

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 *Dieterich Buxtehude*

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** (The Hymnal, 592)

***LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

Leader: In a hopeful time, a time like Advent,
the psalmist declares, “Let me hear what God
the Lord will speak, for God will speak peace
to God’s people.” (Psalm 85:8–9)

People: **“Surely salvation is at hand for those who fear God,
that God’s glory may dwell in our land.”**

Leader: We light a second candle on the Advent wreath
to remind us that God’s presence is becoming
brighter in our world.

People: **The light of Christ reminds us to move beyond
fear to caring, beyond self to neighbor,
beyond protection to growth.**

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 11** “O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?”
Tune: VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

**God, you are coming in power
to bring all nations under your rule.
We confess that we have not expected your kingdom,
for we live casual lives,
ignoring your promised judgment.
We do so little with so much.
We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors,
abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace.
In your mercy, forgive us.
Grant us wisdom to welcome your way
and to seek things that will endure
when Christ comes to judge the world.
Amen.**

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Minister: Friends, believe the good news.

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

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

PSALTER Psalm 148 (*responsively*) (page 550, O.T.)

ANTHEM “Comfort, Comfort Now My People” *Genevan Psalter*
arr. R. Proulx

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 3:1–6 (page 56, N.T.)

SERMON At the Threshold JOYCE SHIN

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

*** APOSTLES' CREED** (unison)

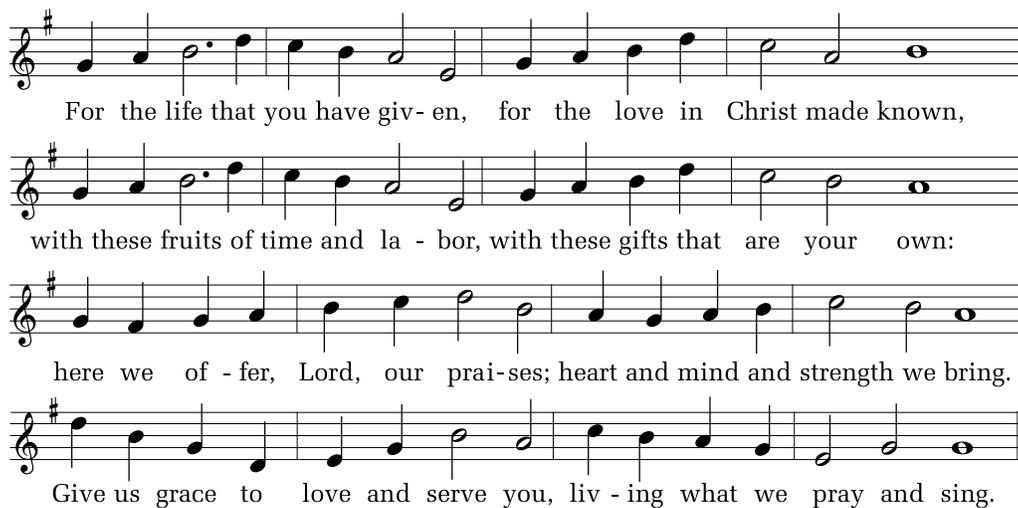
**I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
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.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY SOLO "Every Valley Shall Be Exalted" from *Messiah*
George Frideric Handel

Every valley shall be exalted and every mountain and hill
made low, the crooked straight, and the rough places plain.

*** 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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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 “When Came in Flesh” *George Guest*

When came in flesh the incarnate word, the heedless world
slept on, and only simple shepherds heard that God had
sent his Son. When comes the Savior at the last, from east
to west shall shine. The awful pomp and earth aghast shall
tremble at the sign. Then shall the pure of heart be blest,
as mild he comes to them, as when upon the virgin’s breast,
he lay at Bethlehem. Lord, who could dare see thee descend
in state, unless he knew thou art the sorrowing sinner’s
friend, the gracious and the true. Dwell in our hearts,
O Savior blest, so shall thine Advent’s dawn ’twixt us
and thee, our bosom guest, be but the veil withdrawn.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**God of all ages, you graciously provide for us,
feeding us with bread for life
and the cup for salvation.
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 440 “In Christ There Is No East or West” *Tune: McKEE*

BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

POSTLUDE On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry *Aaron David Miller*

WORSHIP LEADERS

Jocelyn C. Cadwallader, Thomas C. Rook, Joyce Shin

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Steven Riley

THE MUSIC TODAY

The Chancel Choir; Drew Duncan, tenor soloist;
Alyssa Mathias, soprano soloist

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

WORSHIP NOTES

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

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. 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.

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.

PASTORAL STAFF

John M. Buchanan, Pastor
Calum I. MacLeod, 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
Linda C. Loving, Minister for Evangelism
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

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