

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*
Come Thou Now, Down from Heaven *Johann Sebastian Bach*
Four Advent Pieces *Robert J. Powell*
Prepare the Way, O Zion
Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus
People Look East
Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers

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 9

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” *Tune: VENI EMMANUEL*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(unison)*

Merciful God, always with us, always coming:
We confess that we do not know
how to prepare for your Advent.
We have forgotten how to hope in miracles;
we have ignored the promise of your kingdom;
we get distracted by all the busyness of this season.
Forgive us, God.
Grant us the simple wonder of the shepherds,
the intelligent courage of the Magi,
and the patient faith of Mary and Joseph,
that we may journey with them to Bethlehem
and find the good news of a child born for us.
Now, in the quiet of our hearts,
we ask you to make us ready for his coming. Amen.

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Minister: Friends, believe the good news.

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

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

UNISON PRAYER Holy God, remind us of the promises given in
our own baptism and renew our trust in you.
Make us strong to obey your will and to serve you with joy;
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

PSALTER Psalm 72:1–7 *(responsively)* (page 504, O.T.)

ANTHEM “Rorate Coeli” *Christopher Tye*
Drop dew, ye heavens from above, and let the clouds break forth
in showers upon the righteous ones, in rain upon the just. And let
the earth be opened and blossom forth with heavenly fruit, a Savior.

FIRST LESSON Genesis 18:1–2, 9–15 (page 13, O.T.)

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

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

SECOND LESSON Luke 1:5–13 (page 52, N.T.)

Too Wonderful?

“Is anything too wonderful for the Lord?” Genesis 18:13 (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

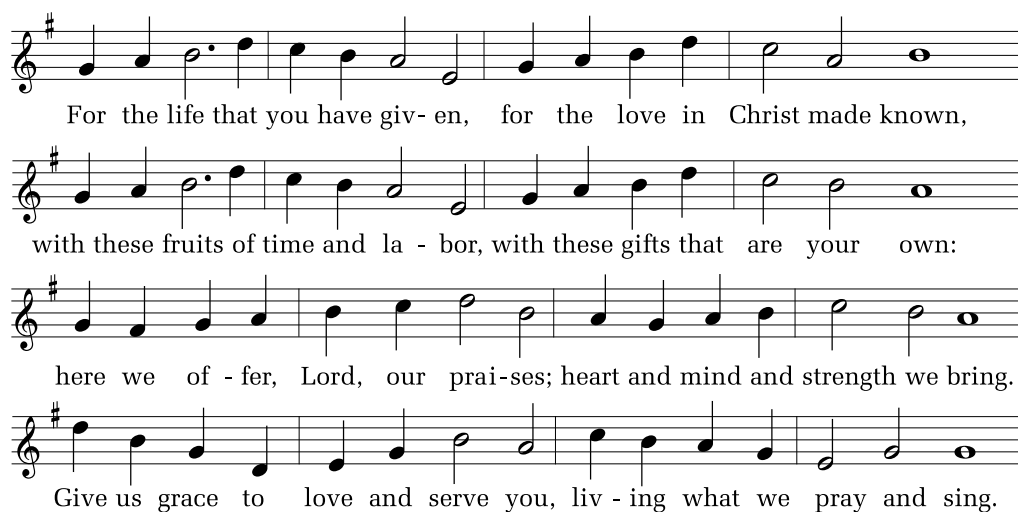
OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“And the Glory of the Lord” from *Messiah*

George Frideric 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



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*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
that his rule may be complete and
your righteousness reign over all the world.**

**Open our eyes to the generosity of your hand
and to the miracles of love all around us.**

**Fill us with gratitude and expectancy and hope,
in the name of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.**

Amen.

*HYMN 11

“O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?”

Tune: VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry

Aaron David Miller

“Let the little children come to me . . .
for it is to such as these that the
kingdom of heaven belongs.”

Matthew 19:14 (NRSV)

Baptism

at Fourth Presbyterian Church

Each second Sunday of the month, Fourth Church includes the Sacrament of Baptism in morning worship. Baptism is the sign and seal of God's grace and covenant in Christ. As *The Book of Order* of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) explains, baptism signifies the faithfulness of God, the washing away of sin, rebirth, putting on the fresh garment of Christ, and adoption into the covenant family of the church. The baptism of children witnesses to the truth that God's love claims people before they are able to respond in faith. The congregation, on behalf of the whole church, assumes responsibility for nurturing the baptized children in the Christian life, and it is for this reason that the congregation makes such a promise during the service. In the unison prayer we also remember that we too were baptized and as children of God are part of the worldwide family of faith.

Those being baptized at the 9:30 worship service are

Scarlett Elizabeth Gardner, daughter of Scott and Sarah Gardner
Otto Lucas Krause, son of Eric and Susan Krause
Evan Robert Ocken, son of Christopher and Jessica Ocken
Oliver Maasai Shih, son of Andrew and Miesha Shih
Hailey Anne Skowlund, daughter of Mike and Jennifer Skowlund
Thomas Charles Tuscher, son of Seth Tuscher and Ryan Grelle Tuscher

Those being baptized at the 11:00 worship service are

Robert Norcross Burt, son of Randy and Kimberly Burt
Logan Connor Butler, son of Kevin and Whitney Butler
Tabitha Jane Filkin, daughter of Adam and Melissa Filkin
Ella Genevieve Griffin, daughter of Ken and Anne Griffin
Jake Daro Reppy, son of Chad and Kasey Reppy

WORSHIP LEADERS

9:30 a.m. Victoria G. Curtiss, Calum I. MacLeod, John Buchanan

11:00 a.m. Victoria G. Curtiss, Calum I. MacLeod, John Buchanan

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

9:30 a.m. Agnes and Gabrielle Boateng

11:00 a.m. Gwen Jackson

THE MUSIC TODAY

9:30 a.m. The Morning Choir; Carol Carpenter, flutist

11:00 a.m. The Morning Choir; Carol Carpenter, flutist

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

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist and Handbell Director

WORSHIP NOTES

This morning's Prayer of Confession is from *The Worship Sourcebook* (Calvin Institute of Christian Worship).

This morning's Offertory Anthem is from the oratorio *Messiah*, which was composed by George Frideric Handel in 24 days during the summer of 1741. The two-hour long *Messiah* tells the story of Jesus' birth, death, and resurrection. As Handel wrote it, he said, "I did think I saw all heaven before me and the great God himself."

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.

The white candle on the bulletin cover is the Christ candle, which is placed at the center of the Fourth Church Advent wreath each Christmas Eve. The quote by Donald Heinz is from *Christmas: Festival of Incarnation*.

PASTORAL STAFF

John M. Buchanan, Pastor

Calum I. MacLeod, Executive Associate Pastor

Victoria G. Curtiss, Associate Pastor for Mission

Adam H. 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