

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** Fanfare

*C. S. Lang*

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**WORSHIP LEADERS**

**Victoria G. Curtiss** Associate Pastor,  
Fourth Presbyterian Church

**Ray Casey** Member, Fourth Presbyterian Church

**Father Dan Mayall** Pastor, Holy Name Cathedral

**Linda Weaver** Lector, Holy Name Cathedral

**John W. W. Sherer** Organist and Director of Music,  
Fourth Presbyterian Church

**Carol Carpenter** Soloist, Fourth Presbyterian Church

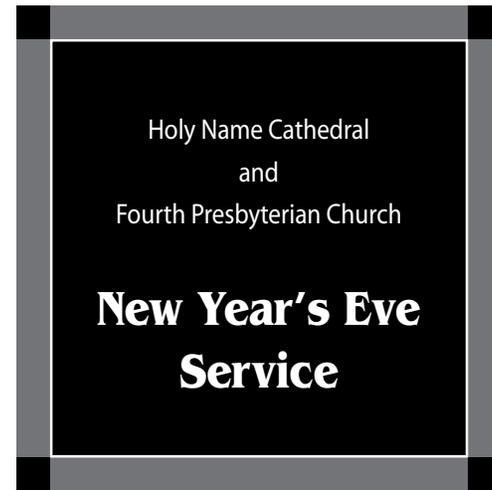
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*Immediately following the service,  
all are invited to a time of fellowship  
and refreshments through the  
sanctuary doors to your left.*

**The Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago**

John M. Buchanan, Pastor

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**DECEMBER 31, 2008**

**7:30 P.M.**

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**PRELUDE** Prelude and Fugue in C Major ("Fanfare") *J. S. Bach*  
O How Cheating, O How Fleeting *Georg Böhm*  
The Old Year Has Passed Away *Hugo Distler*  
Apparition of the Eternal Church *Olivier Messiaen*

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Amid the winter stars we see eternity's glow.  
Frozen ground is underfoot, fields lie fallow,  
waiting.

People: **The earth is hushed in hibernation, a cleft in time  
to rest, renew.**

Leader: God breaks through winter with a bloom;

People: **through decay Christ blossoms life.**

**\*HYMN 36** "In the Bleak Midwinter"

*Tune: CRANHAM*

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*\*Stand as you are able*

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

*(Sung responses are from Hymn 18)*

Leader: We bring to you the wasteland of the earth, O God the no-hope places, where oppression and injustice rule; the deserts where people die of hunger and thirst; the earth, depleted by greed and devastated by violence; the soil that will not yield.

People: **Because these things should not be so, we cry aloud: Your kingdom come, O Lord.**

*(sung response)*

**The desert shall rejoice and blossom as a rose; it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with praise and singing.**

Leader: We bring to you the wastelands of our life in community: the nations that have lost their harmony; the missions that have lost their vigor; the people who have lost their way.

People: **Because these things should not be so, we cry aloud: Your kingdom come, O Lord.**

*(sung response)*

**The desert shall rejoice and blossom as a rose; for the ears of the deaf shall hear and the blind, their eyes be opened.**

Leader: We bring to you the wastelands of our lives, where faith and hope are in dust and ashes, where the fruit of the Spirit is not in evidence, where love does not find expression in our lives.

People: **Because these things should not be so, we cry aloud: Your kingdom come, O Lord.**

*(sung response)*

**The desert shall rejoice and blossom as a rose; for the tongue of the mute shall sing and the lame dance with gladness.**

Leader: In silence, let us now reflect on the past year: grieving those ways that we hurt others and have

Leader: For work to do and strength to do work; for the comradeship of labor, for exchanges of good humor and encouragement,

People: **thank you, God.**

Leader: For the gift of love, close bonds uniting us to those with whom we walk life's way,

People: **thank you, God.**

Leader: For family, for living together and eating together, for family amusements and family pleasures,

People: **thank you, God.**

Leader: For children, for their energy and curiosity, for their brave play and startling frankness, for their sudden sympathies,

People: **thank you, God.**

Leader: For the young, for their high hopes, for their irreverence toward worn-out values, for their search for freedom, for their solemn vows,

People: **thank you, God.**

Leader: For growing up and growing old, for wisdom deepened by experience, for rest in leisure, and for time made precious by its passing,

People: **thank you, God.**

Leader: For your help in times of doubt and sorrow, for healing our diseases; for preserving us in temptation and danger,

People: **thank you, God.**

Leader: Above all, for your steadfast love to all generations,

People: **we thank and praise you, Eternal God, for all your goodness to us.**

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord, who is good.

People: **God's love is everlasting.**

**\*HYMN 275** "God of Our Life"

*Tune: SANDON*

been hurt and releasing all that no longer brings us life. Together let us pray:

People: **Because these things should not be so, we cry aloud: Your kingdom come, O Lord.**

*(sung response)*

**The desert shall rejoice and blossom as a rose; for the ground will become a pool and the dry land springs of water.**

#### ASSURANCE OF NEW LIFE

Minister: Friends, believe the good news.

People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and restored to new life.**

\*HYMN 48 “Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”

*Tune: ES IST EIN' ROS'*

#### \*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Minister: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Revelation 21:1–5a, 6b–7 (page 244, N.T.)

REFLECTION by Dan Mayall

SOLO “I Will Sing New Songs” *Antonin Dvořák*  
I will sing new songs of gladness; I will sing Jehovah's praises upon a ten-stringed psaltery. Every day will I extol thee and will bless thy holy name. Great is God and great his mercy. Who shall tell of all his greatness? Who shall his power declare? My song shall be of praise and honor and of his glorious acts. Thy works are wonderful past our knowing. Yea, I shall tell of thy great kindness and of thy wondrous might, and my voice shall proclaim aloud thy glory.

SCRIPTURE LESSON Mark 2:21–22 (page 34, N.T.)

#### REFLECTION

*by Victoria G. Curtiss*

\*HYMN 472 “O Sing to the Lord”

*Cantad al Señor*

#### OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM “Who at My Door Is Standing?”

*English folk song*

*arr. K. Lee Scott*

Who at my door is standing, there patiently drawing near; who, entrance is demanding? Whose is the voice I hear? Sweetly the tones are falling, “Now open the door for me! If thou wilt heed my calling, I will abide with thee.” Within the rooms are darkened, all filled with dust and sin; how shameful, how unworthy for Christ to enter in. Yet the tones are falling, “Now open the door for me! If thou wilt heed my calling, I will abide with thee.” Door of my heart, I hasten! Thee will I open wide. Though he rebuke and chasten, he shall with me abide. Sweetly the tones are falling, “Now open the door for me!” Lord God, I hear thee calling, come now, abide with me.

#### LITANY OF THANKSGIVING AT THE TURN OF THE YEAR

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord who is good.

People: **God's love is everlasting.**

Leader: Come, let us praise God joyfully.

People: **Let us come to God with thanksgiving.**

Leader: For the good world; for things great and small, beautiful, and awesome; for seen and unseen splendors,

People: **thank you, God.**

Leader: For human life, for talking and moving and thinking together, for common hopes and hardships shared from birth until our dying,

People: **thank you, God.**