



First Sunday of Advent

Gathering

Gathering Music "Better Get Hit in Your Soul"
"Across the Universe"

Charles Mingus

John Lennon and Paul McCartney

We invite you to complete the prayer card found in this worship bulletin and to place it in the plate during the sharing of gifts. Information about the prayer cards is printed on the outside back cover of the bulletin.

Welcome

Inspired by the radical hospitality of Jesus Christ, Fourth Presbyterian Church welcomes all of God's children into the life of the church regardless of gender, age, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, physical limitation, educational background, or economic situation.

Call to Worship Solo "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Leader 1: What are these candles for?

Leader 2: This is an Advent candle ring.

It shows the circle of God's unbroken love.

There are five candles.

We shall light a new candle each Sunday from now until Christmas.

Leader 1: What is the point of doing this?

Leader 2: Because what I hear, I can forget, but what I also see and do
I can remember and I understand.

People: **As we light our Advent candles, may they bring us together
in the warm light of God's love.**

Leader 2: The Gospel of Luke speaks about the future:

People: **"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth,
distress among nations. People will faint from fear and foreboding."**

Leader 1: Because our world is full of fear and distress, we light our first candle,
trusting that Christ is alive on earth and that the Spirit of Christ lives among us.
Living Christ, give us faith to trust in you.

People: **We trust you, we love you, we praise you. Amen.**

***Opening Hymn** "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

**Merciful God, always with us, always coming:
we confess that we do not know how to prepare for your Advent.
We have forgotten how to hope in miracles;
we have ignored the promise of your kingdom;
we get distracted by all the busyness of this season.
Forgive us, God.
Grant us the simple wonder of the shepherds,
the intelligent courage of the magi, and the patient faith of Mary and Joseph,
that we may journey with them to Bethlehem
and find the good news of a child born for us.
Now, in the quiet of our hearts, we ask you to make us ready for his coming.
Amen.**

***Assurance of Pardon**

Leader: Friends, believe the good news.

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

***Passing of the Peace**

Leader: As forgiven children of God, let us not be strangers to one another,
but sisters and brothers in Christ. Please stand and greet one another
with the peace of Christ. The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

All are invited to stand and share the peace of Christ with one another.

***Song** "Soon and Very Soon"

Hearing and Proclaiming the Word

Scripture Matthew 24:36–44

(page 26, N.T.)

Sermon Why Advent?

Adam H. Fronczek

Jazz Improvisation

Sealing the Word

Sharing of Gifts

Please place gifts and prayer cards in the plate as it is passed.

Offertory Music “People Get Ready”

Curtis Mayfield

***Doxology**

Lucy Smith

The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

The 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!**

Sanctus

Lucy Smith

Prayers of the People

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 Music "Of the Spirit, Born of Spirit"

J. B. O. Clemm

Prayer after Communion (*unison*)

**God, as we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ,
we thank you for preparing our spirits
through these gifts of the bread and cup.
As we go out into the world this week,
help us to look to the future before us
and live as people of hope. Amen.**



Sending

***Closing Song** "Watchman, Tell Us of the Night"

***Benediction**

Sending Music

A note on inclusive language

Incorporating ancient and contemporary traditions in this service, God will be named corporately in a variety of ways that are gender neutral. This allows for your personal expressions as you are led to name the Holy in ways meaningful to you.

Worship Leaders

Adam H. Fronczek	Associate Pastor
Edwin Estevez	Pastoral Resident
Lucy Smith Quartet	Lucy Smith, vocals Michael Caskey, drums Bryan Doherty, bass Marcin Fahmy, piano

Acknowledgments

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The Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago

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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

News and Opportunities

News and Resources

Inquirers' Class provides an opportunity to learn more about Fourth Church as well as Presbyterian history and beliefs. This one-session class, which next meets this Monday, December 2 at 6:30 p.m. in Room 4F, is also a prerequisite for membership.

Follow Fourth Church on Twitter:
(@FourthChicago).

Be sure to "like" Fourth Church on Facebook to see the latest photos of church life, keep up-to-date on news, and access resources, including excerpts from sermons and prayers.

Information about the pastoral search process is posted online at www.fourthchurch.org/pnc.

Mission and Outreach

"New Volunteer" orientation sessions for Chicago Lights Tutoring will be held December 4 and 10 at 6:00 p.m. in Room 4G. For details, contact Fernie Tiflis at ftiflis@fourthchurch.org.

Chicago Shares voucher booklets offer a way to give to those in need on the streets while knowing that the \$1 gift will be redeemed at a participating grocery store or restaurant. To purchase a booklet, contact Nancy Davis at ndavis@fourthchurch.org.

Due December 15 are applications for the women's mission trip to Cuba (March 21–29) and the musical mission trip to Guatemala (February 21–March 1). Applications for the mission trip to Mexico (March 8–15) are due January 8. Application details are available in the literature racks and online.

Worship

Opportunity to walk the labyrinth in Buchanan Chapel is available on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays.

A service in the style of Taizé will next be held on New Year's Eve, Tuesday, December 31 at 7:30 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel. It will be preceded by opportunity to walk the labyrinth in Buchanan Chapel between 6:00 and 7:00 p.m. The walk takes approximately twenty minutes.

For a preview of next Sunday's worship and news from Fourth Church, subscribe to the weekly email newsletter, News@FourthChurch, by sending email addresses to news@fourthchurch.org.

Special prayer requests are included in intercessory prayer in Stone Chapel on Sundays. Individuals can pray there with a Deacon at 10:30 a.m. or 12:15 p.m. or place their prayer requests, written on paper, in one of the prayer boxes outside Stone Chapel or in the Narthex.

Online gifts for Light Up a Life—to make a difference in the lives of those served by the programs of Fourth Church and Chicago Lights—can be made at www.fourthchurch.org. They can also be made using the envelopes in the pew racks. These gifts provide important year-end support to programs that feed the hungry, provide educational opportunities, engage people through music, and much more!



News and Opportunities

Advent and Christmas

“A Chanticleer Christmas” concert will be held this Wednesday, December 4 and Thursday, December 5 at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Tickets are available online at www.cso.org.

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, contact Anne Ellis at 312.573.3369 (aellis@fourthchurch.org).

“Carols and Anthems of the Season,” a concert by the St. Charles Singers, will take place this Friday, December 6 at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Tickets are available at www.stcharlessingers.com.

The annual Fair Trade Gift Bazaar will be held this Saturday and next 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 Coffee Hour. Filled bags are to be returned to the reception desk by next Sunday, December 8.

The Festival of Advent Lessons and Music will take place next 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 online at 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 or online at 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 eestevez@fourthchurch.org.

A CLL Holiday Luncheon will be held on Thursday, December 19 at 11:30 a.m. in Borwell Dining Room. Adults sixty and more are invited to register with Ashley Elskus at 312.981.3387 by Tuesday, December 10.

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

Music and the Arts

Harpist Emily Granger will perform this Friday’s free Noonday Concert at 12:10 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel.

Those who would like to receive *Music Notes*, a weekly email newsletter about music at Fourth Church, are invited to subscribe by sending email addresses to music@fourthchurch.org.

News and Opportunities

Enrichment

Men's Bible Study will gather this Tuesday, December 3 at 7:30 a.m. in the Loop. For details, contact Ryan Loeckel at rloeckel@fourthchurch.org.

Christian Century Study Groups will gather this Wednesday, December 4 at 6:00 p.m. in the Randolph Room.

Fourth for Bridge will meet on Saturday, December 7 at 7:30 p.m. at a member's home. To RSVP, contact Anne Ellis at 312.573.3369 (aellis@fourthchurch.org).

Books by Women will discuss *My Antonia* by Willa Cather on Tuesday, December 10 at 6:00 p.m. in the Bumpus Room.

Volunteers and Donations

Current Volunteer Needs

Tutors for the Chicago Lights Tutoring program; one evening a week; Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday; 6:00–7:30 p.m.

Teachers and health professionals for the Center for Life and Learning

Librarian for the Chicago Lights Tutoring program

Experienced website developer to help an AIDS agency improve their website

Current Donation Needs

Men's and women's sturdy seasonal clothes

Nonperishable food items for the Consumer Choice Food Pantry

Double paper/plastic bags

For details or to volunteer, contact Larry Nicholson at 312.981.3382 (lnicholson@fourthchurch.org) or visit www.fourthchurch.org/mission/volunteer.html.

Children, Youth, and Family

Sunday School classes are held at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. Youth in grades 6–12 gather on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. in the Bumpus Room.

The “Mindful Parenting” series continues next Sunday, December 8 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 4G.

A Youth and Family Luncheon will be held next Sunday, December 8 at 12:15 p.m. in Parish House Dining Room.

The “Religion in Interfaith Homes” series continues with the topic “What Do You Have in Common? What Are Your Differences?” on Sunday, December 15 at 1:00 p.m. at Chicago Sinai Congregation (15 W. Delaware Pl.).

La Posada Family Night will be held on Friday, December 20 at 5:30 p.m.

Fellowship

Young Adults meets for fellowship on Sundays at 12:30 p.m. in Room 5A.

A Cornerstones Christmas Party will be held this Friday, December 6 at 6:00 p.m. in Borwell Dining Room. To register (required), contact Carol Allerton at 312.640.5448 (callerton@fourthchurch.org) by this Wednesday, December 4.

Fourth Dimension will gather for a Christmas party and caroling on Friday, December 13 at 6:00 p.m. in Anderson Hall. To register (required), contact Anne Ellis at 312.573.3369 (aellis@fourthchurch.org) by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 10.

During Today's Worship

All are encouraged to use the prayer card, found in this worship bulletin, to offer joys and/or concerns. The cards will be collected during the Sharing of Gifts (simply place the card in the offering plate as it is passed). The prayers will then be incorporated into this afternoon's Prayers of the People.

If you have a prayer you would rather not share during worship, you are invited to complete a prayer card found by one of the prayer boxes in the Narthex, at the back of the Sanctuary, and it will be passed on to Judy Watt, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care.

All, including children, are invited to the Lord's Table to receive Communion, which is served by intinction. The congregation will come forward by the center aisle to receive the bread (gluten-free bread is available in the paper "cup" within the basket of bread), which they will then dip into the chalice of nonalcoholic grape juice. Worshipers will return to their pews by the side aisles.

The large banners hanging in the middle of the Sanctuary were created by liturgical artist Shawna Bowman during the 4:00 worship service and are artistic representations of our worship experience.

Please turn off all cell phones when in the Sanctuary.

Large-print Bibles and individual listening devices for improved sound are available in the back of the Sanctuary. Worship also can be heard through the "T" setting of hearing aids.

If your infant or small child needs care during the worship service, you may leave the Sanctuary and return as you wish. There is also an area in the side aisle where your child can play quietly.

Worship folders, containing quiet activities and a bulletin for children, are available from a greeter.

Printed copies of sermons recently preached at Fourth Church are available in the literature racks outside the South Transept doors (leading to Anderson Hall) and in the Narthex, at the back of the Sanctuary. They are also available at www.fourthchurch.org/sermons/index.html.

To notify pastoral staff of personal concerns, illnesses, hospitalizations, or deaths; to pass along a prayer request; or to arrange homebound Communion with a Deacon, contact Judy Watt, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care, at 312.573.3360 (jwatt@fourthchurch.org).

If You Are New to Fourth Church

Inquirers' Class explores Presbyterian history and beliefs. This one-session class is also a prerequisite for membership and includes a light meal. Attend Monday, December 2 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.; Saturday, December 14 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon; or Monday, January 13 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. For membership information, contact Hardy Kim, Associate Pastor for Evangelism, at 312.981.3399 (hkim@fourthchurch.org).

Information about opportunities and resources available to you here at Fourth Church is available in the literature racks as you're leaving the church. You can also find information on our website (www.fourthchurch.org), our page on Facebook ([facebook.com/fourthchurch](https://www.facebook.com/fourthchurch)), and in our weekly email newsletter (send addresses to news@fourthchurch.org).

If you are interested in considering baptism or membership at the 4:00 p.m. service at Fourth Presbyterian Church, please see Adam Fronczek or any pastor involved in the service. Information is available about the Baptism Seminar and Inquirers' Class, which are necessary for preparation. A monthly opportunity to be baptized or join the church at the 4:00 service is available on December 22.

Sunday parking is available at 900 North Michigan (access from Rush or Walton Street) at the rate of \$8. Validation tickets must be picked up from the 126 E. Chestnut St. reception desk. There is no discounted afternoon parking at the Hancock garage.