
December 14, 2008

Third Sunday of Advent

9:30 and 11:00 a.m.

I CANNOT CLAIM THAT I HAVE FOUND the home I long for every day of my life, not by a long shot, but I believe that in my heart I have found, and have maybe always known, the way that leads to it. I believe that the home we long for and belong to is finally where Christ is. I believe that home is Christ's kingdom, which exists both within us and among us as we wend our prodigal ways through the world in search of it.

Frederick Buechner
The Longing for Home

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 Monday, January 5, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.; Saturday, January 17, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.; or Sunday, January 25 from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. 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

MORNING WORSHIP

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

PRELUDE

Savior of the Nations, Come

Paul Manz

Four Advent Pieces

Robert Powell

Prepare the Way, O Zion

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

People, Look East

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?

Michael Burkhardt

INTROIT

“Prepare the Way of the Lord”

Richard Proulx

Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight his paths.

Rejoice, the Lord is at hand!

*DOXOLOGY

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Leader: In expectation of her child, Mary sang out for joy: “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor upon the lowliness of his servant.” (Luke 1:47–49)

People: **“Surely from now on all generations will call us blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for us, and holy is God’s name.”**

Leader: The third candle on the Advent wreath stands for joy. It reminds us to be thankful that God’s presence is becoming brighter in our world.

People: **The light reminds us that God’s child is coming to bring joy to the world.**

Leader: A voice cries out in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.”

People: **Soon the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken it.**

*HYMN 2

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Tune: HYFRYDOL

PRAYER FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (*unison*)

God of our salvation, you straighten the winding ways of our hearts and smooth the paths that lead to you.

We confess that we lose our way and become lost.

We follow the desires of our own hearts and ignore your will. We invest our resources selfishly and refuse to acknowledge the needs of others. In your mercy, forgive us. Renew our faith and trust in you. Teach us, again, to love as you have loved us; through him whose coming is certain, whose day draws near, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. 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

PSALTER Psalm 126 (*responsively*) (page 541, O.T.)

ANTHEM “Vox Clamantis in Deserto” *Juan Esquivel*
A voice was heard crying in the wilderness, “Prepare the way of the Lord. Make straight his paths.”

FIRST LESSON Mark 1:1–8 (page 32, N.T.)

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

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

SOLO “Comfort Ye” from *Messiah* *George Frideric Handel*
Comfort ye, my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem and cry unto her that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned. The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

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

SERMON by John M. Buchanan
HOME
“Those who go out weeping . . . shall come home with shouts of joy.” Psalm 126:6 (NRSV)

***HYMN 38** “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” *Tune: CAROL*

*** 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"

John Stainer

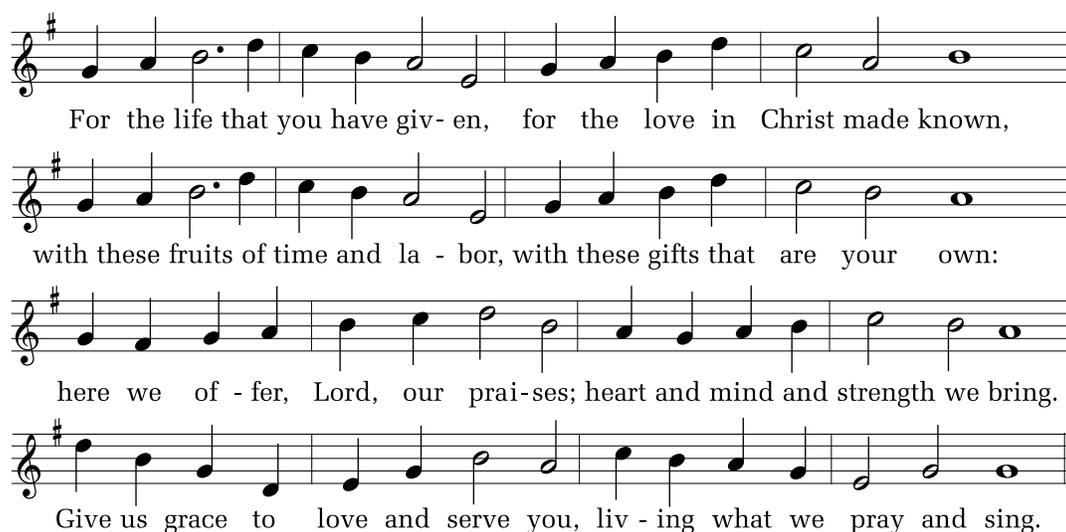
OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM "And the Glory of the Lord" from *Messiah*

G. F. Handel

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

*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.

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

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, so 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 3

“Comfort, Comfort You My People”

Tune: PSALM 42

BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

People, Look East

Barbara Harbach

Christmas Worship

at Fourth Presbyterian Church

4 Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

Wednesday, December 24

4:00 p.m.

Children's Pageant

6:00 p.m.

Family Service

Adam Fronczek preaching

8:30 p.m.

Lessons and Carols

John M. Buchanan preaching

11:00 p.m.

Lessons and Carols

John M. Buchanan preaching

Christmas Day Service

Thursday, December 25

11:00 a.m.

Joyce Shin preaching

A traditional Christmas dinner in Anderson Hall will be served at 12:30 p.m. Dinner tickets are available during Coffee Hour and at the reception desk during the week.

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 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.

WORSHIP LEADERS

9:30 a.m. Joyce Shin, John H. Boyle, John M. Buchanan

11:00 a.m. Joyce Shin, Calum I. MacLeod, John M. Buchanan

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

9:30 a.m. Sid and Debbie Frisch

11:00 a.m. Hank and Stowe Demarest

THE MUSIC TODAY

9:30 a.m. The Morning Choir; Carol Carpenter, flutist; Mark Eldred, tenor soloist

11:00 a.m. The Morning Choir; Carol Carpenter, flutist; Mark Eldred, tenor soloist

John W. W. Sherer, Organist and Director of Music

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

WORSHIP NOTES

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

John H. Boyle, Parish Associate

Thomas C. Rook, Parish Associate

Jocelyn C. Cadwallader, Pastoral Resident

Sarah A. Johnson, Pastoral Resident

Joann H. Lee, Pastoral Resident

David A. Donovan, Associate Pastor Emeritus