

MORNING WORSHIP

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

PRELUDE Savior of the Nations, Come *Johann Sebastian Bach*
“Sleepers, Wake!” A Voice Astounds Us *J. S. Bach*
Savior of the Nations, Come *Helmut Walcha*
“Sleepers, Wake!” A Voice Astounds Us *Paul Manz*

INTROIT “Lo! How a Rose E’er Blooming” *Michael Praetorius*
(9:30)
Lo! How a rose e’er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,
of Jesse’s lineage coming, by faithful prophets sung. It came a
floweret bright amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the
night. Isaiah ’twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind. With Mary
we behold it, the virgin mother kind. To show God’s love aright,
she bore to us a Savior, when half spent was the night.

INTROIT “Nova, Nova” *Michael Bedford*
(11:00)
The angel Gabriel by name unto the virgin Mary came with joyful
news unto the same. Nova, nova, tidings of salvation. Then Mary
looked unto the sky, “Be as it pleases God on high, whose name
my soul shall magnify.” By her the Christ child comes to earth, in
Bethlehem to have his birth; let all the world be filled with mirth!

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

*LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Leader: In a hopeful time, a time like Advent,
the psalmist declares, “Let me hear what God the Lord
will speak, for God will speak peace to God’s people.”
(Psalm 85:8–9)

People: **“Surely salvation is at hand for those who fear God,
that God’s glory may dwell in our land.”**

Leader: We light a second candle on the Advent wreath
to remind us that God’s presence
is becoming brighter in our world.

People: **The light of Christ reminds us to move
beyond fear to caring, beyond self to neighbor,
beyond protection to growth.**

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 9**

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Tune: VENI EMMANUEL

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(unison)*

**Almighty God, you who shaped out of nothing all that is,
forgive us for returning empty-handed.
You who called forth light,
forgive our preference for the dark.
You who sent John to be a voice crying,
forgive our unwillingness to say anything at all.
Create in us clean hearts, O God,
and renew a right spirit within us.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Minister: Friends, believe the good news.

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

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

UNISON PRAYER

**Holy God, remind us of the promises given
in our own baptism and renew our trust in you.
Make us strong to obey your will and to serve you with joy;
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

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 11:1–9 *(read responsively)*

(page 602, O.T.)

***GLORIA PATRI**

(The Hymnal, 579)

SECOND LESSON

Matthew 3:1–12

(page 2, N.T.)

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“Returning to Bethlehem”

ADAM H. FRONCZEK

***HYMN 5**

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

Tune: PICARDY

***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.**

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.**

PRAYER RESPONSE "Amen"

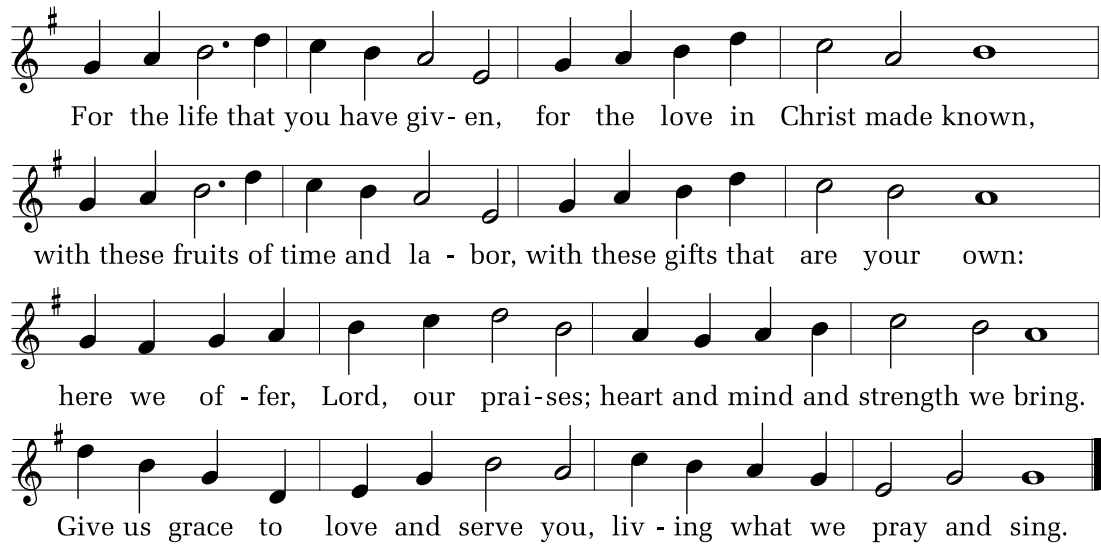
Richard Warner

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM "Canite tuba in Sion" *Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina*

Sound the trumpet in Sion, for the day of the Lord is at hand:
see, he comes to save us. Crooked paths shall be made straight
and rough ways smooth. Come, Lord, and delay not. Alleluia.
Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down
righteousness: let the earth open up and bring forth the Savior.
Show us, Lord, thy mercy and give us thy salvation. Come, Lord,
and delay not. Alleluia.

*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: **O Mighty One,**

**you have done and are doing great things for us,
and holy is your name.**

Bless all we offer you—

ourselves, our time, and our money—

that through us your grace and favor

may be made known to all the world,

for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Amen.

*HYMN 11

“O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?”

Tune: VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Toccata on “O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?”

Michael Burkhardt

**“Let the little children come to me . . .
for it is to such as these that the
kingdom of heaven belongs.”**

Matthew 19:14 (NRSV)

Baptism

at Fourth Presbyterian Church

On the second Sunday of each month, Fourth Church includes the Sacrament of Baptism in morning worship. Baptism is the sign and seal of God's grace and covenant in Christ. As *The Book of Order* of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) explains, baptism signifies the faithfulness of God, the washing away of sin, rebirth, putting on the fresh garment of Christ, and adoption into the covenant family of the church.

The baptism of children witnesses to the truth that God's love claims people before they are able to respond in faith. The congregation, on behalf of the whole church, assumes responsibility for nurturing the baptized children in the Christian life, and it is for this reason that the congregation makes such a promise during the service. In the unison prayer we also remember that we too were baptized and as children of God are part of the worldwide family of faith.

Those being baptized at the 9:30 worship service are

Benjamin Davis Carrier, son of Zachary and Katie Carrier

Sawyer William Gallego, son of Michael and Kathryn Gallego

Those being baptized at the 11:00 worship service are

Charlotte Rose Campbell, daughter of Jon and Jennifer Campbell

Trenton David Jackson, son of Tim and Katie Jackson

Molly Marie Nack, daughter of Joel and Sarah Nack

James Hyatt Tignor, son of Kenneth and Nicole Tignor

WORSHIP LEADERS

9:30 a.m. Judith L. Watt, Calum I. MacLeod, Adam H. Fronczek

11:00 a.m. Judith L. Watt, Calum I. MacLeod, Adam H. Fronczek

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

9:30 a.m. Vince Geckler and Deborah Zak Family

11:00 a.m. Nan Birmingham

THE MUSIC TODAY

9:30 a.m. The Youth Choir; The Morning Choir

11:00 a.m. The Children's Choir; The Youth Choir;
The Morning Choir; Rachael Cohen, flutist

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

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

Katy Sinclair, Associate Director of Music for Children and Youth

WORSHIP NOTES

Fourth Church offers a variety of worship opportunities in addition to Sunday morning services. A jazz service with Communion is held each Sunday at 4:00 p.m. Each weekday morning, Morning Prayer is held in the Sanctuary as a time to remember in prayer members of the Fourth Church congregation and those in need (9:30 a.m. on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday; 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday). A Taizé service is held at 7:30 p.m. on the fourth Friday of each month, except in December, when it is held on New Year's Eve.

The bulletin cover photo shows the Great East Window at night, with the seasonal lights of Michigan Avenue in the foreground. The cover quote is from John Berryman's poem "Eleven Addresses to the Lord."

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