

FESTIVAL OF ADVENT LESSONS AND MUSIC • DECEMBER 10, 2023



**Prelude**

Savior of the Nations, Come. . . . . Dieterich Buxtehude  
Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming . . . . . Johannes Brahms  
Advent Antiphons . . . . . Aaron David Miller

**Introit**

“O Gracious Light”. . . . . John W. W. Sherer  
*O gracious Light, pure brightness of the ever-living Father in heaven; O Jesus Christ, holy and  
blessed. Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the vesper light, we sing thy  
praises, O God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Thou art worthy at all times to be praised by happy  
voices, O Son of God, O Giver of life, and to be glorified through all the worlds.*

**Call to Worship**

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THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO

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**\*Hymn 88** . . . . . “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

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.

O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai's height  
in ancient times didst give the law in cloud and majesty and awe.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

*Low voices only:*

O come, thou Root of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
from depths of hell thy people save and give them victory o'er the grave.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

*High voices only:*

O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

*All:*

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;  
bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

**First Lesson** . . . . . Isaiah 40:1–11

**Anthem** :: “I Shall See”. . . . . John Michael Trotta

*Teach me your way; lead me in a straight path. One thing I seek, I seek to dwell in your house.  
Your face I seek, hide not from me. You are my light, whom should I fear? In times of trouble he  
shall hide me. I will not fear, he is my strength. I believe I shall see all of your good in the land of  
the living. Wait upon him, and he will strengthen you. Wait for him, he is your strength. I will  
not fear, he is my strength.*

**Second Lesson** . . . . . Jeremiah 31:31–34

**\*Hymn 357.** . . . . . “The Days Are Surely Coming”

The days are surely coming, says God to all the earth,  
when you will see my promise: salvation come to birth.  
My righteousness and justice will spread throughout the land  
and you will be delivered by my almighty hand.

The days are surely coming, says Christ, the promised one,  
when you will read my warning in moon and stars and sun.  
Though earth and heaven tremble, stand up and do not fear,  
for I am your redeemer, and I am drawing near.

The days are surely coming when we will know at last  
the fullness of God’s presence, God’s promise, come to pass.  
Then righteousness and justice will spread throughout the land  
and we will be delivered by God’s almighty hand.

**Third Lesson ::** “Amazing Peace: A Christmas Poem” . . . . . Maya Angelou

**Anthem ::** “The Eyes of All Wait upon Thee”. . . . . Jean Berger

*The eyes of all wait upon thee, and thou givest them their meat in due season.  
Thou openest thine hand and satisfies the desire of every living thing.*

**Fourth Lesson** . . . . . Isaiah 11:1–9

**\*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.

**Fifth Lesson** . . . . . Zephaniah 3:14–18

**Anthem** :: “Jesus Christ the Apple Tree” . . . . . Elizabeth Poston

*The tree of life my soul hath seen, laden with fruit and always green; the trees of nature fruitless  
be compared with Christ the apple tree. His beauty doth all things excel, by faith I know, but  
n’er can tell, the glory which I now can see in Jesus Christ the apple tree. For happiness I long  
have sought, and pleasure dearly I have bought; I missed of all, but now I see ’tis found in  
Christ the apple tree. I’m weary with my former toil, here I will sit and rest awhile; under the  
shadow I will be, of Jesus Christ the apple tree. This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, it keeps  
my dying faith alive; which makes my soul in haste to be with Jesus Christ the apple tree.*

**Sixth Lesson** . . . . . Luke 1:26–38

**\*Hymn 98** . . . . . “To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary”

To a maid whose name was Mary, the angel Gabriel came.

“Fear not,” the angel told her, “I come to bring good news;  
good news I come to tell you, good news, I say, good news.”

“For you are highly favored by God the Lord of all,  
who even now is with you. You are on earth most blest;  
you are most blest, most blessed; God chose you, you are blest!”

But Mary was most troubled to hear the angel’s word.

What was the angel saying? It troubled her to hear,  
to hear the angel’s message, it troubled her to hear.

“Fear not, for God is with you, and you shall bear a child.  
His name shall be called Jesus, God’s offspring from on high.  
And he shall reign forever, forever reign on high.”

“How shall this be?” said Mary, “I am not yet a wife.”  
The angel answered quickly, “The power of the Most High  
will come upon you shortly, your child shall be God’s child.”

As Mary heard the angel, she wondered at his words.

“Behold, I am your handmaid,” she said unto her God.  
“So be it; I am ready according to your word.”

**Seventh Lesson** :: “The Risk of Birth” . . . . . Madeline L’Engle

**Anthem** :: “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” . . . . . Edward C. Bairstow

*Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and stand with fear and trembling, and lift itself above all earthly thought. For the King of kings and Lord of lords, Christ our God, cometh forth to be our oblation and to be given for food to the faithful. Before him come the choirs of angels, with every principality and power; the cherubim with many eyes, and winged seraphim, who veil their faces as they shout exultingly the hymn, alleluia.*

**Eighth Lesson** . . . . . Luke 1:39–55

**\*Hymn 100.** . . . . . “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*)

**Ninth Lesson** . . . . . John 1:1–18

**Anthem** :: “The Word Was God” . . . . . Rosephanye Powell

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

*The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made that have been made.*

*Nothing was made, he has not made.*

### **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.

### **Offering**

**Offertory Anthem** :: “Keep Your Lamps!” . . . African American spiritual/arr. Andre Thomas

*Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, the time is drawing nigh. Children, don’t get weary  
’til your work is done. Christian, journey soon be over, the time is drawing nigh.*

### **\*Prayer of Dedication**

We give you thanks, O God,

for the hope of this season and the promise of your coming peace.

We bring these gifts in joy—offering them in a spirit of love—

for the sake of your children everywhere. Amen.

**\*Hymn 105** . . . . . “People, Look East”

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.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there.  
Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish.  
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Rose, is on the way.

Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be filled.  
Even the hour when wings are frozen God 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 with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth.  
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.

**Postlude**

Toccata on “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” . . . . . Andrew Carter

For more Advent and Christmas worship opportunities, see  
[www.fourthchurch.org/advent-christmas](http://www.fourthchurch.org/advent-christmas)

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**SOURCES AND CREDITS**

“Amazing Peace: A Christmas Poem,” Maya Angelou, *Amazing Peace: A Celebration*  
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## Worship Leaders

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The Chancel and Morning Choirs  
Michael Rees, Organ Scholar  
John W. W. Sherer, Organist and Director of Music  
Matt Helms, Associate Pastor  
Lucy Forster-Smith, Senior Associate Pastor  
Colleen Mraz  
Toni Yang  
Drew Cupps  
Larry Kerley  
Cate Cupps  
Reb Banker  
Kash Morgan

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### 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; 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](http://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.

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**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

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