



Second Sunday of Advent

Gathering

Gathering Music "Wade in the Water"

*African American spiritual
arr. Jerry Johnson*

"Swing Low, Sweet Chariot"

Traditional

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 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Leader 1: A prophet speaks, and a psalmist sings, telling us how God will come:

Leader 2: Comfort my people, bring comfort to them, says your God. . . .

Clear a road through the wilderness. . . .

Prepare a highway across the desert for our God. . . .

Then will the glory of God be revealed and all humankind shall see it. . . .

Leader 1: Love and faithfulness will come together. Justice and peace will embrace.

Leader 2: We light our second candle as a prayer of hope and longing
that God's glory may be revealed on earth, through justice, peace, and love.

People: **Living God, come to our world.**

**Help us to recognize your presence wherever people make peace,
show kindness, keep their promises, and do what is right. Amen.**

***Opening Hymn** "Comfort, Comfort You My People"

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Gracious God,

we confess our willingness to be loved

but also our reluctance to love.

We confess our readiness to accept your forgiving love

but also our refusal to forgive.

We confess our eagerness to grasp your offer of redeeming love

but also our resistance to follow you without question.

In this Advent time, forgive us our failure

to respond as we should.

Come to us anew, and by your grace, assist us to receive you

with joy, with gratitude,

with obedience, with love.

Even so: come, Lord Jesus. 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 3:1–12

(page 2, N.T.)

Sermon by 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 "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"

*African American spiritual
arr. J. Johnson*

***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 "One Bread, One Body"

John Foley, S.J.

Prayer after Communion (*unison*)

Gracious God,

**we thank you that your promises to us are shown in this bread and cup,
promises of forgiveness and renewal and hope for the future.**

We ask that these gifts would be reminders to us

of our need to remember the grace you have shown toward us,

that we may shape our lives to a response of genuine gratitude. Amen.

Sending

***Closing Song** "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?"

*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 Lay Liturgist

Lucy Smith Quartet Michael Caskey, drums
Bryan Doherty, bass
Marcin Fahmy, piano

Song Leader Cole Seaton

Note Avenue Jazz Octet Elizabeth Hedgcock, Laura Hoffman (piano), Jerry Johnson, Michael Luttrell, Carol Mycio, Michael O'Donnell, Niku Tseng, Audrey Wagemann

Acknowledgments

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The Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago

Church office: 126 E. Chestnut Street, Chicago, IL 60611.2014; www.fourthchurch.org
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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

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.

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.

Mission and Outreach

A "New Volunteer" orientation session for Chicago Lights Tutoring will be held Tuesday, December 10 at 6:00 p.m. in Room 4G. For details, contact Fernie Tiflis at 312.981.3381 (ftiflis@fourthchurch.org).

Due next Sunday 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, online at www.fourthchurch.org/mission/trips.html, and by contacting Vicky Curtiss at 312.981.3598 (vcurtiss@fourthchurch.org).

News and Resources

Follow Fourth Church on Twitter: (@FourthChicago).

Inquirers' Class offers opportunity to learn more about Fourth Church as well as Presbyterian history and beliefs. This one-session class, which is a prerequisite for membership, next meets on Saturday, December 14 at 9:00 a.m. in Room 4F in the Gratz Center.

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.

The Pastor Nominating Committee (www.fourthchurch.org/pnc) continues to be in conversation with candidates.

Music and the Arts

Flutist Christopher Buckler 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.

Online gifts for Christmas Flowers and Light Up a Life

can be made at www.fourthchurch.org (also accessible by scanning the QR code at right with any smartphone).

There you can also find a complete schedule of this year's Christmas Eve and Christmas Day worship opportunities, upcoming Christmas concerts, and various ways to join this community in our Advent journey to the manger.



News and Opportunities

Advent and Christmas

Today's Festival of Advent Lessons and Music will take place at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. A cookies-and-cocoa reception will follow in Anderson Hall.

Friday is the deadline for Christmas flower contributions to memorialize or honor loved ones. Names of those being remembered must be received by December 13 in order to be printed in the Christmas bulletin. Contributions can be made using forms in the literature racks and at www.fourthchurch.org or by calling Wydetta Carter at 312.274.3833.

An Advent Bible study, led by Vicky Curtiss, will be held on Sundays through December 22 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 5G.

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 reception by Sunday, December 15.

"The Music and Meaning of Advent," an all-ages event of fellowship and music, will be this Wednesday, December 11 at 5:30 p.m. in the Gratz Center. RSVP at www.fourthchurch.org/academy.

Through "Light Up a Life" gifts, you can honor or remember someone special while also providing important year-end support of programs that help neighbors whose needs are great this holiday season. Gifts can be made using the brochures in the literature racks or online at www.fourthchurch.org.

An Advent Contemplative Retreat will be held Friday–Saturday, December 13–14 at The Well in La Grange Park. Registration forms, which are available in the literature racks, are due today.

The "Christmas Wishes" gift project collects gifts for Chicago Lights Tutoring students who might not otherwise receive them. Volunteers are needed to help with weekday inventory and at the gift-wrapping party next Sunday, December 15 from 12:30 to 4:00 p.m. To help, contact Anne Ellis at 312.573.3369 (aellis@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 (aelskus@fourthchurch.org) by this Tuesday, December 10.

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

A Christmas Cantata, featuring Vivaldi's *Gloria*, will be sung by the Morning Choir, accompanied by members of the Chicago Chamber Orchestra, on Sunday, December 22 during 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. worship.

Four candlelight services will be held on Christmas Eve: 4:00 p.m. (Children's Pageant); 6:00 p.m. (Family Service); and 8:30 and 11:00 p.m. (Service of Lessons and Carols). The Christmas Day service will be at 11:00 a.m.

Tickets for the annual Christmas Dinner, which will take place on Wednesday, December 25 at 12:15 p.m. in Anderson Hall, are available at the reception desk. Tickets are limited and will not be available at the door.

News and Opportunities

Enrichment

Books by Women will discuss *My Antonia* by Willa Cather this Tuesday, December 10 at 6:00 p.m. in the Bumpus Room. For more information, contact Anne Ellis at 312.573.3369 (aellis@fourthchurch.org).

“Endings and Beginnings,” a spiritual retreat led by Vicky Curtiss, will be held Saturday, January 4 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Pilgrim Congregational Church (460 Lake St., Oak Park). For more information or to RSVP, contact Nancy Davis at 312.274.3815 (ndavis@fourthchurch.org) by Sunday, December 29.

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 sturdy seasonal clothes in all sizes

Women’s sturdy seasonal clothes in larger sizes

Nonperishable food items for the Consumer Choice Food Pantry at the Chicago Lights Elam Davies Social Service Center

Double paper/plastic bags and department store bags for the Elam Davies Social Service Center

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.

“Munch and Mingle,” offered through Parenting in Faith, will be held for parents next Sunday, December 15 at 9:15 a.m. in Room 4G. Parents are invited to bring a breakfast snack to share.

The “Religion in Interfaith Homes” series continues with the topic “What Do You Have in Common? What Are Your Differences?” next 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 a discussion and fellowship on Sundays at 12:30 p.m. in Room 5A.

Fourth Dimension will gather for a Christmas party and caroling this 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. this Tuesday, December 10.

Men’s Ministry will meet for breakfast and a presentation about Christmas music, led by Carl Grapentine, this Saturday, December 14 at 8:00 a.m. in the Bumpus Room. To RSVP, contact Edwin Estevez at eestevez@fourthchurch.org.

ThirtiesForties will meet to discuss “Life in Focus: Caring,” led by Adrian Guiu, next Sunday, December 15 at 11:00 a.m. in Room 5D.

Advent and Christmas Worship

at Fourth Presbyterian Church

Festival of Advent Lessons and Music

Sunday, December 8

6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Holiday reception follows

Four Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

Tuesday, December 24

4:00 p.m. Children's Pageant

6:00 p.m. Family Service

8:30 p.m. Lessons and Carols

11:00 p.m. Lessons and Carols

Christmas Day Service

Wednesday, December 25

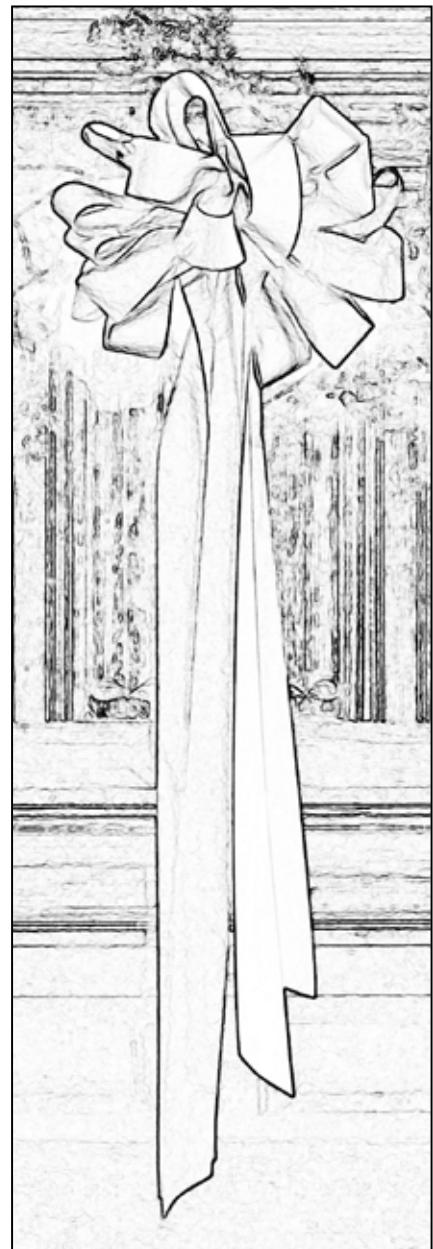
11:00 a.m.

A traditional Christmas dinner in Anderson Hall will be served at 12:15 p.m. Dinner tickets (seating is limited) are available at the reception desk during the week.

New Year's Eve Taizé Service

Tuesday, December 31

7:30 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel



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 Saturday, December 14 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon; Monday, January 13 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.; or Saturday, January 18 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. 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), 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 16, January 27, February 24, March 24, and April 28.

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.