



First Sunday of Advent

Gathering

Gathering Music "Living for the City" Stevie Wonder
"Pieces of Dreams" Michel Legrand

During Advent we ready our hearts to encounter the coming light of Christ. This active anticipation of the Christ child takes many forms. We invite you to participate with us in preparing the way for Jesus to enter our lives again through our prayers this season. Instead of using our usual prayer cards, we will be offering our Advent prayers of expectation in a new way—please use a strip of cloth (distributed in the aisles) and a marker to write one word or phrase to express something for which you are waiting expectantly. Each week, we will focus our prayers and waiting on the particular theme for that Sunday in Advent.

This Sunday in Advent, we are thinking about hope. Please write on your strip of cloth the word or phrase that represents the hope for which you wait, and then place it in the wooden manger as you come forward to receive communion.

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 Song** “Come! Live in the Light!”

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 Forgiveness

Leader: 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.**

***Passing of the Peace**

Leader: As redeemed children of God, let us not be strangers to one another,
but family in Christ. Please stand and greet each other
with the peace of Christ. The peace of Christ be with you all.

People: And also with you.

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

Hearing and Proclaiming the Word

Psalter Psalm 80:1–7, 17–19 (*the congregation sings the antiphon*)

ANTIPHON (*unison*) **Restore us, God! Let your face shine that we may be saved.**

Leader: Hear, O Shepherd of Israel,
 leading Joseph like a flock;
 shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim
 in the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh.
Stir up your strength and come to help us.
Restore us, O God of hosts;
 show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

ANTIPHON (*unison*) **Restore us, God! Let your face shine that we may be saved.**

Leader: O Most High God,
 how long will you be angered, despite the prayers of your people?
You have fed them with the bread of tears;
 you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
You have made us the derision of our neighbors,
 and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
Restore us, O God of hosts;
 shine your presence, and we shall be saved.

ANTIPHON (*unison*) **Restore us, God! Let your face shine that we may be saved.**

Leader: Let your hand be upon the one at your side,
 and child of humanity you have made strong for yourself.
And so will we never turn away from you;
 give us life, that we may call upon your name.
Restore us, O God of hosts;
 shine your presence, and we shall be saved.

ANTIPHON (*unison*) **Restore us, God! Let your face shine that we may be saved.**

Scripture Reading

Mark 13:24–37 (*New Testament, page 47*)

Sermon The Sleepless Night Layton Williams

Musical Reflection



Sealing the Word

Offertory Music “Inner City Blues” *Marvin Gaye*

Sharing of Gifts (*Please place gifts in the plate as it is passed.*)

***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*

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 and Prayers of the People

Communion Music “You Satisfy the Hungry Heart” . . . *Robert S. Kreutz and Omer Westendorf*

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** “If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee”

***Benediction**

Sending Music

Worship Leaders

Layton Williams	Pastoral Resident
Hardy H. Kim	Associate Pastor
Jean Marie Koon	Lay Liturgist
Lucy Smith Quartet	Lucy Smith, vocals Katie Ernst, bass Marcus Evans, drums Marcin Fahmy, piano

Baptism

Emory Kevin Desai, son of Kevin and Bailey Desai

A note on inclusive language

Incorporating ancient and contemporary traditions in this service, God is 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.

Acknowledgments

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Music—“Praise God (Dox)” by Lucy Smith, copyright © 2013. All rights reserved. “Gospel Sanctus” by Lucy Smith, copyright © 2011. All rights reserved.

Words and Music—“Psalm 80” is from *The Emergent Psalter* by Isaac Everett, copyright © 2009 Church Publishing, Incorporated. All rights reserved. Used with permission.



PASTORAL STAFF

Shannon J. Kershner, Pastor
Victoria G. Curtiss, Associate Pastor for Mission
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
Layton Williams, Pastoral Resident
John Buchanan, Pastor Emeritus

News and Opportunities

More information about news and upcoming events at Fourth Church is available in the *News and Opportunities* publication in the literature racks and online at www.fourthchurch.org/news

Advent

The “**Christmas Wishes**” gift project collects gifts for Chicago Lights Tutoring students who might not otherwise receive them. To receive a student’s wish list or to volunteer to help collect or wrap gifts, call Anne Ellis at 312.573.3369.

“**A Chanticleer Christmas**” concert will be held this Tuesday, December 2 and Wednesday, December 3 at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Tickets are available online at www.cso.org

“**Candlelight Carols,**” a concert by the St. Charles Singers, will take place this Friday, December 5 at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Tickets are available online at www.stcharlessingers.com

Taking Communion to homebound members will be part of the Deacon ministry in December. If you know of Fourth Church members who would like to receive Communion, please call Carol Allerton today at 312.640.5448.

Items for Christmas gift bags are being collected for guests of the Elam Davies Social Service Center. Instructions and a list of needed items are available at the reception desk. Items are to be returned to the reception desk by next Sunday, December 7.

The annual **Fair Trade Gift Bazaar** will be held on Saturday and Sunday, December 6 and 7 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Anderson Hall and Borwell Dining Room.

“**Holiday Pops!**”—a concert with Chicago Chamber Orchestra and cabaret duo Beckie Menzie and Tom Michael—will take place next Sunday, December 7 at 3:00 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel. Tickets are available at www.chicagochamberorch.org

“**Holidays a cappella,**” with Chicago *a cappella*, will be held on Friday, December 12 at 8:00 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel. Tickets are available online at www.chicagoacappella.org

Forms to donate Christmas flowers and garlands to decorate the Sanctuary and the Gratz Center are available in the literature racks and online and are due Friday, December 12.

An Advent Contemplative Retreat will be held Saturday–Sunday, December 13–14. Registration forms, which are available in the literature racks and online, are due next Sunday, December 7.

The Festival of Advent Lessons and Music will take place on Sunday, December 14 at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. A cookies-and-cocoa reception will follow in Anderson Hall.

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, much more!



During Today's Worship

During Advent, we ready our hearts to encounter the coming light of Christ. We invite you to participate with us in preparing the way for Jesus to enter our lives again through our prayers this season. Instead of using our usual prayer cards, we will be offering our Advent prayers of expectation in a new way—please use a strip of cloth (distributed in the aisles) and a marker to write one word or phrase to express something for which you are waiting expectantly. Each week, we will focus our prayers and waiting on the particular theme for that Sunday in Advent.

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.

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 left-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 1, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.; Saturday, December 13, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon; or Monday, January 5, 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), 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 Church, please contact Liz Nickerson (312.573.3366; lnickerson@fourthchurch.org) 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 28 and January 25.

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.

The Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago

Church office: 126 E. Chestnut Street, Chicago, IL 60611.2014; www.fourthchurch.org
312.787.4570; Fax: 312.787.4584; www.facebook.com/fourthchurch