

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You. Michael Burkhardt

Introit

“I Was Glad” Eric H. Thiman

*I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord;
our feet shall stand within thy gates, O Jerusalem.*

*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.**

*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

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter

Psalm 122 Old Testament, page 540

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.

First Lesson

Isaiah 2:1-5 Old Testament, page 594

Minister: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: **Thanks be to God.**

*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

Minister: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Responding to the Word

*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.

Offering

Offertory Voluntary

Savior of the Nations, Come Dietrich Buxtehude

*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.

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 up 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 . . .*

. . . 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: . . . *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.

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

“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.*

Prayer after Communion (unison)

Lord, in gratitude to you, empowered by your Spirit,
and nourished by the promises of this Communion meal
that you have set before us,
may we strive to serve you in our daily tasks
and to live holy and joyful lives,
as together we wait for the coming of your new heaven and new earth.
Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

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

*Benediction and Response

Postlude

Savior of the Nations, Come Paul Manz

Worship Leaders

Victoria G. Curtiss, Matt Helms

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Roberta Dawson

The Music Today

The Chancel Choir

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

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

Worship Notes

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.

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.

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

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