

MORNING WORSHIP

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

PRELUDE Away in a Manger *Douglas Wagner*

INTROIT “Alleluia, to Us a Child Is Born” *Iain Quinn*
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 40** “Joy to the World!” *Tune: ANTIOCH*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

After each petition:

Minister: . . . God of love, in your mercy:

People: **Hear our prayer.**

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Minister: Friends, believe the good news.

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

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

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.*”

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

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

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“Learn to Count”

EDWIN ESTEVEZ

***HYMN 556**

“The World Abounds with God’s Free Grace”

Tune: HALIFAX

***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 SOLO “He Shall Feed His Flock” from *Messiah*

George Frideric Handel

***OFFERTORY 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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THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

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.**

PRAYER

Minister: It is truly right and our greatest joy . . .

. . . who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Ho- ly, ho- ly, ho- ly Lord, God of po- wer and might,
hea- ven and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the high-est. Bles-sed is the
One who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho- san- na in the high- est.

Music: John W.W. Sherer; © 1997. Used by permission.

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 ANTHEM “’Twas in the Moon of Wintertime” *French carol*

’Twas in the moon of wintertime, when all the birds had fled, that mighty Gitchi Manitou sent angel choirs instead. Before their light the stars grew dim, and wondering hunters heard the hymn: “Jesus, your King, is born. *In excelsis gloria.*” Within a lodge of broken bark the tender babe was found; a ragged robe of rabbit skin enwrapped his beauty round. The chiefs from far before him knelt with gifts of fox and beaver pelt: “Jesus, your King, is born. *In excelsis gloria.*” O children of the forest free, O you of Manitou, the holy child of earth and heaven is born today for you. Come kneel before the radiant boy who brings you beauty, peace, and joy. “Jesus, your King, is born. *In excelsis gloria.*”

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (*unison*)

God of grace, love came down to us at Christmas, surrounded us, and filled us. Let us walk into the new year as forgiven children, reconciled to God. Let us go as risk takers, for you have nourished us with bread and cup. Let us go as new creatures, for you are saving us from our sin. Let us go as children of God, for you will be with us all. Amen.

***HYMN 29**

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

Tune: GO TELL IT

BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Let All Together Praise Our God

Paul Manz

The Lord's Supper at Fourth Presbyterian Church

"Do this in remembrance of me." Luke 22:19 (NRSV)

The Lord's Supper is the sign and seal of eating and drinking in communion with the crucified and risen Lord. In this act, we remember that during his earthly ministry, Jesus shared meals with his followers and sat at dinner tables as a sign of acceptance of the sinner and the outcast. In the act of remembering that is the Lord's Supper, we receive and trust the love of Christ present to us and to the world. Through it, we are renewed and empowered to be the church, the body of Christ, in the world.

The invitation to the Lord's Supper is not just for Presbyterians or "members of the church." All who confess Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord are invited to partake of the Lord's Supper. Access to the Table is not a right conferred upon the worthy but a privilege given to the undeserving who come in faith, repentance, and love. Even one who doubts or whose trust is wavering may receive the bread and grape juice (in place of wine) in order to be assured of God's love and grace in Jesus Christ.

This morning, Communion is served by intinction. The congregation will come forward by the center aisle to receive the bread, which they will then dip into the chalice of grape juice. (Gluten-free bread is available in a small tumbler in each basket of bread.) Worshipers will return to their pews by the side aisles.

Fourth Presbyterian Church celebrates the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper each Sunday at 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. worship and at all morning services on the first Sunday of even-numbered months.

"I am the bread of life."

John 6:35 (NRSV)

Portions of the text above adapted from *The Book of Order*

WORSHIP LEADERS

Joyce Shin, Matt Helms, Edwin Estevez

THE MUSIC TODAY

The Chancel Choir; Laura Kubelka, soloist

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

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, 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 next Taizé service will be Tuesday, December 31.

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.

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

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Judith L. Watt, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care

Edwin Estevez, Pastoral Resident

John Buchanan, Pastor Emeritus

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