



Fourth Presbyterian Church

Second Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2023 • 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

“Sleepers, Wake!” A Voice Astounds Us Johann Sebastian Bach
Savior of the Nations, Come J. S. Bach
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel Leo Sowerby

Introit

“Prepare the Way of the Lord” Richard Proulx
Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight his paths. Rejoice, the Lord is at hand!

*Doxology

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 adapted from Psalm 85

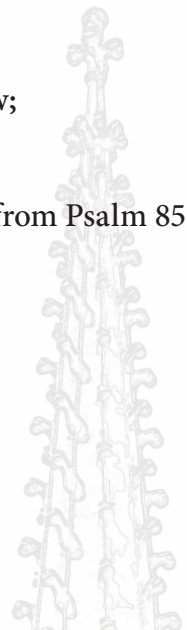
One: *Surely God’s salvation is at hand and God’s glory will dwell in our land.*

All: Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

One: *Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,
and righteousness will look down from the sky.*

All: Show us your steadfast love, O God, and grant us your salvation. Amen!

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



***Hymn 87** “Comfort, Comfort Now My People”

“Comfort, comfort now my people; tell of peace!” So says our God.
“Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow’s load.
To my people now proclaim that my pardon waits for them!
Tell them that their sins I cover, and their warfare now is over.”

For the herald’s voice is crying in the desert far and near,
calling us to true repentance, since the reign of God is here.
O, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way.
Let the valleys rise in meeting and the hills bow down in greeting.
Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain.
Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits God’s holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord now on earth is shed abroad,
and all flesh shall see the token that God’s word is never broken.

Prayer of Confession and Lighting of the Advent Wreath (*unison*)

God of steadfast love and mercy, we confess our sins before you.
In your light, we recognize how many of our decisions and our priorities
are shaped by the wisdom of this present age.
We have brought much pain and trouble upon ourselves,
and we have contributed to the trouble and pain of others.
Forgive us in your grace and mercy, and teach us your ways through Jesus Christ,
your beloved Son and Wisdom. Amen.

Hymn 88 (*verse 2*) “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

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.

Declaration of Pardon

One: *Believe this good news:*
All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

*Exchange of Peace

Leader: *The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.*

People: And also with you.

We invite you to greet those around you, wishing them “peace” or “the peace of Christ,” and encourage those online to use this time to share your presence with us, using the online form.

Welcome and Announcements

The Sacrament of Baptism (11:00)

Anthem

“And the Glory of the Lord” from *Messiah* George Frideric Handel
*And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.*

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson Isaiah 40:1–11

One: *The Word of God for the people of God.*

All: Thanks be to God.

(9:30) Children age three through grade five are invited to come forward during the singing of the Gloria Patri.

*Gloria Patri

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.

(9:30) Children depart for Sunday School with their teachers.

Second Lesson Mark 1:1–8

One: *The grass withers, and the flower fades,*

All: *but the word of our God shall stand forever.*

Sermon

The Metanoia Man Tom Are Jr.

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

Responding to the Word

***Hymn 129** “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

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*) Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. 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

Offertory Anthem

“People, Look East” (9:30) French folk melody/arr. Robert Evans
People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year. Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth, and set the table. People, look east, and sing today: Love the Guest, is on the way. Birds, though ye long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be filled. Even the hour when wings are frozen he for fledging time has chosen. People, look east, and sing today: Love the Bird is on the way. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall brim, shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together. People, look east, and sing today, Love the Star is on the way. Angels, announce to man and beast him who cometh from the east. Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming. People, look east, and sing today: Love the Lord is on the way.

“Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding” (11:00) Eric H. Thiman
Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding; “Christ is nigh,” it seems to say; “Cast away the dreams of darkness, O ye children of the day!” Wakened by the solemn warning, let the earthbound soul arise; Christ, her Sun, all ill dispelling, shines upon the morning skies. Lo, the Lamb, so long expected, comes with pardon down from heaven; let us haste, with tears of sorrow, one and all to be forgiven; that when next he comes with glory, and the world is wrapped in fear, with his mercy he may shield us, and with words of love draw near. Christ, to thee be endless glory, from all on earth be praise, who from heaven wilt come to save us, and redeem from sinful ways. Honor, glory, might, and blessing to the Father and the Son, with the everlasting Spirit, while eternal ages run. Amen.

***Offertory Response** Hymn 144, v. 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*)

Gracious God, in your goodness you offer us blessing upon blessing.
We joyfully share the fruits of these blessings with you and with all people.
Guide us to use these gifts to do your work so that all may flourish and thrive,
today and every day. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

***Hymn 106** “Prepare the Way, O Zion”

Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley a level way appear.
Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.

Refrain:

O blest is Christ who came in God’s most holy name.

He brings God’s rule, O Zion; he comes from heaven above.

His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth, and love.

Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding.

(refrain)

Fling wide your gates, O Zion; your Savior’s rule embrace,
and tidings of salvation proclaim in every place.

All lands will bow rejoicing, their adoration voicing.

(refrain)

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel Adolphus Hailstork

Baptized today at 11:00

George Edward Faulkner, child of Grace and Alexander Faulkner

You are invited!

December 10–December 16, 2023



The following pages are our invitation to you—an invitation to explore the many opportunities for learning, serving, and community building at Fourth Church as well as an invitation to connect with one another, our staff, and the varied resources available to you here. We hope you will spend a few minutes looking over the opportunities and identifying those that interest you!

Welcome!

We are glad to be worshipping with you today and invite you to continue 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. ✱ Inspired by the radical hospitality of Jesus Christ, we welcome everyone, without exception, into the life of this congregation!

Joining us online

Each Sunday our worshipping body is a wonderful mix of those online, on the phone, and in the pews. For those who prefer to worship online or who are unable to join us in person, we **livestream our 9:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. services** on our YouTube channel (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos), where they can be viewed any time after the services begin. (For tips on how to watch—from the beginning—a service that is already in progress, see fourthchurch.org/watch-from-the-beginning) ✱ Those without Internet access are invited to listen via phone by calling 888.916.9166 at 9:30 a.m.

Joining us in person

If you like to join us for **in-person worship**, we gather at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. ✱ On Sundays the **doors open for worship** a half hour prior to each service. There are three fully accessible entrances, without steps, that lead to the Sanctuary: on Michigan Avenue (*through the glass Loggia doors between the courtyard and the main Sanctuary doors*); at 126 E. Chestnut; and at 115 E. Delaware. ✱ **Sunday parking** is available at 900 N. Michigan (*access from Rush or Walton*) at the rate of \$9 for 6 hours (*and \$18 for up to 12 hours*) 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. ✱ **Worship can be heard** through “T” or “T-coil” settings of hearing aids. ✱ Please silence **electronic devices** during worship.

Joining us with children

Children are always welcome in worship! **If you need to step out to comfort your child**, the Hospitality Suite, on the second floor of the Gratz Center, is a quiet space for families where worship is livestreamed. During the morning services **nursery care** is available on the fourth floor of the Gratz Center for infants through two-year-olds.

Let us know you're worshipping with us!

Please let us know you are here by filling out an **information form**. Those worshipping with us via livestream will find a **link to the online form**—which takes only 20 seconds to complete!—included in the descriptive text below the video (*after exiting full-screen view*); a QR code is also displayed during the “Welcome and Announcements” that can be scanned with a phone camera to take you to the form. Those worshipping with us in person are asked to use the **information pads in the pews**, passing them down the pew so worshipers have opportunity to greet one another by name following the service.

Worship podcasts and sermon text

During the week the Sunday morning **service and sermon is available via podcast** on multiple podcast platforms and at **fourthchurch.org/podcasts** ✱ You can also receive the previous Sunday morning's **sermon text** (*fourthchurch.org/sermons*) **by email** by subscribing at www.bit.ly/fpcsermons.

Prayer and meditation

Those who would like to **offer individual prayers of praise or concern with a Deacon today** are invited to do so in Stone Chapel (*through the door to the right of the pulpit*) following the 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. services. ✱ On Wednesdays we gather at 9:30 a.m. for **Morning Prayer via Zoom** and at 10:00 a.m. for **in-person Morning Prayer** in Buchanan Chapel. For Zoom details, email Nancy Benson-Nicol (nbenson-nicol@fourthchurch.org). ✱ Buchanan Chapel is open for **opportunity to walk the labyrinth** between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. ✱ A **Sacred Pause time of meditation** is offered virtually by our Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being at facebook.com/reploglecenterforcounselingandwellbeing on Tuesdays (7:45 a.m.) and Saturdays (8:30 a.m.).

Advent reflections

Daily Advent devotions, written by Fourth Church members and staff and **based on Advent hymn texts**, are available as a **resource for personal meditation and prayer**. We invite you to receive them in your inbox (*subscribe at www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions*), read them online (*www.fourthchurch.org/devotions*), or share them via Facebook (*www.facebook.com/fourthchurch*). ✱ Our **Advent “Rhythm and Word” video series** offers ten minutes of midweek music, scripture, and prayer for viewing at home. A new video is released each Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. on YouTube. To receive them by email, sign up at www.bit.ly/rhythmwordemail; you can also subscribe to our YouTube channel (*www.bit.ly/fpcvideos*)

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**

Christmas flowers

Today is the last day to make Christmas flowers gifts to remember or honor loved ones. A list of those individuals remembered with a contribution toward the flowers, wreaths, and garlands decorating the Sanctuary and Gratz Center will be printed in the Christmas bulletin. **Contributions can be made online** at www.bit.ly/fpcgift and must be received by today (December 10) for names to appear in the bulletin. For more information, contact Gloria Vicente (312.252.3571; gvicente@fourthchurch.org).

Sharing Christmas joy

There is still time to **help fill Christmas Wishes for the nearly 200 students participating in Chicago Lights Tutoring.** Target, Amazon, Walmart, Starbucks, and McDonald's **gift cards**—in denominations of \$10, \$15, or \$25—can be dropped off at the church reception desk **through this Monday, December 11,** and **monetary contributions** toward book and gift card purchases can be made online or by check (*designated "Christmas Wishes"*) **through this Friday, December 15.** ✨ Our annual **"Light Up a Life"** offering is being received throughout the Advent and Christmas seasons. Gifts to this offering provide funds for **Fourth Church programs** that support our neighbors and congregation; for **Chicago Lights**, as it extends kindness and love to those who are most vulnerable; for **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance**; and for the **Presbyterian Church (USA) Joy Offering.** You can make a gift to "Light Up a Life" by indicating that designation (*when giving online via Venmo or the church website: www.fourthchurch.org/give*) or on the memo line of a check payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church. Those worshipping in the Sanctuary can also use the offering envelopes found in the pew racks.

Advent and Christmas worship

We have some special services on the calendar in the coming days that we hope you will put on yours! **This evening our Festival of Advent Lessons and Music service** will take place at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. ✨ Next Sunday morning, December 17 the **Cookies-and-Cocoa reception** will take place during Coffee Hour, and the **Christmas Cantata**, by Daniel Pinkham, will be part of the 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. services. ✨ For those for whom Christmas celebrations are made difficult by loss, grief, or loneliness, a **"Longest Night" Service** will be held on Wednesday, December 20 at 6:30 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel, preceded by a **labyrinth walk** in Anderson Hall. ✨ On the **morning of Sunday, December 24 we will have just one worship service: at 10:00 a.m.** (*which will also be livestreamed*). Then that afternoon and evening we will gather for the **Christmas Eve Children's Pageant** at 4:00 p.m.; **Family Service** at 6:00 p.m., and **Lessons and Carols** at 8:00 p.m. (*also livestreamed*) and 10:00 p.m. ✨ On **Christmas morning** we will gather again at 10:00 a.m. (*in person only*). ✨ On **Sunday, December 31,** we will worship at 10:00 a.m. in the morning (*also livestreamed*) and at 6:30 p.m. for a candlelit **New Year's Eve Taizé service** (*in person only*). The 2:00 p.m. service will not be held on New Year's Eve or Christmas Eve but will resume on January 7.

Today's opportunities

Those worshipping in person are encouraged to **greet one another during Coffee Hour** in Anderson Hall and the Commons following worship, where there is also opportunity to learn about ways to get connected with one another and Fourth Church. ✱ On exhibit in the Loggia is **"Light in the Darkness,"** featuring the artwork of Jan Brandt and Amy Hanks. ✱ **LGBTQIA+ Widen Our Welcome** gathers after the 9:30 a.m. service for brunch at Tempo (*meet at the church reception desk to walk there together*) and, after brunch, games and beverages at the Drake. ✱ **"Conserving Historic Murals by Frederic Clay Bartlett: A Primer in Art Conservation"** will be the topic of this morning's Adult Education presentation by Elizabeth Kendall and Peter Schoemann of Parma Conservation, who led the recent restoration process of our Sanctuary murals. The class will take place at 11:00 a.m. in Borwell Dining Room and via Zoom (*for the Zoom link, register at www.bit.ly/aebartlett*). ✱ **Eighth-grade Confirmation** meets at 9:30 a.m. in Room 5G. **Junior High** (grades 6–7) gathers at 9:30 a.m. in the Bumpus Room; **Senior High** meets in the Bumpus Room at 11:00 a.m. ✱ **Sunday School** for children from three years old to fifth grade meets at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. on the fourth floor of the Gratz Center. Today the 9:30 students join their parents in worship in the Sanctuary before leaving with their teachers prior to the sermon. ✱ Rehearsing on Sunday mornings are **Children's Choir** (kindergarten–grade 5) at 9:00 a.m. in Room 4G; **Cherub Choir** (ages 3 and 4) at 10:15 a.m. in 4B; and **Youth Choir** (grades 6–12) at 10:30 a.m. in 4G. ✱ The **Handbell Choir**, which also rehearses on Sundays at 12:15 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel Loft, welcomes newcomers to join in ringing. ✱ **Voices of Light**, our gospel choir, invites singers to join them their rehearsal at 1:30 p.m. in Room 4G. ✱ Following the 11:00 service a **pipe organ tour** begins at the front of the Sanctuary. ✱ We invite you to join us this afternoon for **The Gathering: Communion at 2:00**. This more casual, intimate service, which is livestreamed, features a breadth of musical expressions.

Get Connected

Books by Women will discuss ***The Bandit Queens: A Novel*** by Parini Shroff this Tuesday, December 12 at 6:00 p.m. in the Bumpus Room. ✱ **Benevolent Guild**, which creates sewn and crafted items for those in need, meets this Wednesday, December 13 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 5B. *No sewing experience is necessary*. ✱ Next Sunday, December 17 at 11:00 a.m. in Borwell Dining Room and via Zoom, Loyola Museum of Art (LUMA) museum manager and curator Kyle Mathers will present a **program on the history of the crèche** and the James and Emilia Govan collection at LUMA that contains more than 500 nativity scenes, representing more than 100 countries. For the Zoom link, register at www.bit.ly/aecreche1223 ✱ **Women at Fourth will gather for a holiday party** on Tuesday, December 19 at 5:30 p.m. in the Manse. Register at www.bit.ly/waf1223 ✱ For **additional ways to connect** with one another and this congregation, whether in person or online, as well as for various **resources and opportunities**, watch **our website: fourthchurch.org**

Exploring the Bible

Men's Bible Study meets via Zoom on Tuesday mornings at 7:30 a.m. **Horizons Women's Bible Study** meets via Zoom this Wednesday, December 13 at 12:00 and 6:30 p.m. For Zoom details for these studies, email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org). ☼ Matt Helms and Rocky Supinger invite you to tune in to their **"Bible Top Ten" podcast** (www.fourthchurch.org/podcasts). This lively, informative, and often amusing podcast explores the Bible through a rotating series of top ten lists.

Holiday Concerts

This Friday evening, December 15 **Chicago Camerata** will perform **Handel's Messiah** at 7:30 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel. Tickets are available at cameratachicago.org, with a 25 percent discount when using code FPCC. ☼ The seasonal favorite, **A Tower Brass Christmas**, takes place this Saturday, December 16 at 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. No tickets are required, but a \$20 donation per person is suggested at the door. ☼ For a **schedule of upcoming concerts** at Fourth Church, including our free **Friday Noonday Concerts series**, see fourthchurch.org/concerts; this Friday's performance will feature mezzo-soprano Marianna Kulikova, pianist Kenneith Smith, cellist Michael Freilich, and flutist Carol Carpenter.

Pastoral care and a listening presence and witness

To **talk to a pastor** or **notify pastoral staff** of personal concerns, illnesses, hospitalizations, or deaths, email caringministries@fourthchurch.org; if the situation requires immediate attention, please call the church at 312.787.4570 to be connected to the Minister on Call. ☼ To **submit a prayer request** to our Morning Prayer or Deacon Prayer Ministries, email caringministries@fourthchurch.org. ☼ Our **Reprogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being** facilitates **grief groups**. For details, email Sharon Crawford-Tucker (stucker@fourthchurch.org). ☼ To **explore options for counseling**, call the Replogle Center at 312.787.2729, ext. 2260 or visit www.reproglecenter.org. ☼ **For those facing life's challenges**, Stephen Ministers provide a listening presence. To talk with a Stephen Minister, please leave a confidential message at 312.573.3365.

Stay connected

To see all that is going on at Fourth Church, be sure to bookmark our **online church calendar**, which is accessible from our website's home page and at fourthchurch.org/calendar. ☼ We also invite you to **follow us** on YouTube (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos), Facebook (facebook.com/fourthchurch), and Instagram (instagram.com/fourthchurch). ☼ For **snapshots of Fourth Church life** as well as news and updates, subscribe to our weekly newsletter at ww.bit.ly/newsfromfpc

Worship Leaders

Matt Helms, the Giblin Family (9:30), Larry Kerley and David Kandziorski (11:00), Amy Pagliarella, Tom Are Jr.

The Music Today

Morning Choir (9:30); Chancel Choir (11:00)
Michael Rees, Organ Scholar
John W. W. Sherer, Organist and Director of Music

Worship Notes

THIS MORNING'S POSTLUDE was composed by African American composer Adolphus Hailstork.

A prolific composer of music for organ, chorus, and various ensembles, Hailstork (b. 1940) has had works performed by the Chicago, Detroit, and Baltimore Symphony Orchestras.

OFFERING GIFTS TO SUPPORT THE MINISTRY AND MISSION of Fourth Church can be placed in the plates passed during the service, or, afterwards, in an offering box at the exit from the Sanctuary. They also can be given via Venmo (@Fourth-Church) or online at fourthchurch.org/give

Tom Are Jr. Interim Pastor

Lucy Forster-Smith Senior Associate Pastor

Associate Pastors

Nancy Benson-Nicol Caring Ministries and Spiritual Formation

Matt Helms Children, Family, and Welcoming Ministries

Joseph L. Morrow Evangelism and Community Engagement

Nanette Sawyer Discipleship and Small Group Ministry

Rocky Supinger Youth Ministry and Worship

Amy Pagliarella Parish Associate for Caring Ministries

John Buchanan Pastor Emeritus

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THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO

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