

MORNING WORSHIP

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

PRELUDE	Noël	<i>Claude Balbastre</i>
	He Is Born, the Divine Christ Child	<i>Morgan Simmons</i>
	The Holy Boy	<i>John Ireland</i>
	Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming	<i>Johannes Brahms</i>
	Christmas Carol	<i>Johannes Brahms</i>

INTROIT	“Precious Gift His Wondrous Birth”	<i>Dave Brubeck</i>
	Precious gift his wondrous birth, Son to reconcile the earth. May the angels' song of peace go 'round the world and never cease. Lift your voices loud and clear; only love can conquer fear. Sing a song of peace and grace; unify the human race. Honor Mary and her son, know our Father's will is done when we sing in unison. Rejoice together, all voices one on Christmas Day. Sing!	

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

***CAROL 31** “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” *Tune: MENDELSSOHN*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

**God most high, your only Son embraced the weakness
of flesh to give us power to become your children;
your eternal Word chose a dwelling among us
that we might live in your presence.
Grant us a spirit of wisdom to know how
rich is the glory you have made our own
and how great the hope to which we are called
in Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh. Amen.**

DECLARATION OF PARDON

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

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

READING	“Journey of the Magi”	T. S. Eliot
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ANTHEM	“What Is This Lovely Fragrance?”	<i>French carol</i> <i>arr. Healey Willan</i>
	<p>What is this lovely fragrance wafting like to the scents of flowers in spring? Shepherds, O tell us, whence such beauty; hear you not heavenly caroling? What is this light so fair, so tender, breaking upon our wondering eyes? Never the morning star so radiant followed his course o’er eastern skies. Shepherds, O haste with eager footsteps, seek the Savior, born today. Low at his feet we lay our treasure, heart’s adoration, love for aye.</p>	
READING	“The Word, for Our Sake”	Julia Esquivel
*CAROL 28	“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”	<i>Tune: IN DULCI JUBILO</i>
READING	“Remembering That It Happened Once”	Wendell Berry
*CAROL 29	“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”	<i>Tune: GO TELL IT</i>
READING	Luke 2:1–20	(page 54, N.T.)
	<p>Minister: The Word of the Lord. People: Thanks be to God.</p>	
ANTHEM	“There Is No Rose of Such Virtue”	<i>Stephen Caracciolo</i>
	<p>There is no rose of such virtue as is the rose that bare Jesu. Alleluia. For in this rose contained was heaven and earth in little space. <i>Res Miranda</i>. By that rose we may well see there be one God in persons three. <i>Pares forma</i>. Leave we all this worldly mirth and follow we this joyful birth. <i>Transeamus</i>. There is no rose of such virtue as is the rose that bare Jesu. <i>Gaudeamus</i>.</p>	
SERMON		CALUM I. MACLEOD
*CAROL 36	“In the Bleak Midwinter”	<i>Tune: CRANHAM</i>
*APOSTLES’ CREED	<p><i>(unison)</i></p> <p>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.</p>	

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 "A Child My Choice"

Richard Dirksen

Let folly praise that fancy loves; I praise and love that child whose heart no thought, whose tongue no word, whose hand no deed defiled. I praise him most, I love him best, all praise and love is his; while him I love, in him I live and cannot live amiss. Love's sweetest mark, laud's highest theme, our most desired light; to love him, life; to leave him, death; to live in him, delight. He, mine by gift; I, his by debt, thus each to other due. First friend he was, best friend he is, all times will try him true. Though young, yet wise; though small, yet strong; though man, yet God he is. As wise, he knows; as strong, he can; as God, he loves to bliss. His knowledge rules; his strength defends; his love doth cherish all. His birth, our joy; his life, our light; his death, our end of thrall. Alas, he weeps, he sighs, he pants; yet do his angels sing; out of his tears, his sighs and throbs doth bud a joyful spring. Almighty babe whose tender arms can force all foes to fly, correct my faults, protect my life, direct me when I die. Amen.

***PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING AND 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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***CLOSING RESPONSES**

Minister: A boy has been born for us.

People: **A child has been given to us.**

Minister: And his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Eternal Father, the Prince of Peace.
Once we were no people.

People: **Now we are God's people.**

Minister: Once we walked in darkness.

All: **Now we have seen a great light.**

***CAROL 40**

“Joy to the World!”

Tune: ANTIOCH

BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

*African American spiritual
arr. Eugene Hancock*

IN THE DETAILS



These kneeling angels—beginning with the Alpha and the Omega—grace the roof supports on the colorful arches far above the pews; the eight motifs pictured here are repeated four times each. Like all of the painting in the sanctuary, they were executed under the direction of famed Chicago muralist Frederick Clay Bartlett.

WORSHIP LEADERS

9:30 a.m. Joyce Shin, Linda C. Loving, Calum I. MacLeod

11:00 a.m. Joyce Shin, Linda C. Loving, Calum I. MacLeod

THE MUSIC TODAY

9:30 a.m. The Morning Choir

11:00 a.m. The Morning 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 the Christmas season.

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, including a monthly service in the style of Taizé. This month the Taizé service will be held on Friday, December 31. This special New Year’s Eve service will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary.

The bulletin cover photo was taken in the Fourth Church cloisters during a recent snowstorm. The cover quote is from Wendell Berry’s book of Sabbath poems, *A Timbered Choir*.

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