

The most disturbing quality of the baby Jesus, the mystery of his advent that scandalizes even as it inexorably beckons, is the vulnerability of his incarnation. Nothing is so helpless, so dependent, so fragile, so frail, as a baby. I know of no other religion so bold as to admit to the possibility of its God appearing in so vulnerable a form. How scandalously condescending is the love of God who deems to meet us first as a baby. How threatening is this God to my human desire for an aloof, Platonic deity who lives in the realm of the abstract, self-contained ideal, rather than in the stable out back, wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.

William H. Willimon
"Unto Us a Child" from *On a Wild and Windy Mountain*

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. Worship also can be heard through the "T" setting of hearing aids.

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.

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

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

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 7 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.; Saturday, January 19 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon; or Sunday, January 27 from 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 Ali Trowbridge, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care, at 312.573.3360 (atrowbridge@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 Jesus Comes with Clouds Descending *Alan Ridout*
(8:00)

PRELUDE Advent Fanfare *Aaron David Miller*
(9:30 and 11:00) Jesus Comes with Clouds Descending *Alan Ridout*
From Heaven above to Earth I Come *Johann Pachelbel*
arr. Christine Worthing
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel *George Schafer*
The Angel Spoke to the Shepherds *Heinrich Schütz*
arr. Gary Olson

INTROIT “Our King and Savior Draweth Nigh” *Leo Sowerby*
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 8** “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates” *Tune: TRURO*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(unison)

**God of the future, as you came long ago in the birth
of a child, so you are coming into the world
to save and reconcile and make all things new.
We confess that we have not expected your kingdom.
Distracted by the bright holiday lights,
we have failed to see and to welcome you in the poor,
the marginalized, the weak and vulnerable.
Discouraged by newspaper headlines,
we have failed to see and welcome signs
of your healing presence.
In your mercy, forgive us.
Renew hope within us, that we may be awake and alert,
watching for our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity
of the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. Amen.**

**Stand as you are able.*

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)

“Hark, the Glad Sound!”

Mary Goetze

Hark, the glad sound! The savior comes, the savior promised long.
Let every heart prepare a throne and every voice a song. Let love
attend the Prince of Peace, the savior promised long. He comes
the broken heart to bind, the bleeding soul to cure, and with
the treasures of his grace to enrich the humble poor. Our
glad hosannas, Prince of Peace, your welcome shall proclaim,
and heaven’s eternal arches ring with your beloved name.

PSALTER

Psalm 146 (*responsively*)

(page 549, O.T.)

***GLORIA PATRI**

(The Hymnal, 579)

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 35:1–10

(page 623, O.T.)

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

by John M. Buchanan

COURAGE

“Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm
the feeble knees. Say to those who are of
a fearful heart, ‘Be strong, do not fear!’”

Isaiah 35:3–4 (NRSV)

***HYMN 44**

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Tune: ST. LOUIS

***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"

Richard Warner

OFFERING

OFFERTORY SOLO (8:00)

"Alleluia" from *Exsultate Jubilate*

W. A. Mozart

CANTATA (9:30 and 11:00)

"A Ceremony of Carols"

Benjamin Britten

Procession Today Christ is born; today the savior has appeared. Today
the angels sing on earth, the archangels rejoice. Today the
righteous exult, saying, "Glory to God in the highest. Alleluia."

Wolcum Yole! Wolcum be thou hevenè King, wolcum yole! Born in one morning,
wolcum for whom we sall sing! Wolcum be ye Stevene and Jon;
wolcum be ye, good newe yere; wolcum, innocentes every one;
wolcum, twelfthe day both in fere. Wolcum, Thomas marter one;
wolcum, seintes lefe and dere. Wolcum candelmesse, quene of
bliss; wolcum bothe to more and lesse. Wolcum be ye that are here;
wolcum alle and make good cheer, wolcum all another yere.

There Is No Rose There is no rose of such vertu as is the rose that bare Jesu, alleluia,
for in this rose containèd was heaven and earth in litel space,
res miranda. By that rose we may well see there be one God in
persons three, *pares forma*. The angels sungen, the shepherds too:
"Gloria in excelsis Deo!" *Gaudeamus*. Leave we all this werldly
mirth, and follow we this joyful birth, *transeamus*.

That Youngë Child That youngë child, when it gan to weep, with song she
lulled him asleep, that was so sweet a melody it passèd
alle minstrelsy. The nightingalè sang also; her song is
hoarse and nought thereto, whoso attendeth to her
song and leaveth the first then doth he wrong.

Balulalow O my deare hert, young Jesu sweit, prepare the creddil
in my spreit, and I sall rock thee to my hert and
never mair from thee depart. But I sall praise thee evermoir
with sanges sweit unto thy gloir; the knees of my hert
sall I bow and sing that richt balulalow!

As Dew in Aprille I sing of a maiden that is makèles, King of all kings to her son
she ches. He came, al so stille, there his moder was.
As dew in Aprille that falleth on the grass he came,
al so stille, to his moder's bour, as dew in Aprille that falleth
on the flower. He came, al so stille, there his moder lay, as dew
in Aprille that falleth on the spray. Moder and mayden was
never none but she, well may such lady Goddes moder be.

This Little Babe This little babe, so few days old, is come to rifle Satan's fold.
All hell doth at his presence quake, though he himself for cold
do shake, for in this weak unarmed wise, the gates of hell he
will surprise. With tears he fights and wins the field; his naked
breast stands for a shield. His battering shot are babish cries, his
arrows looks of weeping eyes, his martial ensigns cold and need,
and feeble flesh his warrior's steed. His camp is pitchéd in a stall,
his bulwark but a broken wall; the crib his trench, haystalks his
stakes, of shepherds he his muster makes. And thus, as sure his foe
to wound, the angels' trumps alarum sound. My soul, with Christ
join thou in fight, stick to the tents that he hath pight. Within his
crib is surest ward, this little babe will be thy guard. If thou
wilt foil thy foes with joy, then flit not from this heavenly boy.

Interlude

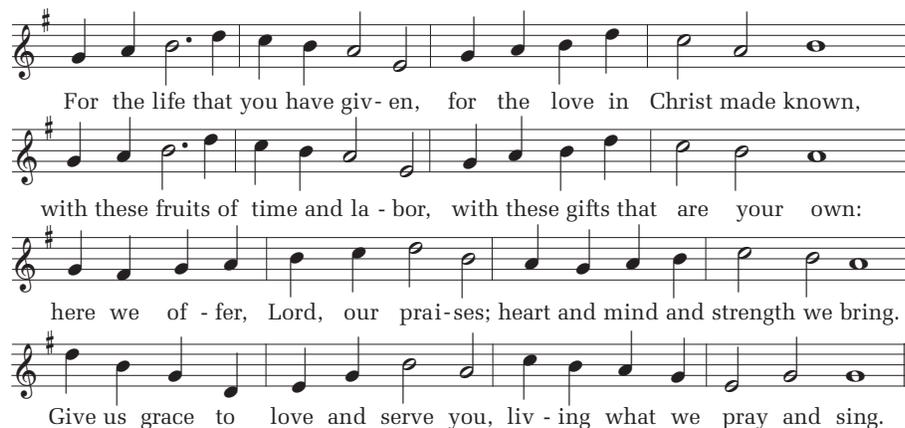
In Freezing Winter Night Behold, a silly, tender babe in freezing winter night, in homely
manger trembling lies, alas, a piteous sight! The inns are full;
no man will yield this little pilgrim bed, but forced he is
with silly beasts in crib to shroud his head. This stable is
a Prince's court, this crib his chair of state. The beasts are parcel
of his pomp, the wooden dish his plate. The persons in that
poor attire his royal liveries wear. The Prince himself is come
from heaven, this pomp is prizéd there. With joy approach,
O Christian wight, do homage to thy King and highly praise
his humble pomp, wich he from heaven doth bring,

Spring Carol Pleasure it is to hear iwis; the birdès sing, the deer
in the dale, the sheep in the vale, the corn springing,
God's purveyance for sustenance, it is for man. Then
we always to him give praise and thank him than.

Deo Gracias! *Deo gracias!* Adam lay ibounden, bounden in a bond,
four thousand winter thought he not too long. And all
was for an appil, an appil that he tok, as clerkès finden
written in their book. Ne had the appil také ben, ne haddè
never our lady a ben hevenè queen. Blessèd be the time
that appil také was. Therefore we moun singen, *Deo gracias!*

Recession Today Christ is born; today the savior has appeared. Today
the angels sing on earth, the archangels rejoice. Today the
righteous exult, saying, "Glory to God in the highest. Alleluia."

***OFFERTORY 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: **Eternal God, as you led your people in ages past,
you direct our journey into the future.**

**We give you thanks that you came to us in Jesus Christ,
and we eagerly await his coming again**

**that his rule may be complete and
your righteousness reign over all the world.**

**Fill us with gratitude overflowing
that we may share life and love in praise to you,
God of all the ages,**

**in the gracious name of Jesus Christ,
your Son, by the power of your Holy Spirit,
now and forever. Amen.**

***HYMN 2**

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Tune: HYFRYDOL

BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

POSTLUDE
(8:00)

On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry

Bruce Neswick

POSTLUDE
(9:30 and 11:00)

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

Michael Praetorius
arr. A. D. Miller

Worship Leaders

8:00 a.m.	Hardy Kim, Alice M. Trowbridge, John M. Buchanan
9:30 a.m.	Thomas C. Rook, Alice M. Trowbridge, John M. Buchanan
11:00 a.m.	John H. Boyle, Dana Ferguson, John M. Buchanan

Lighting the Advent Wreath

8:00 a.m.	Donald and Frances Coe
9:30 a.m.	Lloyd and Jan Culbertson and Maddie and Samantha
11:00 a.m.	Ranjan and Kalen Daniels and Gavin

The Music Today

8:00 a.m.	The Chancel Choir; Sandra Lin, soprano soloist
9:30 a.m.	The Morning Choir; Tower Brass; Kara Bershad, harpist; Carol Carpenter, Gerald Frantzen, Carla Janzen, Alexia Kruger, Callie Thompson, soloists
11:00 a.m.	The Morning Choir; Tower Brass; Kara Bershad, harpist; Carol Carpenter, Gerald Frantzen, Carla Janzen, Alexia Kruger, Callie Thompson, soloists

John W. W. Sherer, Organist and Director of Music
Thomas Gouwens, Associate Organist
Matthew Comerford, Artistic Director of Tower Brass

Worship Notes

Today's Christmas Cantata, *A Ceremony of Carols*, was written by Benjamin Britten (1913–1976) in 1942. It is a modern classic that established this important composer's popularity. Based on medieval and later texts, *A Ceremony of Carols* was written originally for female voices and harp. The version heard today, for mixed chorus and harp, was arranged by Julius Harrison. This morning's Christmas Cantata is made possible by a generous gift from Pamela and Sarah Buffet.

Tower Brass, Fourth Church's brass octet, assists in worship leadership this morning. Tower Brass participates in 9:30 and 11:00 worship each third Sunday of the month during the academic year.

The **"Light Up a Life" Christmas offering** supports congregational programs; mission and community outreach, including Chicago Lights programs; and denominational programs. "Light Up a Life" gifts can be made using the special 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.

Pastoral Staff

John M. Buchanan, Pastor
Dana Ferguson, Executive Associate Pastor
Adam Fronczek, Associate Pastor for Adult Education and Worship
Donna Gray, Minister for Children and Families
Calum I. MacLeod, Associate Pastor for Evangelism and Young Adults
Joyce Shin, Associate Pastor for Congregational Life
Alice M. Trowbridge, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care
John W. Vest, Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry
Elizabeth B. Andrews, Parish Associate
John H. Boyle, Parish Associate
Thomas C. Rook, Parish Associate
Hardy Kim, Pastoral Resident
Martha Langford, Pastoral Resident
David A. Donovan, Associate Pastor Emeritus