today—whether online or in person—as we celebrate this congregation’s legacy and look toward our future.

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**

Worship Leaders

Matt Helms, Margaret Laing, Rocky Supinger

The Music Today

Members of 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 Christmas season.

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 TEXT FOR THE ANTHEM “LOVE CAME DOWN AT CHRISTMAS” was written in 1885 by Christina Rossetti (1830–1894). Rossetti, who lived in London, began writing poetry at the age of twelve and continued writing poems throughout her life, including the much-loved “In the Bleak Midwinter.” She was passionate about social justice issues of her time, opposing slavery, animal cruelty, and the exploitation of workers; she also volunteered at a women’s shelter in London.

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

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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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