

MORNING WORSHIP

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

PRELUDE	A Medley of Christmas Carols	
	Joy to the World	<i>Wilbur Held</i>
	What Is This Lovely Fragrance?	<i>Paul Manz</i>
	Good Christian Friends, Rejoice	<i>P. Manz</i>
	What Child Is This?	<i>P. Manz</i>
	Bring a Torch, O Jeanette Isabella	<i>Christopher Uehlein</i>
	Of the Father's Love Begotten	<i>David Lasky</i>
	Good King Wenceslas	<i>Virgil Fox</i>
	Away in a Manger	<i>Douglas Wagner</i>

INTROIT	“Alleluia, to Us a Child Is Born”	<i>Iain Quinn</i>
	Alleluia, to us a child is born: come, let us adore him. Alleluia.	
	Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;	
	as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.	

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

***HYMN 49** “Once in Royal David’s City” *Tune: IRBY*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(unison)*

**Jesus and his family were refugees seeking safety.
Innocent children were slaughtered by King Herod.
Evil tyrants still rule and destroy life,
and people needlessly suffer.
We confess and lament the brokenness of our world.
We are complicit in hurting others when we feel threatened
and fear losing our own power and security.
You know the fears that hold us captive
and the lack of faith that paralyzes us.
Forgive and free us.
Open us to a fuller vision of life’s possibilities,
and lead our world to a better way.
In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.**

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Minister: Friends, believe the good news.

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

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

**Stand as you are able.*

PSALTER Psalm 148 (*responsively*) (page 550, O.T.)

ANTHEM "A Christmas Carol" *Charles Ives*

Little star of Bethlehem! Do we see thee now? Do we see thee shining o'er the tall trees? Little child of Bethlehem! Do we hear thee in our hearts? Hear the angels singing: "Peace on earth, goodwill to all!" Noel! O'er the cradle of a King, hear the angels sing: "*In excelsis gloria!*" From his Father's home on high, lo, for us he came to die. Hear the angels singing, "*Venite adoremus Dominum.*"

FIRST LESSON Hebrews 2:10–18 (page 205, N.T.)

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

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

SECOND LESSON Matthew 2:13–23 (page 2, N.T.)

SERMON "In the Midst of Nightmares" VICTORIA G. CURTISS

***HYMN 35** "In Bethlehem a Newborn Boy" *Tune: IN BETHLEHEM*

***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"

Carl Wiltse

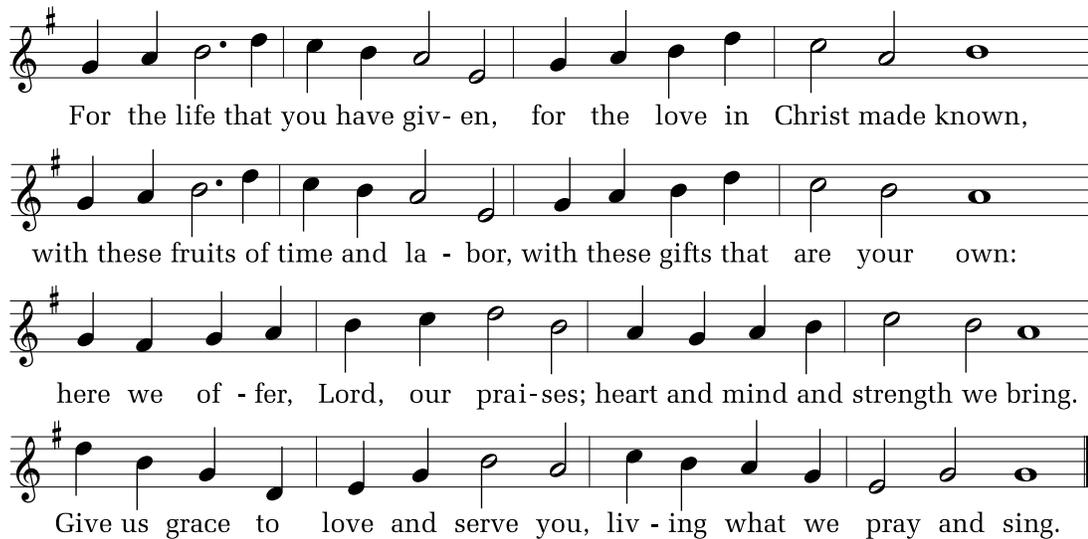
OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM "A Child My Choice"

Richard Dirksen

Let folly praise that fancy loves; I praise and love
the child whose heart no thought, whose tongue no word,
whose hand no deed defiled.
I praise him most, I love him best, all praise and love is his;
while him I love, in him I live, and cannot live amiss.
Love's sweetest mark, laud's highest theme, our most desired light,
to love him life, to leave him death, to live in him delight.
He mine by gift, I his by debt, thus each to other due,
first friend he was, best friend he is, all times will try him true.
Though young, yet wise, though small, yet strong; though man,
yet God he is; as wise he knows, as strong he can,
as God he loves to bliss. His knowledge rules,
his strength defends, his love doth cherish all;
his birth our joy, his life our light, his death our end of thrall.
Alas, he weeps, he sighs, he pants, yet do his angels sing;
out of his tears, his sighs and throbs, doth bud a joyful spring.
Almighty babe, whose tender arms can force all foes to fly,
correct my faults, protect my life, direct me when I die!
Amen.

*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: **Great God, we praise you for the gift of Jesus Christ,
who came to save us from our sins.**

**We thank you for the prophets' hope, the angels' song,
the birth in Bethlehem.**

**We thank you that in Jesus you joined us,
sharing human suffering and joys.**

**With the magi, we now offer our gifts and our lives
in devoted dedication to you.**

Glory to you for your wonderful and everlasting love.

Through Jesus Christ, forever. Amen.

*HYMN 40

“Joy to the World!”

Tune: ANTIOCH

BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Let All Together Praise Our God

P. Manz

Taizé worship

Tuesday, December 31 • 7:30 p.m. • Buchanan Chapel

*A candlelit service of contemplative prayer, meditative singing,
and silent reflection at the close of the year.*



WORSHIP LEADERS

9:30 a.m. Adam H. Fronczek, Joyce Shin, Victoria G. Curtiss

11:00 a.m. Adam H. Fronczek, Matt Helms, Victoria G. Curtiss

THE MUSIC TODAY

9:30 a.m. The Morning Choir

11:00 a.m. The Morning Choir

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

WORSHIP NOTES

The “Light Up a Life” offering is being received through Epiphany. This Christmas giving campaign 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 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 (this week at 9:30 a.m. on Monday, 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.

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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