



**Second Sunday after Christmas**

## **We Approach God**

### **Gathering Music**

### **Welcome and Announcements**

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

We come to this place—

**each of us on our own path.**

The path is winding,

**and the path is not always clear,**

and the path changes,

**but we are here.**

God is walking us home.

**What a gift it is to not walk alone.**

Let us worship Holy God.

\* 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*) . . . . . “We Three Kings of Orient Are”

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

*Refrain:*

O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!

Born a King on Bethlehem’s plain, gold I bring to crown him again,  
King forever, ceasing never over us all to reign. (*Refrain*)

Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a deity nigh;  
prayer and praising gladly raising, worshiping God Most High. (*Refrain*)

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb. (*Refrain*)

Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! sounds through the earth and skies. (*Refrain*)

**We Tell the Truth about Ourselves**

**Prayer of Confession** (*unison*)

**God of changed plans,  
the magi heard in a dream that they were to take a new way home—  
a different path, an untraveled road.  
And to our amazement, they did just that.  
The magi packed their bags and went home by another way.  
We wish that change could be easy for us, but more often than not,  
when whispers of change come, we tend to clench our fists and hold on tighter.  
Forgive us for resisting change that might be holy.  
Forgive us for ignoring that there is more than one road home.  
Forgive us for failing to hear your invitation.  
Guide our steps to unfamiliar places; gratefully we pray. Amen.**

**God Forgives and Blesses Us**

Friends, believe the good news!  
**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Psalter** (*congregation sings the antiphon while masked*) . . . . . Psalm 72:1–7, 10–14

**ANTIPHON:** *For he shall deliver the poor who cry out in distress,  
and he shall have pity on the needy and the weak.*

Give the king your justice, O God,  
and your righteousness to the king's son;  
that he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice;  
that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,  
and the hills, in righteousness.  
Let him defend the needy among the people,  
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.

**ANTIPHON**

May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,  
from one generation to another.  
Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,  
like showers that water the earth.  
In his time may the righteous flourish;  
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.  
May he rule from sea to sea, and from the river Euphrates to the ends of the earth.  
May his foes bow down before him, and his enemies lick the dust.  
May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles pay tribute,  
and the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.  
May all kings bow down before him, and all the nations do him service.

**ANTIPHON**

For the king delivers the poor who cry out in distress,  
the oppressed, and those who have no helper.  
He has compassion on the lowly and poor,  
and preserves the lives of the needy.  
From oppression and violence he redeems their lives,  
and precious is their blood in his sight.

**ANTIPHON**

**Scripture Lesson** . . . . . Matthew 2:1–12

**Sermon** . . . . . Nanette Sawyer

**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 of new beginnings, we offer these gifts to you today because we love you.**

**The world will tell us to keep our money to ourselves, to hold it tight, to tuck  
it away, but just as the magi made a different choice, we make a different choice.**

**Instead, we give what we have, trusting that when we live like we belong to one  
another we will see a better world. So take these gifts and use them for your good.**

**With hope we pray. Amen.**

## We Go Out with Gratitude

**\*Closing Song** (*congregation sings while masked*) . . . . . “The First Nowell”

The first Nowell the angel 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.

*Refrain:* Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night. (*Refrain*)

And by the light of that same star three wise men came from country far;  
to seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went. (*Refrain*)

This star drew nigh to the northwest; o’er Bethlehem it took its rest,  
and there it did both stop and stay, right over the place where Jesus lay. (*Refrain*)

Then entered in those wise men three, full reverently upon their knee,  
and offered there in his presence their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. (*Refrain*)

Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
that hath made heaven and earth of nought, and with his blood our life hath bought. (*Refrain*)

**\*Benediction**

**Sending Music**

## Worship Leaders

**Nanette Sawyer** Associate Pastor

**Joseph L. Morrow** Associate Pastor

**Meg O'Hara** Liturgist

**The Fourth Church Jazz Quartet**

## 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](http://www.fourthchurch.org/give-online)) or on the memo line of a check made payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church. Those worshipping in person can also use the special offering envelopes found in the pew racks.

**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.

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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

# 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. \* **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)).

**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)**

**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, January 12, 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)). \* **Daily devotions** written by Fourth Church members and staff as a **resource for meditation and prayer** are available **daily by email** ([sign up at www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions](http://www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions)).



A four-session class on **"The 1619 Project,"** discussing slavery's continuing legacy of injustice and inequality, begins **next 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. **this Tuesday, January 4** at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. For details, register 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)).



Our **Interim Minister for Caring Ministries, Dave Handley,** will be ending his term as Interim Minister next 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 10:00 a.m. worship on January 9;** for those who will not be with us in person, we invite you to email your well wishes to Dave ([dhandley@fourthchurch.org](mailto:dhandley@fourthchurch.org)). As the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee continues its search for an Associate Pastor for Caring Ministries and Spiritual Formation, Jeff Doane, our Parish Associate for Older Adults, will be taking on the role of Parish Associate for Caring Ministries. \* 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](mailto:dhandley@fourthchurch.org)) is receiving these requests as part of our Morning Prayer and Deacon Prayer Ministries.



**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. \* 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.