

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

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## Gathering around the Word

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### Prelude

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You . . . . . Michael Burkhardt  
Maestoso – Andante – Allegro – Largo – Toccata

### Introit

“Lift Up Your Heads” . . . . . Michael Praetorius  
arr. Larry Shackley

*Lift up your heads, you mighty gates; behold, the King of glory waits;  
the King of kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here!  
Alleluia! Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart  
from earthly use for heaven’s employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.  
Redeemer, come, with us abide; our hearts to you we open wide;  
let us your inner presence feel; your grace and love in us reveal.  
All praise to you, eternal Son, whose advent has our freedom won,  
whom with the Father we adore and Holy Spirit, evermore. Alleluia.*

\*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

Reader 1: *In Isaiah, chapter 2, the prophet declares that in days to come  
God will judge between the nations and arbitrate for many peoples.*

Reader 2: *We light this candle because we refuse to let go of Isaiah’s hope  
that swords can be beaten into plowshares  
and spears into pruning hooks  
and that nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
neither shall they learn war anymore.*

All: Risen Christ, Light of the world, shine in our lives  
and shine among us now.

Sung Response (*unison*) . . . . . “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Leader: *Let us worship God!*

### \*Prayer of Praise

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*\*Stand as you are able.*

\*Hymn 105 . . . . . “People, Look East”

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Merciful God,  
always with us, always coming:  
we confess that we have not kept watch for you.  
We have occupied ourselves with our own concerns.  
We have not always waited to find your will for us.  
We have not always noticed the needs of people around us.  
We have not always acknowledged the love that has been shown to us.  
Forgive us for our lack of watchfulness.  
Help us to wait to know your will.  
Help us to look out for the needs of others.  
Help us to work and watch for your coming. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

Minister: *Friends, believe the good news:*  
People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Concerns of the Church

Minute for Mission

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Listening for the Word

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Prayer for Illumination

Psalter (*responsively*)

Psalm 122 . . . . . Old Testament, page 540

Anthem

“The King Shall Come” . . . . . American folk song  
arr. George Mabry

*The King shall come when morning dawns and light triumphant breaks;  
when beauty gilds the eastern hills and life to joy awakes.  
Not as of old a little child to bear and fight and die,  
but crowned with glory like the sun that lights the morning sky.  
The King shall come when morning dawns and earth’s dark night is past;  
O haste the rising of that morn, the day that aye shall last.  
And let the endless bliss begin, by weary saints foretold,  
when right shall triumph over wrong and truth shall be extolled.  
Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace, thy welcome shall proclaim,  
and heaven’s eternal arches ring with thy beloved name.  
The King shall come when morning dawns, and light and beauty brings.  
Hail, Christ the Lord! Thy people pray, come quickly, King of kings.*

## First Lesson

Isaiah 2:1–5 . . . . . Old Testament, page 594

\*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.

## Second Lesson

Matthew 24:36–44 . . . . . New Testament, page 26

Leader: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: Thanks be to God.

## Sermon

“The Urgency of Advent” . . . . . Matt Helms

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## Responding to the Word

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\*Hymn 357 . . . . . “The Days Are Surely Coming”

\*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.

## 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

“Hear Our Prayer, O Lord” . . . . . Edwin Fissinger  
*Hear our prayer, O Lord; incline thine ear to us and grant us thy peace. Amen.*

Offertory Anthem

“Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending” . . . . . Thomas Arne  
arr. R. E. Martin

*Lo! He comes with clouds descending, once for our salvation slain;  
thousand, thousand saints attending swell the triumph of his train, alleluia.  
Christ the Lord returns to reign.  
Every eye shall now behold him, robed in dreadful majesty;  
those who set at naught and sold him, pierced, and nailed him to the tree,  
deeply wailing, shall the true Messiah see.  
Those dear tokens of his passion still his dazzling body bears,  
cause of endless exultation to his ransomed worshipers;  
with what rapture gaze we on those glorious scars!  
Yea, amen! Let all adore thee, high on thine eternal throne;  
Savior, take the power and glory; claim the kingdom for thine own, alleluia.  
Thou shalt reign and thou alone. 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.

\*Prayer of Dedication (*unison*)

Almighty God, as we keep watch for your new heaven and new earth,  
we present these offerings to you,  
trusting that they will help bear witness to your work in this world.  
And we offer our varied ministries as well,  
hoping each of us may be a part of your answer to the cries of this world.  
Empower and inspire us, so that all that we might do  
might be a reflection of your love and glory. Amen.

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## Bearing the Word into the World

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\*Hymn 100 . . . . . “My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout”

\*Benediction and Response

Postlude

People, Look East . . . . . French folk song  
arr. Barbara Harbach



# Advent Worship

*In addition to our regular Sunday worship opportunities, we hope you will join us for our special services during this season of anticipation!*

**Festival of Advent Lessons and Music**  
Sunday, December 11  
6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary  
Holiday reception follows

**Christmas Cantata**  
Sunday, December 18  
*Christmas Cantata* by Daniel Pinkham  
During 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. worship

**A Jazz Christmas** (Communion)  
Sunday, December 18 at 4:00 p.m.

**“Longest Night” Service**  
Wednesday, December 21  
6:30–7:30 p.m. | Buchanan Chapel  
*For those experiencing pain, loss, grief, or loneliness this season*

## Worship Leaders

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Rocky Supinger, Martha Brown, Victoria G. Curtiss, Matt Helms

## Lighting the Advent Wreath

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9:30 Kristen, Brett, and Caroline Cochrane

11:00 Kathryn Masterson and Leila Madhani

## The Music Today

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The Morning Choir; The Youth Choir (9:30); The Children's Choir (11:00)

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

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

Katy Sinclair, Associate Director of Music for Children and Youth

Hsing-Huei Huang, pianist

## Worship Notes

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TODAY'S MINUTE FOR MISSION is presented by Kathryn Burkhardt on behalf of Christmas giving opportunities at Fourth Church.

THE "LIGHT UP A LIFE" OFFERING is being received throughout Advent. "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.

THE ADVENT BANNERS, in the form of wings, convey the idea of Advent stillness and of waiting in the presence of angels. They were designed and painted by Eliza Linley of Berkeley, California.

THE BULLETIN COVER depicts three of the Handbell Choir bells, photographed in the chancel. In the center bell one can see the reflection of the Sanctuary ceiling and side windows. The cover quote is from the 1945 essay "The Shaking Reality of Advent," written in a Nazi prison by Jesuit priest Alfred Delp shortly before he was executed for his opposition to Adolf Hitler.

SOURCES AND CREDITS: 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.

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**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

**Rocky Supinger** Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry

**Judith L. Watt** Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care

**Nanette Sawyer** Minister for Congregational Life

**Jeffrey Doane** Parish Associate for Older Adults

**Abbi Heimach-Snipes** Pastoral Resident

**John Buchanan** Pastor Emeritus

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