



Prelude

Cordes Natus ex Parentis Sixteenth-century trope/arr. Berry and Flint
Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming Michael Praetorius/arr. Erich Peterson
Sleepers, Awake! Johann Sebastian Bach
In the Bleak Midwinter Gustav Holst/arr. Charlie Schuchat
The Wild Wood Carol John Rutter/arr. Eric Bell
Choral Prelude on "Quem Pastores". Helmut Walcha
O Holy Night Adolphe Adam/arr. Aaron David Miller

Introit :: Today, a Savior Is Born for Us. Richard Proulx
Today, today a Savior is born for us, Christ the Lord.
O come, let us adore him!

Opening Sentences

Carol 140. “Once in Royal David’s City”
(*stanza one sung by soloist; congregation stands to sing remaining stanzas*)

Once in royal David’s city stood a lowly cattle shed,
 where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:
 Mary was that mother mild; Jesus Christ, her little child.
He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
 and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;
 with the poor and meek and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.
Jesus is our childhood’s pattern; day by day like us he grew;
 he was little, weak, and helpless; tears and smiles like us he knew;
 and he feels for all our sadness, and he shares in all our gladness.
And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;
 for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above;
 and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

Prayer for Christmas Eve (*unison*)

Loving God, you live beyond time and dwell beyond space.
You sent your only Son to know the weakness of human flesh and yet to reign as Holy King.
Who are we that you should come to us?
Yet you have humbled yourself.
You came down to breathe the same air we breathe,
 to know what it is to be weary, or afraid,
 or to suffer a broken body and a broken heart.
You came to reveal a love the whole world has been waiting for.
In the name of the love that breathes us to life, we pray. Amen.

First Lesson. Isaiah 9:2–7

AntheM :: “Shepherd’s Pipe Carol” John Rutter

Second Lesson Isaiah 11:1–4, 6–9

***Carol 113** “Angels We Have Heard on High”

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o’er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Third Lesson Luke 1:26–35, 38

***Carol 144** “In the Bleak Midwinter”

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan;
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign:
in the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
the Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there;
cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
but his mother only, in her maiden bliss,
worshiped the beloved with a kiss.

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.

Fourth Lesson Luke 2:1-7

***Carol 133** “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;
O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold him, born the King of angels!
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

True God from true God, Light from light eternal,
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
very God, begotten, not created!
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Fifth Lesson Luke 2:8-20

Homily Camille Cook Howe

***Carol 121** “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

Sixth Lesson Matthew 2:1–12

Prayer

Offering

Offertory Anthem

“Lully, Lulla, Thou Little Tiny Child” Coventry Carol/arr. Kenneth Leighton
*Lully, lulla, thou little tiny child, by, by, lully, lullay. O sisters too, how may we do for to
preserve this day this poor youngling, for whom we sing by, by, lully, lullay! Herod, the king,
in his raging, charg’d he hath this day his men of might, in his own sight, all children young to slay.
That woe is me, poor child, for thee! And ever morn and may, for thy parting, not say nor sing,
by, by, lully, lullay.*

Seventh Lesson. John 1:1–5

Spreading the Light “Silent Night”

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright

’round yon virgin mother and child! Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace; sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;

glories stream from heaven afar, heav’nly hosts sing “Alleluia:
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born!”

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love’s pure light

radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth; Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;

with the angels let us sing Alleluia to our King:
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born.

Sentences of Light

***Carol 119** “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king.

Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”

Joyful all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;

with the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord,

late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin’s womb.

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate deity,

pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!

Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.

Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,

born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”

***Benediction**

***Choral Response** :: “Beside Thy Cradle, Here I Stand” Johann Sebastian Bach

*Beside thy cradle here I stand, O thou that ever livest,
and bring thee with a willing hand the very gifts thou givest.
Accept me; 'tis my mind and heart, my soul, my strength, my every part,
that thou from me requirest.*

***Postlude**

Go, Tell It on the Mountain African American spiritual/arr. A. D. Miller

***Gifts supporting Christmastime Sanctuary adornments have
been made in memory and in honor of family, friends, and loved ones.***

In Memory of

Mary Shawn Addington
Rev. Carol J. Allen
Bea and Arlo Anderson
Jeanne Anderson
Norman Anderson
Edward J. Andrew
Bill and Ruth Andrews
James and Joan Bailey
Mr. and Mrs. O.E. Banker
Deborah Beiser Barber
Mr. and Mrs. Henry Beard
Richard Beilfuss
Donna Blomquist
Mary E. Bolton
Russell and Mary J. Bolton
Jack Bonino
Jim Bonnell
Allan and Florence Book
Sonja Bowen
John H. Boyle
Eleanor T. and Colver R. Briggs
Carl and Irma Broders
Rev. and Mathilda Broders
Carolyn Sue Kearney Buchanan
John McCormick Buchanan
Daniel Blaine Bumgardner
Steve Bumpus
Marc and Frances Burr
Michael Campanella
Charles C. Carson
Cedric Charles Carter
Chester and Lillie Stean Carter
Catherine and Hal Clark
Edythe and Henry Clum and
Jean Clum Wojtowicz
David and Patricia Clyde
Hunter Quigley Coe
Mike, Sally, John, and
Mary Alice Conlon
Edwin and Barbara Cook
Tom Costen
Karl Cremieux
Robert and Arvilla Crouch
Chet Currier
Jeanne Periolat Czula
Cloyd and Una DeFreitas
Shirley Gleason Dillon
Katy Donovan
Lou and Bud Dust
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Stanley and Joanne Erjavac
Helen and Elliott Faulk
Peggy Faulkner
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April Fleming
Mildred Fleming
Wilbert Fleming
Lavan and Louise Flessner
June and Jack Fletcher
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David B. and Timothy Forsythe
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Tanya Gould
Jerald and Lauretta Graetz
Samuel Graunke
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Shirley Lacy
Larry Ladendorf
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Carolyn L. Lane
Dannen, Clifford, and Betty
Latherow
Tom Leahy
Martha Hopkins Lehnis
Milton Lehnis
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Barbara Horsman Mason
Betty and Sandy Mauldin
Sanford L. (Sammy) Mauldin Jr.
Charles McAdams Jr.
Karen McCracken
James K. McDermott Jr.
Jerry and Grace McFarlane
John D. McGrae Jr.
Michael McMurry
Brian J. Meginnes
Lourdes and Hans Melion and
Harriette Helmer
Ellen Bierwagen Meyer
Ed and Julia Miller
Marcus J. and Betty Cole Miller
Susan Allison Moser
Dana Ferguson Myers
Robert E. Olson
Elizabeth B. and David Forbes
Orwig
Wayne and Gerry Peak
Don and Janet Peters
Bob Petkus
June and Clarence Pitts
William V. Porter
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Lorene and Luther Repogle
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William and Eva Roberts
Claud and Marcella Ruch
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Swadeshi and Nand Sharma
Morgan F. Simmons
David Lamar Singleton
John and Maude Singleton
Samuel Myrus Singleton
Daniel and Janis Smyth
Don and Waunita Snyder

Hyman and Aurelia Spann
Robin Marie Steinbach
The Stevenson Family
Sue Stealey
Jane Ann Stewart
Hazel and Douglas Storer
Michael Sturrus
Vilda Sutherlin
Jill Swart
Cecy R. Szuba
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The Reverend Stuart G. Wysham
and Joan B. Wysham
Elizabeth Yelda
Frances M. Youngwirth
Janet Zaleski
Ruth, Eugene, and Gene Zeltmann

In Honor of

Edith G. Andrew
Kristin Anderson Schewe
Elsa's Son
Emma Cox
Scott Kohler and Sieu Duong
Gwynne Geuther
Linda Gibboney
Pete and Caroline Giers
Beth Hickman
Josephine Horsman
Dorothee Knapp
Penelope Dale Kurtze
Fourth Church Meals Ministry
Fourth Church Morning Choir
Fourth Church Stephen Ministers
Micah Marty
Lydia S. Olson
Lucy Emerson Periolat
Nancy Pitts
Ann Rehfeldt
Jennifer, Madison, and
Ayden Snedigar
Sue Thompson
Beverly Tunney
Jodi, Eliot, Mila, Zoe, and Noah
Wickersheimer

Christmas blessings to you!

We are delighted to be celebrating with you this Christmas Eve!

As our Advent hymn of “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” joyfully transitions to “O Come, Let Us Adore Him,” we embrace together the promise that has come to life: God with us. Inspired by the radical hospitality of the one born in the manger, we welcome everyone, without exception, into the life of this congregation.

We invite you to join us on the journey 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. This season and always may you know and rejoice in the abiding presence of God with you. Merry Christmas!

Christmas Eve

Christmas Eve services

This evening our candlelight Christmas Eve celebrations here in the Sanctuary continue with this Lessons and Carols service at 8:00 p.m. (also livestreamed and available to view later) and at 10:00 p.m.

Children in worship

Children are always welcome in worship! There is no nursery care on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.

Discounted parking

To receive discounted parking at the 900 N. Michigan garage today, use the QR code on the back cover of this bulletin, where you will also find information about using it. If you have not previously set up an online payment account with Metropolis Parking (through which the discounted rate is available), ushers have information cards to help. (Note: This code is different from the Sunday one.)

Sundays of Christmas

We will gather again for worship this Sunday, December 28 at 10:00 a.m. and again on Sunday, January 4 at 10:00 a.m., both in person and via livestream.

There will be just one worship service each on those Christmas Sundays.

Nursery care will be available on both Sundays, but Sunday school will be on break for the next two weekends, resuming on Sunday, January 11. Children are invited to be with their parents in worship on those days.

Christmas Day

Christmas Day worship

We invite you to join us again tomorrow when we gather on Christmas morning for a joy-filled service of worship at 10:00 a.m. (in person only).

As with today, children are invited to be with us for the entire service, as there will be no nursery care, and discounted parking at the 900 N. Michigan garage will be available by using the QR code on the back cover of this bulletin or the Christmas Day bulletin.

Online resources

While we will not be livestreaming the Christmas Day service, we encourage those looking for an online option to enjoy any of our past seasonal offerings, including tonight’s service, available on YouTube (bit.ly/fpcvideos).

We will also be sharing there tomorrow morning a brief Christmas “Rhythm and Word” video (also available as a podcast), offering scripture and a reflection by Pastor Nanette Sawyer for Christmas Day.

New Year’s Eve Taizé Service

At the turning of the year, on Wednesday, December 31, we will gather in our Sanctuary with neighbors and our friends from Holy Name Cathedral at 6:30 p.m. for a candlelit New Year’s Eve Taizé service (in person only).

This Taizé service offers moving music, space for prayer, and meditative pause for reflecting on the year past and looking ahead to the year to come.

A time of fellowship will follow the service.

Sharing Christmas Joy

Our annual “Light Up a Life” offering is being received throughout the Christmas season. Gifts designated to this offering provide funds for Fourth Church programs that support our neighbors and congregation and for Chicago Lights, as it extends kindness and love to those who are most vulnerable.

You can make a gift to “Light Up a Life” by selecting that designation from the drop-down menu when giving via fourthchurch.org/give (also accessible by using the QR code on the back page of this bulletin).

If giving by check, please make the check payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church and write “Light Up a Life” on the memo line. You can also use the offering envelopes from the pew racks.

Christmas Reflections

Daily Christmas devotions

Daily Christmas devotions, written by Fourth Church members and staff, are available as a resource for personal meditation and prayer. We invite you to receive them in your inbox (subscribe online at bit.ly/fpcdevotions), read them online (fourthchurch.org/devotions), or share them via Facebook (facebook.com/fourthchurch).

Weekly “Rhythm and Word” reflections

Our “Rhythm and Word” video series offers a brief midweek video of scripture and a pastoral reflection for viewing at home. The next video will be released on Christmas Day at 9:00 a.m. on YouTube.

On December 31 we will return to releasing the videos on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.

Sign up at bit.ly/fpcrandw to receive them by email; you can also subscribe to our YouTube channel (bit.ly/fpcvideos).

These midweek reflections are also available via podcast at fourthchurch.org and multiple podcast platforms.

Worshiping with Us in Person

If you like to join us for in-person worship, we typically gather at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. on Sundays, though as noted on page 9, we will have just one service each—at 10:00 a.m.—on Sunday, December 28 and Sunday, January 4.

Sound

- Worship can be heard through “T” or “T-coil” settings of hearing aids.
- Please silence electronic devices during worship.

Worshiping with Us Online

Livestream

Each Sunday our worshiping 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 will be livestreaming on our YouTube channel (bit.ly/fpcvideos) the 10:00 a.m. service on Sundays December 28 and January 4. Livestreamed services can be viewed any time after they begin. When our regular Sunday schedule resumes on January 11, we will return to livestreaming our 9:30 a.m. service.

For those without Internet

Those without Internet access are invited to listen via phone by calling 888.916.9166 at the time of the livestreamed service.

Worship Podcasts and Sermon Texts

Podcasts

Podcasts from Fourth Church—available on multiple platforms and at fourthchurch.org/podcasts—include the Sunday worship service; the Sunday sermon; weekly “Rhythm and Word” reflections; and “Bible Top Ten.”

Sermons

To read the text of the previous Sunday sermon (or past sermons in our archives), see fourthchurch.org/sermons or, to receive them by email, subscribe at bit.ly/fpcsermon

Pastoral Care and a Listening Presence

Pastoral care

If you would like to talk to a pastor or notify pastoral staff of personal concerns, illnesses, hospitalizations, or deaths, please email Gloria Fleming (gffleming@fourthchurch.org).

If the situation requires immediate attention, please call the church at 312.787.4570 to be connected to the Minister on Call.

Stephen Ministry

For a one-to-one listening presence through life challenges, consider being paired with a Stephen Minister. To learn more about this resource, leave a confidential message at 312.573.3365 or contact Pastor Nancy Benson-Nicol (nbenson-nicol@fourthchurch.org).

Stay Connected

We hope to stay connected with you in the seasons ahead and invite you to take advantage of the many opportunities for learning, serving, and community building at Fourth Church.

You can find details about them and additional ways to connect with one another and this congregation, whether in person or online, on our website: **fourthchurch.org** where you will also discover various resources. Please do take some time to explore any of the opportunities that interest you—or even just make you curious!

News, updates, and snapshots

Look for information, updates, and snapshots of life at Fourth Church—including our Christmas celebrations—in our weekly email newsletter, to which you can subscribe at **bit.ly/newsfromfpc** and visit our news archive at **fourthchurch.org/news**

We invite you to follow us on YouTube (bit.ly/fpcvideos), Facebook ([/fourthchurch](https://www.facebook.com/fourthchurch)), and Instagram ([/fourthchurch](https://www.instagram.com/fourthchurch)) and to bookmark our calendar: fourthchurch.org/calendar

Prayer

Morning Prayer

Fourth Church maintains a practice of praying for each member's household throughout the year.

On Wednesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. you are invited to gather for Morning Prayer via Zoom to pray for members by name, all those who are in need, and mission partners around the world. For details, email Pastor Nancy Benson-Nicol (nbenson-nicol@fourthchurch.org). While Morning Prayer will take a one-week break this coming Wednesday, December 31, it will resume on Wednesday, January 7.

Prayer requests

If you would like to submit a prayer request for our prayer ministries, please email Gloria Fleming (gffleming@fourthchurch.org).

Opportunities to Connect through Serving

If you are looking for ways to connect with others while making a difference in 2026, we invite you to explore our varied opportunities for sharing your gifts and talents—perhaps by serving meals, mentoring youth, or ushering. We invite you to browse those and many more volunteer opportunities at bit.ly/fpcvolunteers for activities that might match your interests, or contact Robert Crouch (rcrouch@fourthchurch.org), Director of Volunteer Ministry.

Connecting Online

Whether you live out of state, are traveling, are unable to be with us in person, or find online opportunities to be a meaningful complement to your in-person experiences, we invite you to explore our online opportunities—from worship to Bible studies, Morning Prayer, classes, and concerts—for deepening your connections with your faith and with others: fourthchurch.org/online/connections.html

Worship Leaders

Camille Cook Howe, Nanette Sawyer, Towanna Griggs (8:00), Jack Zeiger (10:00), Joseph L. Morrow, Nancy Benson-Nicol, Rocky Supinger, Matt Helms, Amy Pagliarella

The Music Tonight

The Morning Choir
Tower Brass; Charles Schuchat, Artistic Director
Doug Cleveland, Interim Organist and Director of Music

Make a Gift to Light Up a Life This Season



GIFTS TO OUR CHRISTMAS Light Up a Life Offering provide funds for Fourth Church programs that support our neighbors and congregation and for Chicago Lights, as it extends kindness and love to those who are most vulnerable. To make a gift to this offering, use the QR code at left (fourthchurch.org/give) or Venmo (@Fourth-Church) and designate it to Light Up a Life. Or use the envelopes in the pew racks and place those envelopes in the offering plates when they are passed or in an offering box at the Sanctuary exit.

Camille Cook Howe Pastor
Rocky Supinger Senior Associate Pastor
Nancy Benson-Nicol Associate Pastor
Matt Helms Associate Pastor
Joseph L. Morrow Associate Pastor
Nanette Sawyer Associate Pastor
Amy Pagliarella Parish Associate for Caring Ministries

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THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO
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www.fourthchurch.org • www.facebook.com/fourthchurch
312.787.4570 Voicemail: 312.787.2729

Those attending a Fourth Church worship service in person are entering an area where photography, video, and audio recording may occur on behalf of Fourth Church. By entering the worship service, you consent to the non-commercial use of the resulting visual and audio records; you waive all rights you may have to any claims of compensation for the use of these records; you release Fourth Church from any liability for the use of these records; and you waive the right to inspect or approve any of these records.



Discounted parking is available at 900 N. Michigan (*access from Rush or Walton; online payment only*) for \$9 on Christmas Eve when using either the Metropolis Parking app (*iPhone*) or metropolis.io/join (*Android*) to scan the discount QR code at left no more than 10 minutes before leaving the garage. The code is also available on cards from the ushers; the same rate will be available on Christmas Day by again using the QR code at left.