

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 *Helmut Walcha*

INTROIT “Our King and Savior Draweth Nigh” *Stephen Sturk*
Our King and Savior draweth nigh. O come let us adore him.

***DOXOLOGY** (The Hymnal, 592)

***LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

Leader: In a quiet time of hope,
the prophet Isaiah called out to the Lord:
“O that you would tear open the heavens
and come down, so that the mountains
would quake at your presence—
as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil.”

People: **We light candles on the Advent wreath
to remind us of a time of waiting and watching;
a time of hope; a time to bring the light
of Christ into the world.**

Leader: The light is for us all—
to heal and to challenge;
to break down injustice and to build up love.

People: **In the face of the uncertainties of our world,
God is coming to make all things new.**

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 197** “My Soul in Silence Waits for God” *Tune: CHESHIRE*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

God of grace and love,
sometimes we grow frustrated with you
and with the lack of change we see in the world.
Too often we feel helpless,
paralyzed by a broken world
that needs so much aid.
Remind us that you are indeed with us;
that silence does not mean broken promises
but can instead be a time of renewed hope.
As we wait to celebrate the birth of Christ,
let this waiting be a time of inspiration—
daring us to believe
in the bold world you proclaimed.
In Jesus' name. Amen.

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Minister: Friends, believe the good news.

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

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

PSALTER Psalm 122 (*responsively*) (page 540, O.T.)

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.

FIRST LESSON Isaiah 2:1–5 (page 594, O.T.)

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

***GLORIA PATRI**

(The Hymnal, 579)

SECOND LESSON

Matthew 24:36–44

(page 26, N.T.)

SERMON

The Weight of Waiting

MATTHEW J. HELMS

***HYMN 9**

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Tune: VENI EMMANUEL

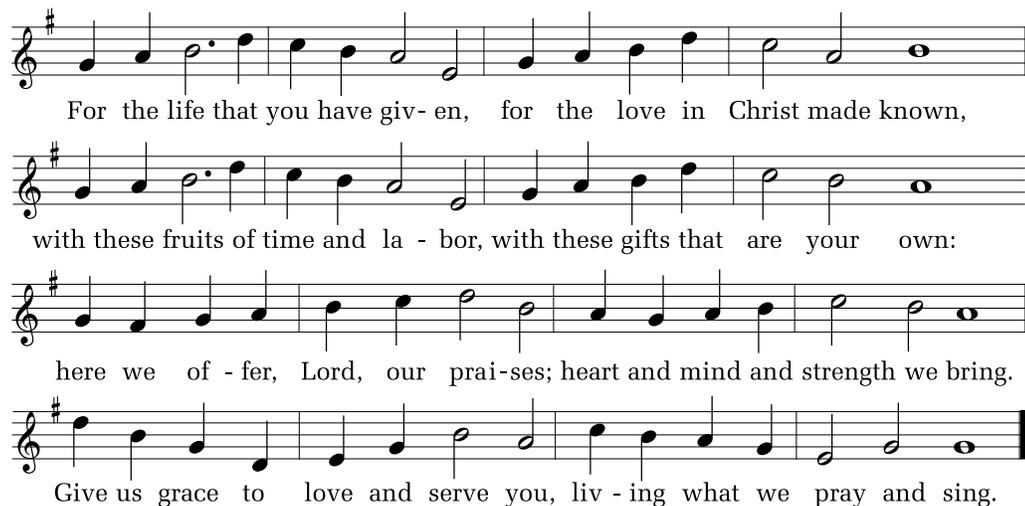
***APOSTLES’ CREED** *(unison)*

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.

OFFERTORY SOLO “Come Thou Now, Jesus, Down from Heaven”

Johann Sebastian Bach

***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.**

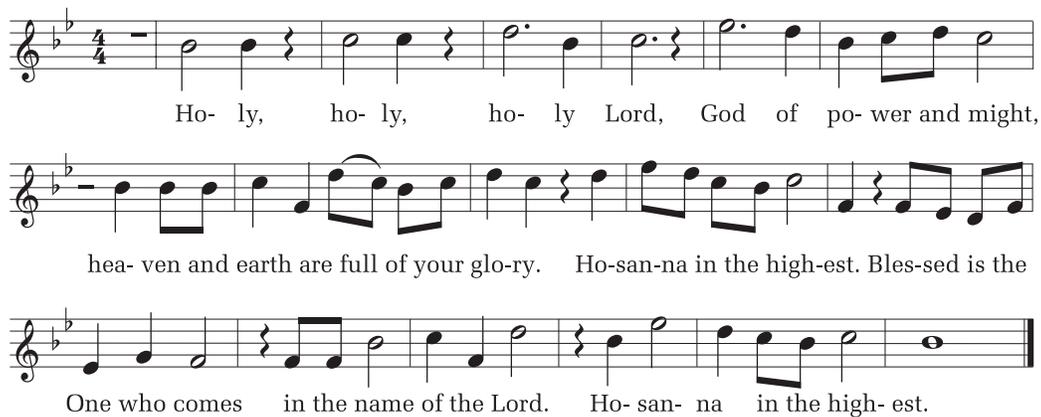
Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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 "O Taste and See" *Ralph Vaughan Williams*

O taste and see how gracious the Lord is;
blest is the one that trusteth in him.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (*unison*)

O God, 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 434**

“Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples”

Tune: KINGSFOLD

BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Savior of the Nations, Come

Paul Manz

The Lord's Supper at Fourth Presbyterian Church

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 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. 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.

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.

Portions of the text above adapted from The Book of Order

WORSHIP LEADERS

John H. Boyle, Sarah A. Johnson, Matthew J. Helms

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Mike and Jean Ban

THE MUSIC TODAY

The Chancel Choir

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

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist and Handbell Director

WORSHIP NOTES

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

Fourth Church offers a variety of worship opportunities in addition to Sunday morning services. An afternoon jazz service with communion is held each Sunday at 4:00 p.m. Each weekday morning, Morning Prayer is held in Stone Chapel as a time to remember in prayer members of the Fourth Church congregation and those in need (9:30 a.m. on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday; 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday).

The bulletin cover depicts the lamp that hangs in Stone Chapel.

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

Sarah A. Johnson, Minister for
Congregational Care

Linda C. Loving, Minister for Evangelism

Joyce Shin, Associate Pastor for
Congregational Life

John W. Vest, Associate Pastor for
Youth Ministry

John H. Boyle, Parish Associate

Thomas C. Rook, Parish Associate

Kerri N. Allen, Pastoral Resident

Matthew J. Helms, Pastoral Resident

David A. Donovan, Associate Pastor Emeritus

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