

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

**Merciful God, we live too much in darkness.
We place our trust in shadows.
We rush headfirst with no sense of direction.
Lord, illumine our lives.
Help us to see the difference
between what is real and what is false.
Give us direction when we are turned around.
Show us where there are stumbling blocks so that
we can make clear paths for ourselves and others.
We await your light, O Lord.
Amen.**

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Minister: Friends, believe the good news.
People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

PSALTER Psalm 72:1–7, 18–19 (*responsively*) (page 504, O.T.)

ANTHEM “Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding” *Eric H. Thiman*
Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding: “Christ is nigh,”
it seems to say, “Cast away the dreams of darkness,
O ye children of the day.” Wakened by the solemn warning,
let the earthbound soul arise; Christ, her sun, all ill
dispelling, shines upon the morning skies. Lo, the Lamb,
so long expected, comes with pardon down from heaven.
Let us haste with tears of sorrow, one and all to be forgiven;
that when next he comes with glory and the world is
wrapped in fear, with his mercy he may shield us and with
words of love draw near. Christ, to thee be endless glory,
from all on earth be praise, who from heaven wilt come
to save us and redeem from sinful ways. Honor, glory,
might, and blessing to the Father and the Son, with the
everlasting Spirit, while eternal ages run. Amen.

FIRST LESSON Isaiah 11:1–10 (page 602, O.T.)

Minister: The Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

***GLORIA PATRI**

(The Hymnal, 579)

SECOND LESSON

Matthew 3:1–12

(page 2, N.T.)

SERMON

JOYCE SHIN

In the Meantime

*“On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as
a signal to the peoples.”* Isaiah 11:10 (NRSV)

***HYMN 3**

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

***APOSTLES’ CREED**

(unison)

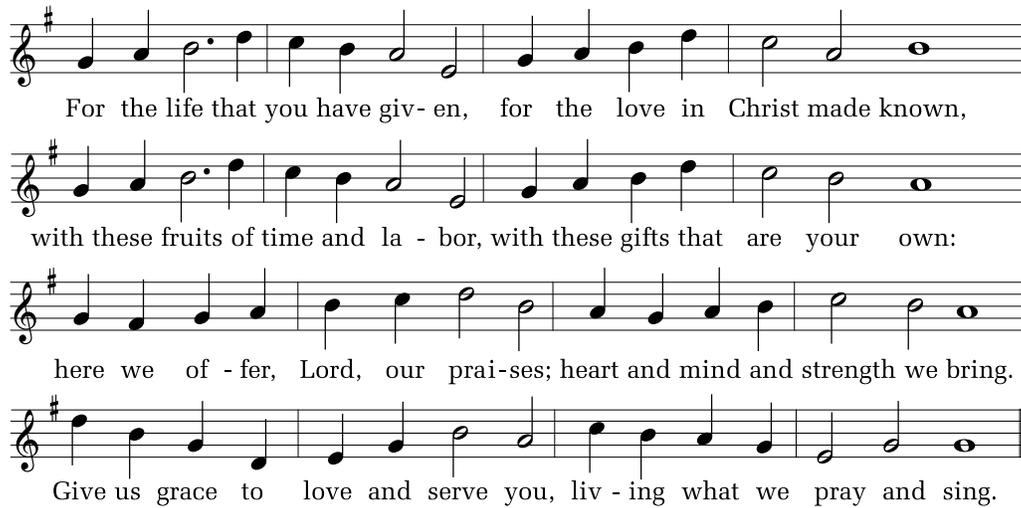
**I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;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

OFFERTORY SOLO “How Beautiful Are the Feet” from *Messiah*

George Frideric Handel

How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the
gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things.

*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.

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

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.**

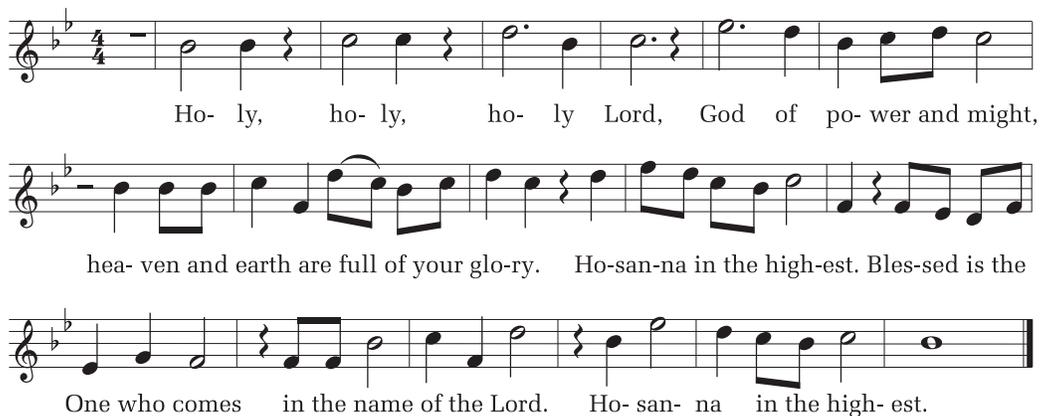
Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

“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.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (*unison*)

**From you, O Lord,
we have received all that restores us,
heals us, and sustains us.
In the bread and wine of communion,
we have come to know
the sufficiency of your love for us.
We could not ask for more,
for your son has made known to us
a love that saves us.
We give you thanks.
In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.**

***HYMN 508**

“For the Bread Which You Have Broken”

Tune: KINGDOM

BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry

Aaron David Miller

WORSHIP LEADERS

Kerri N. Allen, Thomas C. Rook, Joyce Shin

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Stanley Smith

THE MUSIC TODAY

The Chancel 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 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 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.

PASTORAL STAFF

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Victoria G. Curtiss, Associate Pastor for Mission

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Linda C. Loving, Minister for Evangelism

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Matthew J. Helms, Pastoral Resident

David A. Donovan, Associate Pastor Emeritus

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