

Welcome to Worship at Fourth Presbyterian Church

We are grateful for your presence and invite you to participate in the worship, service, and program life of Fourth Church!

During Today's Worship

Large-print bulletins, Bibles, and hymnals are available in the Narthex.

Worship also can be heard through the "T" setting of hearing aids.

Individual listening devices for improved sound are also available from ushers.

If your infant or child needs care or becomes disruptive during the worship service, you may leave the Sanctuary and return as you wish. Child care for infants through two-year-olds is provided in the Nursery on the first floor of the Gratz Center.

The Hospitality Suite on the second floor is also available for parents and infants.

See an usher for directions.

Worship folders, containing quiet activities and a bulletin designed for children, are available from the ushers outside the south transept doors, between the Sanctuary and Anderson Hall, and in the Narthex, at the back of the Sanctuary.

During the Concerns of the Church, please sign the pew information pads, so that we might know you are here and all worshipers have an opportunity to provide updated information and to greet one another by name following the service.

Please silence all electronic devices when in the Sanctuary.

If You Are New to Fourth Church

Please wear a lapel pin, found in the pew racks, so we may greet you after worship.

We invite you to stop by Coffee Hour after worship for fellowship, conversation, and information about church programs and volunteer opportunities.

Parking is available on Sundays at 900 North Michigan (access from Rush or Walton Street) at the rate of \$8 between 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Validation tickets for the 900 garage must be picked up during morning Coffee Hour or from the Chestnut Street reception desk.

A church tour begins at 12:15 p.m., starting at the back of the Sanctuary.

An organ tour begins at 12:15 p.m. at the front of the Sanctuary.

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 7 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.; Saturday, December 12 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon; or Monday, January 4 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) or go to www.fourthchurch.org.

Fourth Church Cares

To notify pastoral staff of personal concerns, illnesses, hospitalizations, or deaths; to pass along a prayer request; or to arrange homebound Communion, contact Judith Watt, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care, at 312.573.3360 (jwatt@fourthchurch.org). Please note that under current law, medical institutions no longer automatically inform churches when a member is admitted.

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

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Come Thou Now, Jesus Down from Heaven Johann Sebastian Bach
Savior of the Nations, Come Dietrich Buxtehude
On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry Aaron David Miller

Introit

"Glory to God" Peruvian melody
Glory to God, glory in the highest! Glory to God, glory to Christ Jesus!
Glory to God, glory to the Spirit! To God be glory forever, alleluia. Amen.

*Doxology (*sung*). The Hymnal, 606
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Call to Worship and Liturgy of the Advent Wreath

Leader: *In the beginning was the Word—
spoken and breathed, a promise made and kept.*
People: **Speak it loud and clear—God's promise is true!**
Leader: *The Word was in the beginning,
and through him all things come into being.*
People: **Eternal and near at hand, already and not-yet,
God's promise is the foundation of all life.**
Leader: *Do not hold back! Speak out, giving voice to God's peace
that passes all understanding.*

*Sung Response (*unison*) "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"
O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
who orders all things mightily:
to us the path of knowledge show;
and teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come to thee, O Israel.

Leader: *Let us worship God!*

*Hymn 87 "Comfort, Comfort Now My People"

**Stand as you are able.*

Litany of Confession

Leader: *Surprising God, we wait in darkness and in cold.
On the streets, some of our brothers and sisters wait
with their protest signs, and others wait with empty cups.
In our homes, our children, our parents, and our friends, all wait.*

People: **Even as we long for you, we confess that others wait for us.**

Leader: *The wait is hard, and we would rather minister to ourselves
than bring the hope of your coming to others.*

People: **We confess our desire to burrow in and pretend that your
coming will solve all our problems so we can do nothing.**

Leader: *We confess our desire to wrap ourselves in pithy sayings
on social media, or in lots of stuff to help us forget
what your coming really means.*

People: **Forgive us, O God. Give us the courage to welcome the wait, to
watch with those who long for it, and to not shrink back in fear.**

Leader: *Come quickly, Lord Jesus.*

People: **Amen.**

Declaration of Pardon

Minister: *Friends, believe the good news.*

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

Concerns of the Church

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter (*responsively*)

Psalm 126 Old Testament, page 541

*Gloria Patri (*sung*). The Hymnal, 581

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen. Amen.**

Scripture Lesson

Luke 3:1–6 New Testament, page 56

Minister: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon Shannon J. Kershner

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 83 “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

*Affirmation of Faith (*unison*) Apostles’ Creed

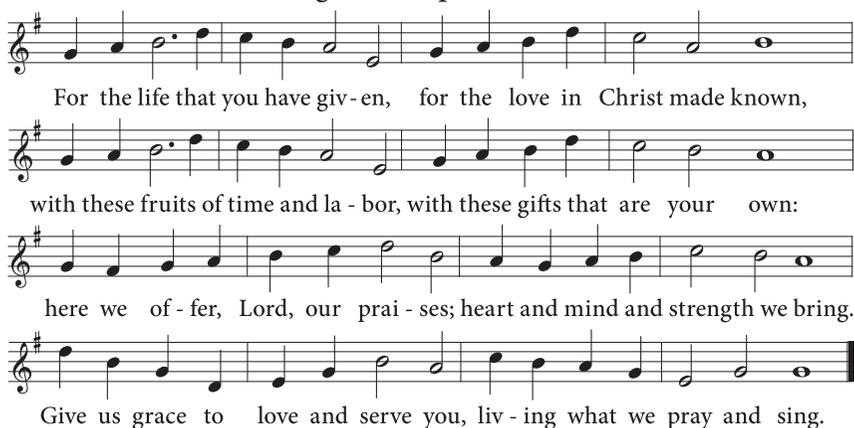
I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the
Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day
he rose again from the dead; 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.

Commissioning of Minister for Congregational Life

Offertory Anthem

“People, Look East” Besançon carol
arr. Philip Dietterich

*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.

Sealing the Word

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: *O Living God, for your blessing in creation . . .
. . . So hear us now as we raise our voices with
all the faithful in every time and in every place,
forever singing to the glory of your name:*

Sanctus (*sung*) The Hymnal, 552

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

Minister: *In the fullness of your time, you sent your Son,
the Prince of peace, to be one of us and one with us . . .
. . . Great is the mystery of faith!*

Memorial Acclamation (*sung*). The Hymnal, 553

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.
Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Minister: *Gracious One, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us . . .
. . . who taught us to pray saying:*

The Lord’s Prayer (*unison*)

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by 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 Anthems

- “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” Edward C. Bairstow
- “E’en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come” Paul Manz

Psalm 23 *(recited in unison after all have received the cup)*

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures, he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul; he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies; thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

*Prayer and Dedication of Our Homebound Elements *(unison)*

Gracious God, you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. As the bread and cup go out from this time of worship, into times of worship at bedsides and in homes, we pray for those who will receive these elements of grace. May they also feel the way you tie us all together in you. May all of our love be your love reaching out into the life of the world; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 163 “Wild and Lone the Prophet’s Voice”

*Benediction and Response

Worshippers who wish to do so are invited to sing along with the choir during the Benediction responses.

Postlude

Tocatta from *On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry*. Bruce Neswick

TODAY FOURTH CHURCH CELEBRATES THE SACRAMENT of the Lord’s Supper. Communion is not just for Presbyterians or “members of the church.” All who confess Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, even those who doubt or whose trust is wavering, are invited to partake of the Lord’s Supper, in which we are assured of God’s love and grace. This morning the congregation is served in the pews by Fourth Church elders and deacons. The congregation also takes on the role of serving: worshippers take the bread (which is gluten-free) and grape juice from the plate held by their neighbor, and then they take the plate and serve the neighbor on their other side. Empty glasses are placed in the ringed holes in the pew racks.

Worship Leaders

Hardy H. Kim, Judith L. Watt, Shannon J. Kershner

Lighting the Advent Wreath

9:30 The Lukens Family

11:00 Lesley Conzelman and Ellen K. Schaller

The Music Today

The Morning Choir; The Drum Circle

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

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

John Doty, Director of the Drum Circle

Worship Notes

THE “LIGHT UP A LIFE” OFFERING is being received throughout December.

“Light Up a Life” provides opportunity to support congregational programs, mission, and community outreach—including Chicago Lights programs—as well as denominational efforts. “Light Up a Life” gifts can be made 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.

TODAY’S DRUMMING AND RINGING OF THE BELLS is offered in support of climate justice, as we join churches throughout Paris that are doing the same as that city hosts the United Nations Climate Change Conference.

SOURCES AND CREDITS: The Liturgy of the Advent Wreath was written by Teri Peterson, Pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Palatine. Hymn tune names—as well as composers of the music and authors of the text—are listed in the hymnal with each hymn. The words to “For the Life that You Have Given” are by Carl P. Daw Jr. © 1987; music is by Morgan Simmons © 1990, 1992 Hope Publishing Co.

Shannon J. Kershner Pastor
Victoria G. Curtiss Associate Pastor for Mission
Matt Helms Associate Pastor
for Children and Family Ministry
Hardy H. Kim Associate Pastor for Evangelism

Judith L. Watt Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care
Nanette Sawyer Minister for Congregational Life
Jeffrey Doane Parish Associate for Older Adults
Layton Williams Pastoral Resident
John Buchanan Pastor Emeritus

This worship bulletin is printed on recyclable paper that contains recycled post-consumer waste and is acid free. All bulletins and inserts left in the baskets by the doors are recycled.

THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO
Church office: 126 E. Chestnut Street, Chicago, IL 60611.2014
www.fourthchurch.org | www.facebook.com/fourthchurch
312.787.4570 | Voicemail 312.787.2729 | Fax: 312.787.4584