

OUR STRUGGLES AND PAIN AND FRUSTRATIONS are part of the process which levels hills and fills valleys for others to step more surely toward God's love and toward life abundant. What a strange thought, to be "landfill" for Jesus. A concept unpalpable to all but those who have the courage to risk hope through obedience.

Hilary McDowell
On the Way to Bethlehem

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.

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 for three hours 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 for 900 parking must be picked up during Coffee Hour or from the Chestnut Street reception desk. Hancock tickets must be validated in the Narthex, at the back of the sanctuary.

Inquirers' Class explores Presbyterian history and beliefs. This one-session class is also a prerequisite for membership. Attend Saturday, December 13 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon; Monday, January 5, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.; or Saturday, January 17, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. For information about membership, contact Calum MacLeod, Associate Pastor, at 312.981.4025.

Fourth Church Cares

To notify pastoral staff of personal concerns and anxieties, illnesses, hospitalizations, or deaths; to pass along a prayer request; 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

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Minister: Friends, believe the good news.

People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

PSALTER Psalm 85:8–13 (*responsively*) (page 514, O.T.)

ANTHEM “Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding” *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.

FIRST LESSON Isaiah 40:1–11 (page 627, O.T.)

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

***GLORIA PATRI** (The Hymnal, 579)

SECOND LESSON Luke 3:7–18 (page 56, N.T.)

SERMON by Victoria G. Curtiss
MAKE WAY

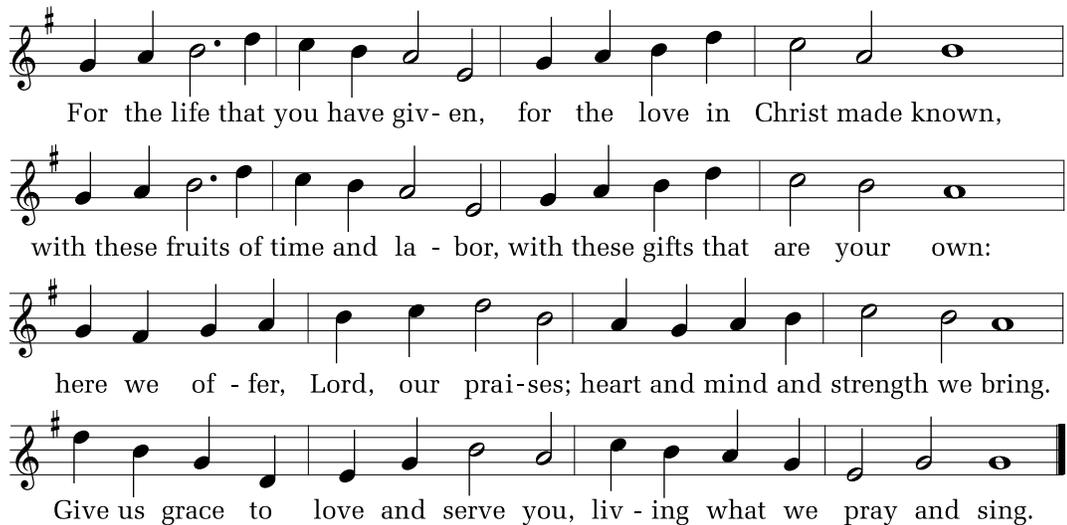
***HYMN 3** “Comfort, Comfort You My People” *Tune: PSALM 42*

***APOSTLES’ CREED** (*traditional*) (The Hymnal, page 14)

OFFERING

OFFERTORY SOLO “Quia respexit” from *Magnificat* *Johann Sebastian Bach*
God has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

*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.

Words: Carl P. Daw Jr. ©1987; Music: Morgan Simmons ©1990, 1992 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

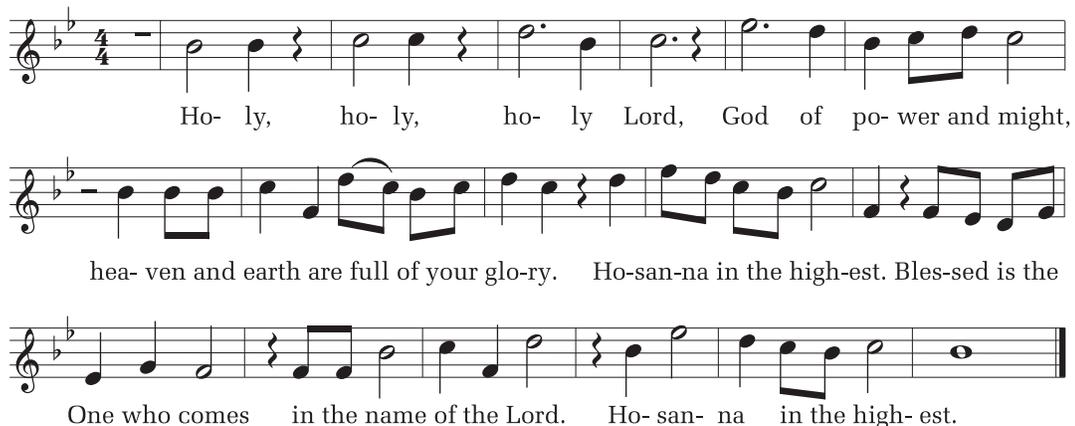
Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

PRAYER

Minister: It is truly right and our greatest joy . . .

. . . who forever sing to the glory of your name:



Ho- ly, ho- ly, ho- ly Lord, God of po- wer and might,
hea- ven and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the high-est. Bles-sed is the
One who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho- san- na in the high- est.

Music: John W.W. Sherer; © 1997. Used by permission.

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.**

THE COMMUNION

COMMUNION ANTHEM "On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand"

*American folk melody
arr. David H. Williams*

On Jordan's stormy banks I stand and cast a wishful eye to Canaan's fair and happy land where my possessions lie. O, the transporting, rapturous scene that rises to my sight: sweet fields arrayed in living green and rivers of delight. O'er all those wide, extended plains shines one eternal day; there God the Son forever reigns and scatters night away. No chilling winds of poisonous breath can reach that healthful shore; sickness and sorrow, pain and death are felt and feared no more. When I shall reach that happy place, I'll be forever blest, for I shall see my Father's face and in his bosom rest. Filled with delight, my raptured soul lives out its earthly day, and then, though Jordan's waves may roll, I'll fearless launch away.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *(unison)*

God of grace, you renew us at your table with the bread of life. You have so greatly loved us, long sought us, and mercifully redeemed us. Give us grace that in everything we may yield ourselves, our wills, and our works, a continual thank-offering to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***HYMN 11**

"O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?"

Tune: VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

The King of Glory Comes

*Israeli folk song
arr. Aaron David Miller*

The Lord's Supper at Fourth Presbyterian Church

"Do this in remembrance of me." Luke 22:19 (NRSV)

THE LORD'S SUPPER IS THE SIGN AND SEAL of eating and drinking in communion with the crucified and risen Lord. In this act, we remember that during his earthly ministry, Jesus shared meals with his followers and sat at dinner tables as a sign of acceptance of the sinner and the outcast. In the last meal before his death, Jesus took and shared with his disciples bread and wine, speaking of these elements as his body and blood, symbols of the new relationship with God brought about by his impending death. On the day of his resurrection, the risen Jesus made himself known to his followers in the breaking of bread.

In the act of remembering that is the Lord's Supper, we receive and trust the love of Christ present to us and to the world. Through it, we are renewed and empowered to be the church, the body of Christ, in the world.

The invitation to the Lord's Supper is not just for Presbyterians or "members of the church." All who confess Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord are invited to partake of the Lord's Supper. Access to the Table is not a right conferred upon the worthy but a privilege given to the undeserving who come in faith, repentance, and love. Even one who doubts or whose trust is wavering may receive the bread and grape juice (in place of wine) in order to be assured of God's love and grace in Jesus Christ.

Fourth Presbyterian Church celebrates the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper each Sunday at 8:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. worship and at all morning services on the first Sunday of even-numbered months.

This morning, Communion is served by intinction. The congregation will come forward by the center aisle to receive the bread, which they will then dip into the chalice of grape juice. Worshipers will return to their pews by the side aisles.

"I am the bread of life."

John 6:35 (NRSV)

Portions of the text above adapted from *The Book of Order*

WORSHIP LEADERS John W. Vest, Joann H. Lee, Victoria G. Curtiss

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Janet Reed

THE MUSIC TODAY The Chancel Choir; Emily Sinclair, soprano soloist
John W. W. Sherer, Organist and Director of Music

WORSHIP NOTES

The “Light Up a Life” offering is being received throughout Advent. 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 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.

Fourth Church offers a variety of worship opportunities in addition to Sunday services. Midweek Advent worship is held on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. in Blair Chapel. A Taizé service is held at 7:30 p.m. in Blair Chapel on the fourth Friday of each month. The Christmas Taizé service will be Friday, December 26.

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 musical angels on the bulletin cover adorn a stained-glass window, by Charles J. Connick, located in the reception area west of Anderson Hall. Psalm 150 encourages us to join in praising God with trumpet, harp, and string.

PASTORAL STAFF

John M. Buchanan, Pastor
Calum I. MacLeod, Acting Executive Associate Pastor
Victoria G. Curtiss, Associate Pastor for Mission
Adam Fronczek, Associate Pastor for Adult Education and Worship
Donna Gray, Minister for Children and Families
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
Jocelyn Cadwallader, Pastoral Resident
Sarah A. Johnson, Pastoral Resident
Joann H. Lee, Pastoral Resident
David A. Donovan, Associate Pastor Emeritus