

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

**God of all creation,
we confess that we have tried to make you small.
You come in all your glory and majesty to redeem
all of creation, and we complain that you have not
addressed our personal concerns. You call us to
take part in grand reversals of history, and we resist
because we would rather lead than follow. You
enter into our lives through the astounding miracle
of a child born in flesh and blood, and we mutter in
our hearts that we would rather have a neat little
package that fits in our pocket. Help us to receive
the full measure of your awe-inspiring presence
this Advent season. Tear down our intransigent
attitudes, break through our inflexible boundaries,
and help us to receive the good news of the coming
of your Son, Jesus Christ, again. Amen.**

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Minister: Friends, believe the good news.

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

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

PSALTER Psalm 85 (*responsively*) (page 514, O.T.)

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.

FIRST LESSON Isaiah 40:1–11 (page 627, O.T.)

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

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

SECOND LESSON Mark 1:1–8 (page 32, N.T.)

SERMON Just the Beginning **HARDY H. KIM**
“The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ,
the Son of God.” Mark 1:1 (NRSV)

***HYMN 10**

“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

Tune: WINCHESTER NEW

***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 VOLUNTARY “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Robert Powell

***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.**

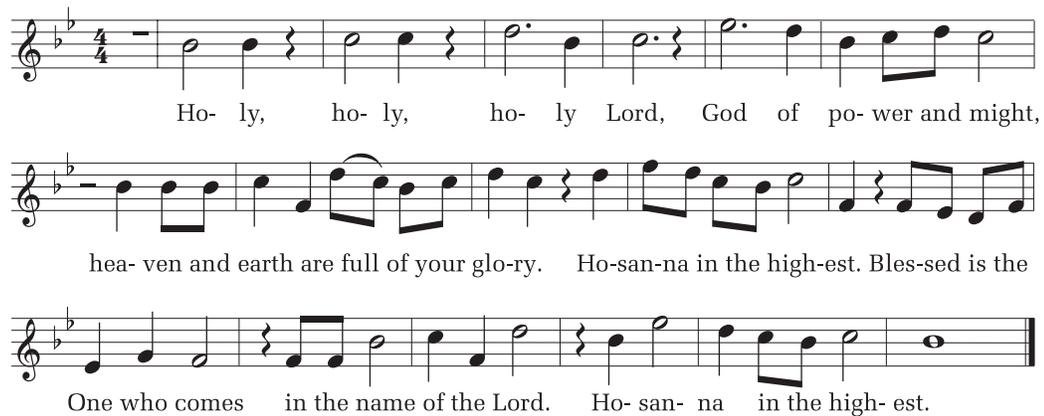
Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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 Heavenly Word, Eternal Light” *Plainsong*

O Heavenly Word, Eternal Light, begotten of the Father’s might, who in these latter days wast born for blessing to a world forlorn; pour light upon us from above, and fire our hearts with ardent love, that, as we hear thy truth today, all wrong desires may burn away. O let us not, for evil past, be driven from thy face at last, but with thy saints forevermore behold thee, love thee, and adore. To God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit, ever one, praise, honor, might, and glory be from age to age eternally.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (*unison*)

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe, creator of light and darkness. In this holy season, when the sun’s light is swallowed up by the growing darkness of the night, you renew your promise to reveal among us the splendor of your glory, made flesh and visible to us in Jesus Christ, your Son. Through the prophets you teach us to hope for his reign of peace. Through the outpouring of your Spirit and in the gifts of the bread and cup, you give sight to our souls, that we may see your glory in the presence of Christ. Strengthen us where we are weak, support us in our efforts to do your will, and free our tongues to sing your praise, for to you all honor and blessing are due, now and forever. Amen.

***HYMN 13** “Prepare the Way” *Tune: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN*

BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

POSTLUDE On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry
Aaron David Miller

The Lord’s Supper at 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. All who confess Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord are invited to partake of the Lord’s Supper.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Joyce Shin, Victoria G. Curtiss, Hardy H. Kim

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Nicholette Andrews

THE MUSIC TODAY

The Chancel Choir

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

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist and Handbell Director

Carol Carpenter, Flute

WORSHIP NOTES

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.

The Advent banners, in the form of wings, convey the idea of Advent stillness and of waiting in the presence of angels. They were designed and painted by Eliza Linley of Berkeley, California.

PASTORAL STAFF

John 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

Hardy H. Kim, Associate Pastor for Evangelism

Joyce Shin, Associate Pastor for Congregational Life

John W. Vest, Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry

Judith L. Watt, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care

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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