

All proclamations about God must be surrounded by silence—a silence that kneels before the ineffable mystery. When it comes to God we're all blind and deaf and therefore ought to be, at least now and then, mute. Who has a mind large enough and a spirit capacious enough to embrace deity? Knowledge of the divine must be knowledge we have received; it comes not from clever intellectualizing, imaginative speculation, or spiritual daydreaming, but from quiet attentive listening.

Christian faith affirms that the One who is wholly other, who is obscured by the thick darkness of our own ignorance, has shined a light of self-revelation. This divine Word, being personal, has a name: Jesus Christ.

Donald McCullough
If Grace Is So Amazing, Why Don't We Like It?

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*We are grateful for your presence and invite you to participate
in the worship, program, and service life of Fourth Church.*

During Today's Worship

Large-print bulletins, Bibles, and hymnals and individual listening devices for improved sound are available in the back of the sanctuary.

If your infant or small child needs care during the worship service, you may leave the sanctuary and return as you wish. The worship service audio can be heard in Stone Chapel, where you and your child are also welcome. Child care for infants and toddlers is provided in Westminster 14, through the south transept doors and to the right. See an usher for directions.

Worship bags, containing quiet activities and a bulletin designed for children, are available outside the south transept doors, between the sanctuary and Anderson Hall. Children who are attending worship in the sanctuary are invited to borrow one of these bags.

During the Concerns of the Church, please pass the pew information pads, so that all worshipers have an opportunity to provide updated information and to greet one another by name following the service.

Please turn off all cell phones when in the sanctuary.

If You Are New to Fourth Church

Please wear a lapel pin, found in the pew racks, so we might greet you after worship.

We invite you to stop by Coffee Hour after worship for fellowship, conversation, and information about church programs and volunteer opportunities.

A church tour begins at 12:15 p.m., starting at the back of the sanctuary.

Parking is available Sundays at the John Hancock Center, 875 North Michigan Avenue (access Chestnut Street), at the rate of \$7.00 until 2:00 p.m. and at 900 North Michigan (access from Rush or Walton Street) at the rate of \$7.75 to 4:00 p.m. and \$6.00 after 5:00 p.m. Validation tickets must be picked up during Coffee Hour or from the Chestnut Street reception desk.

Inquirers' Class offers an opportunity to explore Presbyterian history and beliefs.

This one-session class is also a prerequisite for membership. Attend Monday, January 9 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.; Saturday, January 14, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon; or Sunday, January 22, 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. For information about membership, contact Calum MacLeod, Associate Pastor, at the church at 312.981.4025 (cmacleod@fourthchurch.org).

Fourth Church Cares

For pastoral care; to notify the church of illnesses, hospitalizations, or deaths; to pass along a prayer request to be remembered in Morning Prayer; or to arrange homebound Communion, contact Elizabeth Andrews, Minister for Congregational Care, at 312.274.3818 (eandrews@fourthchurch.org).

The Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago
John M. Buchanan, Pastor

Church office: 126 E. Chestnut Street, Chicago, IL 60611.2014; www.fourthchurch.org
312.787.4570; Staff extensions: 312.787.2729; Fax: 312.787.4584

MORNING WORSHIP

8:00, 9:30, and 11:00

*The beginning of the prelude is a call to silent,
personal preparation for the worship of God.*

PRELUDE (8:00) O Come, O Come, Emmanuel *Leo Sowerby*

PRELUDE (9:30 and 11:00) O Come, O Come, Emmanuel *Robert Lau*
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel *Leo Sowerby*

INTROIT "Our King and Savior Draweth Nigh" *Stephen Sturk*
Our King and Savior draweth nigh,
O come, let us adore him.

*DOXOLOGY (The Hymnal, 592)

*LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Leader: We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

People: Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

*HYMN 2 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" *Tune: HYFRYDOL*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(unison)*

God of our salvation, you straighten
the winding ways of our hearts and smooth the paths
made rough by sin. We confess that we have not
watched for your coming into the world and
have missed the signs of your kingdom in our midst.
Our commitment to truth, justice, and peace wavers.
Our love for our neighbors is compromised
by our own desires. Our passion for the world you love
is diminished by the contours of our selfishness.
In your mercy, forgive us.
Grant us faith to welcome your advent and
keep our hearts awake and watchful.
We ask this through him whose coming is certain,
whose day draws near, your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Minister: Friends, believe the good news.

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

(11:00)

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

ANTHEM (8:00) "There Is No Rose of Such Virtue" *Robert Powell*
There is no rose of such virtue as is the rose that bare Jesu.
Alleluia. For in this rose contained was heaven and earth in little
space, *res miranda*. By that rose we may well see there be one
God in persons three, *patres forma*. Leave we all this worldly
mirth and follow we this joyful birth. *Transeamus, gaudeamus*.

ANTHEM (9:30 and 11:00) "There Is No Rose of Such Virtue" *Stephen Caracciolo*
See text above.

PSALTER Psalm 126 (*responsively*) (page 572, O.T.)

*GLORIA PATRI (The Hymnal, 579)

SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 1:26–38 (page 56, N.T.)
Minister: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON by John M. Buchanan
HOPES AND FEARS
"The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary.'"
Luke 1:30 (NRSV)

*HYMN 43 "O Little Town of Bethlehem" *Tune: FOREST GREEN*

*APOSTLES' CREED (*unison*)
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.

PRAYER RESPONSE "Amen"

Vincent Persichetti

OFFERING

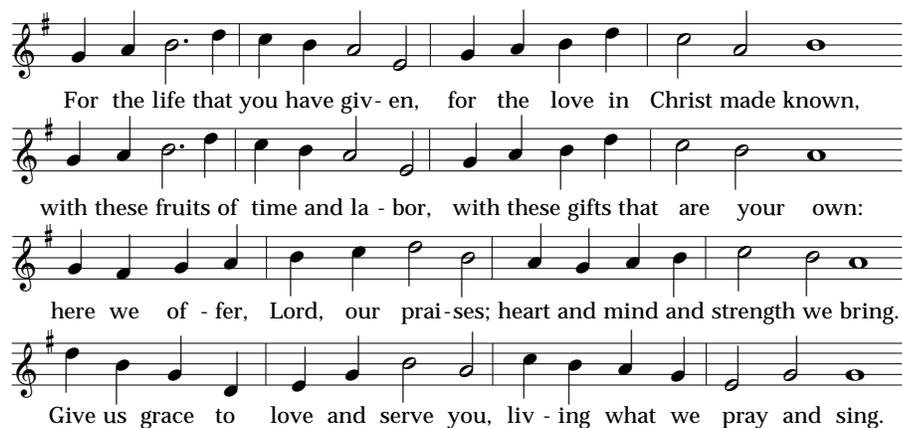
OFFERTORY SOLO
(8:00)

"Gesù Bambino" *Pietro A. Yon*
When blossoms flowered 'mid the snows upon a winter night,
was born the child, the Christmas rose, the King of love and light.
The angels sang; the shepherds sang; the grateful earth rejoiced,
and at his blessed birth the stars their exultation voiced.
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord. Again the heart
with rapture glows to greet the holy night that gave the world
its Christmas rose, its King of love and light. Let every voice
acclaim his name, the grateful chorus swell. From paradise
to earth he came that we with him might dwell.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM
(9:30 and 11:00)

"Gabriel, From the Heaven Descending" *Seth Bingham*
Gabriel, from the heaven descending, on the faithful word
attending, is in holy converse blending with the virgin full of
grace. At the promise that he sendeth God the incarnate word
descendeth, yet no carnal touch offendeth her, the undefiled one.
As the rod, by wondrous power, moistened not by dew or shower,
bare the almond and the flower, thus he came, the virgin's son.
Jesus, kind above all other, holy child of gentle mother,
in the stable born our brother whom the angelic hosts adore.
On that child with Mary gazing, join ye Christians all in raising
songs to him whom heaven is praising, God incarnate come to all.

*PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING AND RESPONSE



For the life that you have giv-en, for the love in Christ made known,
with these fruits of time and la-bor, with these gifts that are your own:
here we of-fer, Lord, our prai-ses; heart and mind and strength we bring.
Give us grace to love and serve you, liv-ing what we pray and sing.

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*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

All: God of grace, your eternal Word took flesh among us
when Mary placed her life at the service of your will.
We thank you for the gift of incarnation,
your love given to live among us.
We thank you for her faithful obedience,
in spite of uncertainty and fear. Give us courage
to be steadfast in hope and faithful in service.
And use us in the coming of the kingdom;
through him whose coming is certain, whose day
draws near, your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

*HYMN 12

“People, Look East”

Tune: BESANÇON

BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

POSTLUDE
(8:00)

Savior of the Nations, Come

Paul Manz

POSTLUDE
(9:30 and 11:00)

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Adolphus Hailstork

Christmas Worship

at Fourth Presbyterian Church

Christmas Eve – Saturday, December 24 in the sanctuary

4:00 p.m.

Candlelight Service with Children's Pageant

6:00 p.m.

Candlelight Service with Meditation

Calum I. MacLeod preaching

8:30 p.m.

Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols

John M. Buchanan preaching

This service will be filmed by WBBM Channel 2 for local broadcast at 10:35 p.m. on Christmas Eve and 6:00 a.m. on Christmas Day.

11:00 p.m.

Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols

John M. Buchanan preaching

Christmas Day – Sunday, December 25 in the sanctuary

Please note that there will be only one morning worship service.

11:00 a.m.

Christmas Morning Service

John H. Boyle preaching

A traditional Christmas dinner in Anderson Hall follows the service.

Dinner tickets are available during Coffee Hour and at the reception desk.

6:30 p.m.

Christmas Communion Vespers

Erica Schemper preaching

Light Up a Life Through Joyous Giving

This year-end giving campaign supports congregational programs; mission and community outreach, including Chicago Lights programs; and denominational programs. "Light Up a Life" gifts can be made using the offering envelopes found in the pew racks or by writing "Light Up a Life" on the memo line of a check made payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church. Details about this giving opportunity are also available in the literature racks and at www.fourthchurch.org.

Worship Leaders

8:00 a.m. Patrick Daymond, Elizabeth Andrews, John M. Buchanan
9:30 a.m. Keith C. Harris, Elizabeth Andrews, John M. Buchanan
11:00 a.m. Keith C. Harris, Dana Ferguson, John M. Buchanan

Lighting the Advent Wreath

9:30 a.m. Crystal Bush
11:00 a.m. June and Jacob Dorn

The Music Today

8:00 a.m. The Chancel Coir; Mark Eldred, tenor soloist
9:30 a.m. The Morning Choir
11:00 a.m. The Morning Choir

John W. W. Sherer, Organist and Director of Music
Thomas Gouwens, Associate Organist

Worship Notes

Today's anthem, "There Is No Rose of Such Virtue," is based on an anonymous fifteenth-century text. In this text, Latin is blended with English in a seamless manner. The Latin words *res miranda* mean "marvelous thing," the words *pares forma* mean "equal in form," and the words *Transeamus, gaudeamus* translate to "Let us go, let us rejoice."

The Advent banners, in the form of wings, convey the idea of Advent stillness and of waiting in the presence of angels. They were designed and painted by Eliza Linley of Berkeley, California.

The stained glass window shown on the bulletin cover depicts angels praising God with harp and strings, as Psalm 150 calls us to do. The window, located in the reception area west of Anderson Hall, was designed by Charles J. Connick.

Pastoral Staff

John M. Buchanan, Pastor
Dana Ferguson, Executive Associate Pastor
Elizabeth Andrews, Minister for Congregational Care
John H. Boyle, Parish Associate
Patrick Daymond, Pastoral Resident
Donna Gray, Minister for Children and Families
Keith C. Harris, Associate Pastor for Community Ministry
Catherine Knott, Pastoral Resident
Calum I. MacLeod, Associate Pastor for New Members and Young Adult Ministry
Thomas C. Rook, Parish Associate
Erica Schemper, Pastoral Resident
Alice M. Trowbridge, Associate Pastor for Congregational Life
Richard Williams, Pastoral Resident
David A. Donovan, Associate Pastor Emeritus