

## MORNING WORSHIP

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

### PRELUDE

Now Thank We All Our God from *Cantata no. 79*  
*Johann Sebastian Bach*  
Let All Together Praise Our God *Nikolaus Vetter*  
Fantasy on *Now Thank We All Our God* *Feike Asma*

### \*DOXOLOGY AND INVOCATION

(The Hymnal, 592)

### \*HYMN 559

“We Gather Together”

*Tune: KREMSER*

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

Almighty God, in love you spread good gifts  
before us, more than we need or deserve.  
You feed, heal, teach, and save us.  
We confess that we always want more;  
that we never share as freely as you give.  
We resent what we lack  
and are jealous of neighbors.  
We misuse what you intend for joy.  
God, forgive our stubborn greed and envy  
and our destructiveness.  
In mercy, help us to take such pleasure  
in your goodness  
that we will always be thanking you;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### DECLARATION OF PARDON

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

### CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

**ANTHEM**

“What Shall I Render to My God?” *American folk hymn*  
*arr. Austin C. Lovelace*

What shall I render to my God for all his mercy's store?  
I'll take the gifts he hath bestowed and humbly ask for  
more. The sacred cup of saving grace I will with thanks  
receive, and all his promises embrace and to his glory  
live. My vows I will to his great name before his people  
pay, and all I have, and all I am, upon his altar lay. Thy  
lawful servant, Lord, I owe to thee whatever is mine.  
Born in thy family below and by thy redemption thine.  
Thy hands created me, thy hands from sin have set me  
free, the mercy that hath loosed my bands hath bound  
me fast to thee. Praise him, ye saints, the God of love  
who hath thy sins forgiven, till gathered to the church  
above, we sing the songs of heaven.

**PSALTER**

Psalm 103 (*sung*) (The Hymnal, 223)

**\*GLORIA PATRI**

(The Hymnal, 579)

**SCRIPTURE**

Psalm 136 (page 543, O.T.)

Response: **For God's steadfast love endures forever.**

**SERMON**

Unending Thanks VICTORIA G. CURTISS

**\*HYMN 551**

“Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”

*Tune: ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR*

**\*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

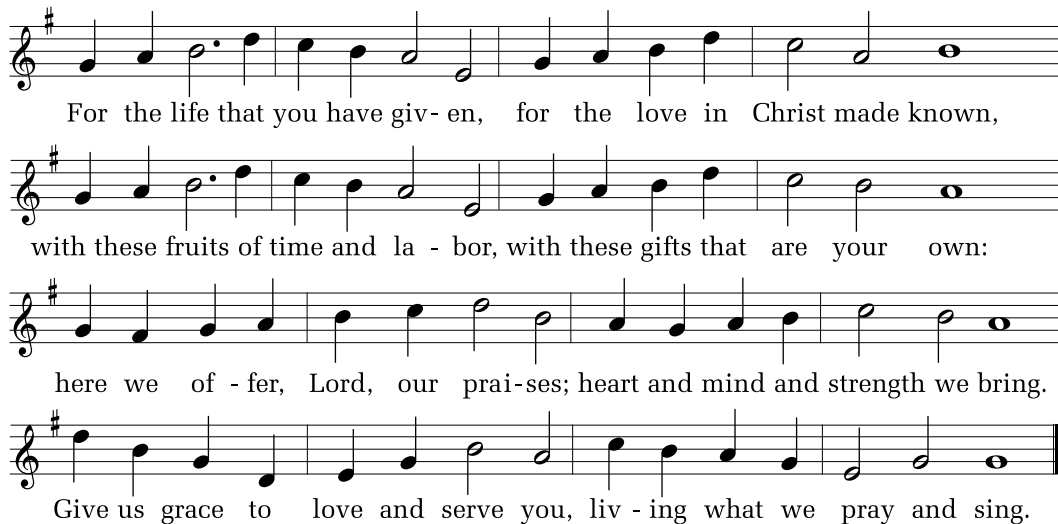
### OFFERTORY ANTHEM "Harvest Song"

*American folk hymn*

*arr. A. C. Lovelace*

Sing to the Lord of harvest,  
sing songs of love and praise;  
with joyful hearts and voices your alleluias raise!  
By him the rolling seasons in fruitful order move;  
sing to the Lord of harvest a joyous song of love.  
By him the clouds drop fatness,  
the deserts bloom and spring,  
the hills leap up in gladness,  
the valleys laugh and sing.  
He filleth with his fullness  
all things with large increase;  
he crowns the year with goodness,  
with plenty and with peace.  
Bring to his altar the gifts his goodness gave,  
the golden sheaves of harvest,  
the souls he died to save.  
Your hearts lay down before him  
when at his feet you fall,  
and with your lives adore him,  
who gave his life for all.

### \*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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## **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: **God of all mercies,  
gracious God, by your providence  
we live and work and know the gift of community,  
and from your hand we receive the things we need,  
gift on gift.**

**All free.**

**We thank you for the harvest of goodness  
you supply: for food and shelter,  
for words and gestures,  
for all our human friendships.**

**Above all, we praise you for your Son,  
who came to show mercy  
and who names us his friends.**

**We offer you our lives and our gifts  
in gratitude and devotion.**

**Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **\*HYMN 555**

“Now Thank We All Our God”

*Tune: NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT*

## **BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE**

### **POSTLUDE**

Choral Improvisation on *Now Thank We All Our God*  
*Sigrid Karg-Elert*

## ADVENT NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES AT FOURTH CHURCH

**An Advent Wreath Workshop** for children and families will be held this Sunday from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Parish House Dining Room.

**Holiday concerts featuring** Chicago *a cappella*, Chanticleer, the St. Charles Singers, and the Lakeside Singers will be presented at Fourth Church over the next three weeks. See [www.fourthchurch.org/concerts](http://www.fourthchurch.org/concerts) for dates and ticket information.

**The “Christmas Wishes” gift project** collects gifts for Chicago Lights Tutoring students who might not otherwise receive them. Volunteers are needed to help collect and wrap gifts. To help, call Anne Ellis at 312.573.3369.

**The annual Fair Trade Gift Bazaar** will be held on Saturday and Sunday, December 7 and 8 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Anderson Hall and Borwell Dining Room.

**The “Christmas Gift Bag”** project provides gifts for Sunday Night Supper guests. Instructions and a bag, to decorate and fill, are available at the reception desk. Filled bags are to be returned to the reception desk by Sunday, December 8.

**The Festival of Advent Lessons and Music** will take place on Sunday, December 8 at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. A cookies-and-cocoa reception will follow in Anderson Hall.

**Help decorate the Sanctuary** and Gratz Center and also memorialize or honor loved ones by contributing to the purchase of Christmas flowers. A list of those remembered will be printed in the Christmas bulletin. Contributions can be made using forms in the literature racks and at [www.fourthchurch.org](http://www.fourthchurch.org). Completed forms must be returned by Friday, December 13 for names to appear in the bulletin.

**“The Music and Meaning of Advent”** invites adults and children to a time of fellowship and music on Wednesday, December 11 at 5:30 p.m. in the Gratz Center. RSVP with Ryan Loeckel at [rloeckel@fourthchurch.org](mailto:rloeckel@fourthchurch.org) or online at [www.fourthchurch.org/academy](http://www.fourthchurch.org/academy).

**An Advent Contemplative Retreat** will be held Friday–Saturday, December 13–14 at The Well in La Grange Park. Details are available in the literature racks. Registration forms are due by next Sunday, December 8.

**Men’s Ministry** will meet for breakfast and a presentation about Christmas music, led by Carl Grapentine, on Saturday, December 14 at 8:00 a.m. in the Bumpus Room. For more information, contact Edwin Estevez at [eeestevez@fourthchurch.org](mailto:eeestevez@fourthchurch.org).

**A “Christmas with Tower Brass”** concert will be held on Saturday, December 21 at 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

## **WORSHIP LEADERS**

Victoria G. Curtiss, Associate Pastor for Mission

## **THE MUSIC TODAY**

Members of the Morning Choir

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

## **WORSHIP NOTES**

**The “Light Up a Life” offering** will be received throughout December. It supports congregational programs, mission, and community outreach, including Chicago Lights programs, and denominational programs. “Light Up a Life” gifts can be made by 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 Sunday worship opportunities:**

an 8:00 a.m. Communion service, services at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m., and a 4:00 p.m. jazz service with Communion. For more information about worship at Fourth Church, visit [www.fourthchurch.org/worship](http://www.fourthchurch.org/worship).

## **PASTORAL STAFF**

**Calum I. MacLeod**, Executive Associate Pastor and Head of Staff

**Victoria G. Curtiss**, Associate Pastor for Mission

**Adam H. Fronczek**, Associate Pastor for Adult Education and Worship

**Matt Helms**, 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 Pastoral Care

**Edwin Estevez**, Pastoral Resident

**John Buchanan**, Pastor Emeritus

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