

MORNING WORSHIP

*The beginning of the prelude is a call to silent,
personal preparation for the worship of God.*

PRELUDE Noël *Aaron David Miller*

INTROIT “The King of Glory Comes” *Israeli folk song
arr. Robert Batistini*

The King of glory comes; the nation rejoices.
Open the gates before him; lift up your voices.
Who is the King of glory; how shall we call him?
He is Emmanuel, the promised of ages.

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

***LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

Leader: In the coming of Christ, we hear God’s
message to us: “I have exalted one chosen
from the people. I have found my servant David;
with my holy oil I have anointed him;
my hand shall always remain with him.”

People: **We shall cry out to Christ, “You are my God,
the Rock of my salvation!”**

Leader: The fourth candle on the Advent wreath
reminds us that our Savior has almost come.
He will bring light to the darkness
and hope to the world.

People: **We are called into God’s house to bear witness
to the light. We are sent from God’s house
to take light into the world.**

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 8** “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates” *Tune: TRURO*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(unison)*

God of mercy and grace, you know the secrets of our hearts: how blind we are to our own faults, yet harsh in judging others; how swift we are to take for gain, yet slow to give to others; how proud we are of our success, yet grudging in praise of others. In your tender care and unfailing love, forgive our conformity to the world's ways. By your transforming grace, make us open to your wisdom and your ways. Amen.

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Minister: Friends, believe the good news.

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

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

PSALTER Psalm 80:1–7 *(responsively)* (page 511, O.T.)

ANTHEM “Carol of the Advent” *Besançon carol*
arr. Philip Dietterich

People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year. Make your house fair as you are able; trim the hearth and set the table. People, look east, and sing today; love, the guest, is on the way. Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there; give up your strength the seed to nourish, that, in course, the flower may flourish. People, look east, and sing today; love, the rose, is on the way. Birds, though ye long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be filled. Even the hour when wings are frozen, he for fledging time has chosen. People, look east, and sing today; love, the bird, is on the way. Stars, keep the watch, when night is dim one more light the bowl shall brim, shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together. People, look east, and sing today, love, the star, is on the way. Angels, announce to man and beast him who cometh from the east. Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming. People, look east, and sing today, love, the Lord, is on the way.

FIRST LESSON Isaiah 7:10–16 (page 598, O.T.)

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

***GLORIA PATRI**

(The Hymnal, 579)

SECOND LESSON

Matthew 1:18–25

(page 1, N.T.)

SERMON

Incarnate

CALUM I. MACLEOD

***HYMN 48**

“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

Tune: EST IST EIN’ ROS’

***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.**

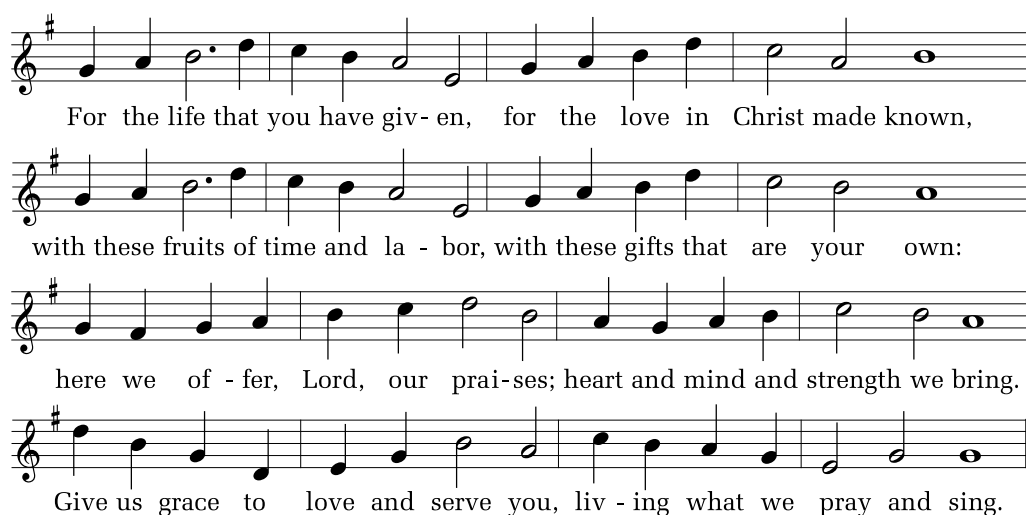
OFFERING

OFFERTORY SOLO “Gesú Bambino”

Pietro Yon

When blossoms flowered ’mid the snows upon a winter night
was born the child, the Christmas rose, the King of love
and light. The angels sang; the shepherds sang; the grateful
earth rejoiced; and at his blessed birth the stars their
exultation voiced. O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.
Again the heart with rapture glows to greet the holy night
that gave the world its Christmas rose, its King of love
and light. Let every voice acclaim his name, the grateful
chorus swell, from paradise to earth he came that we
with him might dwell.

*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.**

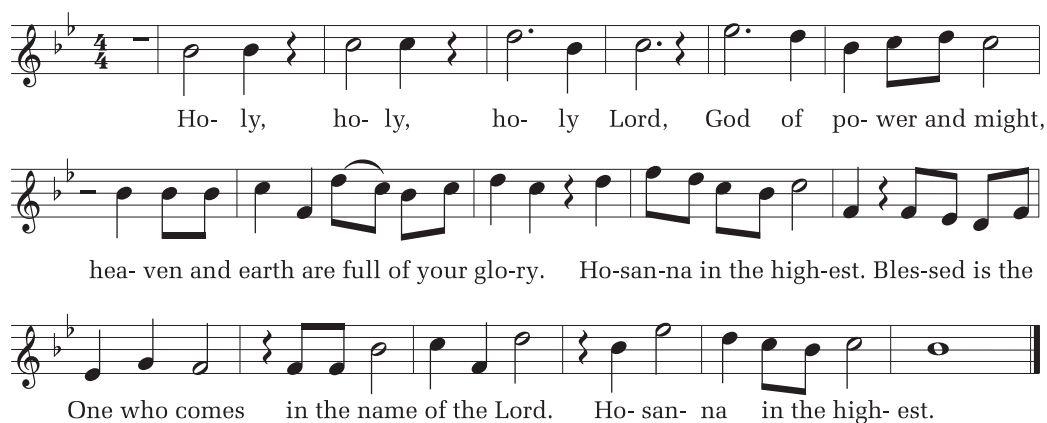
Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PRAYER

Minister: Gratitude, praise, hearts lifted high . . .

. . . 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 “Creator of the Stars of Night” *Plainsong* *arr. Dale Wood*

Creator of the stars of night, the people's everlasting light.
O Christ, thou Savior of us all, we pray thee, hear us when we
call. To thee the travail deep was known that made the whole
creation groan till thou, Redeemer, shouldest free thine own
in glorious liberty. And when the world drew on toward
night, thou camest, not in splendor bright as monarch, but
the humble child of Mary, blameless mother mild. At thy
great name of Jesus, now all knees must bend, all hearts
must bow; and things celestial thee shall own, of things
terrestrial, Lord alone. Come in thy holy might, we pray,
redeem us for eternal day from every power of darkness,
when thou judgest all the sons of men. To God the Father,
God the Son, and God the Spirit, three in one; laud, honor,
might, and glory be from age to age eternally. Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *(unison)*

**Most Gracious God, we praise you for what you have
given us and for what you have promised us here.
You have made us one with all your people in
heaven and on earth. You have fed us with the bread
of life and renewed us for your service. Now we give
ourselves to you and ask that our daily living may
be a part of your kingdom and that our love may be
your love reaching out into the life of the world;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

*HYMN 23 “Angels We Have Heard on High” *Tune: GLORIA*

BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

POSTLUDE Finale from *Variations on a Noël* *Marcel Dupré*

WORSHIP LEADERS

Matthew J. Helms, Donna Gray, Calum I. MacLeod

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Louise Gram

THE MUSIC TODAY

The Chancel Choir; Erin Snell, soloist

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

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist and Handbell Director

WORSHIP NOTES

This morning's Prayer after Communion is from the Church of Scotland's *Common Order*.

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. (Gluten-free bread is available in a small tumbler in each basket of bread.) 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.

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

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