



Gathering

Third Sunday of Advent

Gathering Music "I Concentrate on You" Cole Porter
"Calling You" Robert Telson

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 sex, gender, sexual orientation, age, race, ethnicity, physical or mental ability, mental health, educational background, economic situation, religious background, or documentation status.

We invite you to complete the prayer card found in this worship bulletin and to place it in the plate during the sharing of gifts. Information about the prayer cards is printed on the back cover.

***Call to Worship** Tom Waits

Please note

Copyrighted musical pieces that we do not have permission to distribute online (but only to include in the printed order of worship) are not shown in this version of the bulletin.

For details on the licenses, permission to reprint, and copyright information for the musical pieces not included here, please see the "Acknowledgments" page later in this bulletin.

* Stand as you are able

2. I'm not gonna do nothing
but wait here.
I don't have to shout.
I got me no reason,
and I got no doubt.
I'm gonna get myself unfurled
from this mortal coiled-up world.
Jesus gonna be here,
gonna be here soon.

3. I got to keep my eyes wide open
so I can see my Lord.
I'm gonna watch the horizon
for my brand new Ford.
I can hear him rolling down the lane;
I said Hollywood be thy name.
'Cause Jesus gonna be here,
he's gonna be here soon.

Advent Wreath Lighting and Responses

Leader 1: We light the third candle of Advent:

the candle of the Preparer, clearing away human resistance to God,
humbling the monuments to human pride, giving voice to those who have no voice;
a sign of those who point the way to Christ, who overturn false ways,
who live by the values of God.

(Three candles are lit)

Leader 2: These point to the Light of Christ:

All: a light that no shadows can quench.

Leader 1: As the prophet foresaw: the people who walked in shadows have seen a great light.
The light has shined on those who lived in a place of deep shadows.
You have increased their joy.

Leader 2: To turn away from you, Lord, is to turn to the shadows.

All: Come to us in our shadows.

Leader: In the shadows, we lose our way.

All: Come to us in our shadows.

Leader: In the shadows, we lose our way.

All: Come to us in our lostness.

Leader: In the dark, longings for love and birth arise.

All: Come to us in our longings.

Leader: In the shadows, anger at injustice and neglect rises up.

All: Come to us in our anger.

Leader: Send us, O Lord, the light of your truth. Burn away evil desire.
Dispel from our faith the shadows of sin and ignorance.

All: Amen.

***Opening Song** “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Litany of Confession (*unison*)

O God, forgive us when we doubt your power,
when we miss the clarity of your works.

We confess that often we are tempted to handle life’s problems our own way,
forgetting how you consistently show up and prepare us already.

Forgive us when we focus on the wrong things,
when we’re too weak and afraid to see how you’ve prepared us.

May the power of your Holy Spirit enable us to respond to your call
as we put our faith and trust in you.

Help us in our trust.

Help us in our faith. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Truly, God can do what we cannot. Friends, hear this good news.

People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and set free.

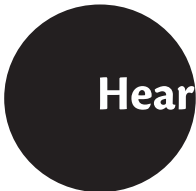
***Passing of the Peace**

Leader: 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.

***Song** "While We Are Waiting, Come"



Hearing and Proclaiming the Word

Scripture Reading

Matthew 11:2–11. (New Testament, page 10)

Sermon Abbi Heimach-Snipes

Responding to the Word

*Musical Reflection

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

Offertory Music "People Get Ready" *Curtis Mayfield*

***Doxology** *Lucy Smith*

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

The Great Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise!

Sanctus *Lucy Smith*

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.

The Communion

Communion Music "Fill My Cup" *Isaiah Jones Jr.*

Closing Responses

Leader: The prophet declares: "The desert and the dry land will be glad;
the wilderness will rejoice and blossom like the crocus.

They will burst into bloom
and rejoice with joy and singing.

They will receive the glory of Lebanon,
the splendor of Carmel and Sharon.

They will see the Lord's glory,
the splendor of our God."

**All: So we cry out to God: "Strengthen the weak hands
and support the unsteady knees.**

Say to those who are panicking,

'Be strong! Don't fear!

Here's your God,

coming with vengeance;

with divine retribution

God will come to save you.'

**The Lord's ransomed ones will return and enter Zion with singing,
with everlasting joy upon their heads.**

**Happiness and joy will overwhelm them;
grief and groaning will flee away."**

Sending

***Closing Song** “Come Now, O Prince of Peace”

***Benediction**
Sending Music

Worship Leaders

Abbi Heimach-Snipes	Pastoral Resident
Hardy H. Kim	Associate Pastor
Lay Liturgist	Elaine Tierney
Lay Liturgist	Gail Tierney
Lucy Smith Quartet	Lucy Smith, vocals Marcus Evans, drums Amr Fahmy, piano Joshua Ramos, bass

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

Words—The Advent Wreath Lighting and Responses are adapted from *The Celtic Prayer Book, Vol. 1*. The Closing Responses are from from Isaiah 35, *Common English Bible*. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

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FOURTH
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
A Light in the City

PASTORAL STAFF

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

Advent

Today is the deadline for Christmas flower contributions to memorialize or honor loved ones, whose names will be printed in the Christmas bulletin. Contributions can be made using forms in the literature racks and at www.bit.ly/FPCgifts or by contacting Allie Williams at 312.981.3383.

The Festival of Advent Lessons and Music will take place today at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. A cookies-and-cocoa reception will follow in Anderson Hall. *(There will be no discounted parking after 6:00 p.m.)*

The Jazz at Four Christmas celebration will be next Sunday, December 18 at 4:00 p.m.; music will begin at 3:50 p.m. The worship service that afternoon will feature selections from *Singing Christmas*, the latest CD by the Lucy Smith Quartet. A post-service gathering will be held in Borwell Dining Room. *(The 4:00 jazz service will not be held on December 25 or January 1 but will resume on January 8.)*

The “Longest Night” service, which will be held Wednesday, December 21 at 6:30 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel, recognizes the feelings of loneliness, grief, and alienation that are often present during the holiday season.

Join the Advent Photo-a-Day Challenge. Details are at www.fourthchurch.org/advent-photo. Search social media for #adventfpc to see what others have posted!

Four candlelight services will be held on Christmas Eve: 4:00 p.m. (Children’s Pageant); 6:00 p.m. (Family Service); and 8:30 and 11:00 p.m. (Service of Lessons and Carols). The Christmas Day service will be at 11:00 a.m.

Parking rates for Christmas Eve: For those entering the 900 garage before 5:00 p.m. on December 24, discounted parking will cost \$17, which is the holiday rate. The \$17 parking voucher for that discount will need to be purchased at Fourth Church on Christmas Eve—cash or check only—and will be available before and after the Children’s Pageant that day. Those entering the garage after 5:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve will be able to park for the usual \$8 evening rate with an evening voucher available at the church. There will be no discounted parking at the Hancock garage on Christmas Eve.

The annual Christmas Dinner will take place on Sunday, December 25 at 12:15 p.m. in Anderson Hall. Reservations *(required)* can be made online at www.bit.ly/cdin1216. For details, call Anne Ellis at 312.573.3369.

As you tend to your Christmas shopping list, let Fourth Church and Chicago Lights help you spread double the joy with your giving: “Light Up a Life” gifts—which are easy to place online at www.bit.ly/FPCgifts and perfect for all on your list—provide a meaningful gift for recipients and make a lasting difference in the lives of those served by Chicago Lights and Fourth Church.



News and Opportunities

Enrichment

Weekly Seeds, a weekly women's Bible study, meets Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in Room 5H.

Books by Women will meet this Tuesday, December 13 at 6:00 p.m. in the Bumpus Room to discuss *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* by Muriel Sparks.

Women at Fourth's Horizons Bible Study will meet Wednesday, December 14 at 12:00 p.m. in Room 4J.

Inquirers' Class offers opportunity to learn more about Fourth Church as well as Presbyterian history and beliefs. This one-session class, which is a prerequisite for membership, meets this Saturday, December 17 at 9:00 a.m. in Room 4F.

"Fifteen Days of Free Liberal Arts Education" describes the January Series of one-hour lectures offered by Calvin College and shown via live Internet video feed at Fourth Church on weekdays January 4–24 at 11:30 a.m. in the Page Smith Room. For details, visit www.calvin.edu/january

Children, Youth, and Family

La Posada Family Night will be held this Friday, December 16 at 5:30 p.m. in Borwell Dining Room.

Rehearsal for the Christmas Pageant will be held next Sunday at 12:15 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

No Nursery, Sunday School, or youth gatherings will be held on Sundays, December 25 or January 1.

Music and the Arts

Violinist Robert Chen, concertmaster of the CSO, and pianist Mio Nakamura will perform this Friday's free Noonday concert at 12:10 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel.

A **"Christmas with Tower Brass"** concert will be held this Saturday, December 17 at 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. A \$20 suggested donation will be received at the door.

A **Christmas Cantata**, featuring Daniel Pinkham's *Christmas Cantata*, will be sung by the Morning Choir next Sunday, December 18 during 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. worship.

A **Lakeside Singers holiday concert** will be held next Sunday, December 18 at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Tickets are available at www.lakesidesingers.com

Encore Chorale, a Chicago-area choir for older adults, will perform a free concert on Thursday, December 22 at 2:00 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel.

Worship

Advent devotions, written by Fourth Church members and staff, are available in the church literature racks, by email (send email addresses to devotions@fourthchurch.org), at www.facebook.com/fourthchurch, and via Twitter (@FourthChicago).

Opportunity to walk the labyrinth in Buchanan Chapel is available this week on Monday and Tuesday from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. and Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Mission and Outreach

A vigil remembering all those affected by gun violence will be held on Wednesday, December 14 at 5:30 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel. There will also be opportunity to walk the labyrinth at that time.

The Chicago Lights Gala of Hope, cochaired by Elaine Scales and Martha Sabol, will be Friday, February 24 at the Hyatt Regency Chicago. For details, contact Andrea Miller at 312.640.2576 (amiller@fourthchurch.org).

Volunteers and Donations

Current Volunteer Needs

Servers for the Fourth Church Christmas Dinner, 9:30 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

Sunday School teacher for 9:30 a.m. classes

Servers for Monday Night Supper on January 2

Shower Ministry Greeters to check in and provide supplies to guests of the Meals Ministry program; Tuesdays, 1:15–4:00 p.m.

Nursery caregivers on Sundays

Tutors for the Chicago Lights Tutoring program; especially on Tuesdays and Thursdays

Greeters and ushers for worship services

Current Donation Needs

Study winter clothes, especially men's coats, gloves, hats, pants, and boots

Travel-size toiletry items

Clean blankets

Nonperishable food items

For details or to volunteer, email volunteerministry@fourthchurch.org, call 312.981.3382, or go online to www.fourthchurch.org/volunteer

News and Resources

Take part in our chili cook-off on Sunday, January 8! Enter your chili into the contest by signing up at www.bit.ly/chili2017. Or come enjoy chili for lunch that day for \$10 per person. Proceeds support the summer youth mission trips.

Do you know someone who might benefit from conversation with a Stephen Minister? Stephen Ministry provides one-to-one caring relationships to support those who are experiencing challenging times. Information is available in the literature racks, on the website, and by leaving a confidential message with the Stephen Ministry: 312.573.3365.

“Like” Fourth Church on Facebook to see photos of church life, keep up-to-date on Fourth Church news, and access resources.

Taking Communion to homebound members is part of the Deacon ministry this Advent. If you know of Fourth Church members who would like to receive Communion, please call Carol Allerton at 312.640.5448.

We are counting on gifts pledged for 2016 to be fully fulfilled by year end to ensure the budgets of Fourth Church and Chicago Lights can be met. If you anticipate being unable to fulfill your pledge, please let Andrea Miller know (312.640.2576; amiller@fourthchurch.org) so we can plan accordingly. Thank you!

Fellowship

Young Adults gather on Sundays for discussion and fellowship at 12:30 p.m. in Room 5A.

During Today's Worship

All are encouraged to use the prayer card, found in this worship bulletin, to offer joys and/or concerns. The cards will be collected during the Sharing of Gifts (simply place the card in the offering plate as it is passed). The prayers will then be read aloud during this afternoon's Prayers of the People.

If you have a prayer you would rather not share during worship, you are invited to complete a prayer card found by one of the prayer boxes in the Narthex, at the back of the Sanctuary, and it will be passed on to Judith Watt, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care.

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 silence all electronic devices 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. 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 Saturday, December 17 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon; Saturday, January 14 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon; or Monday, February 6 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.

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 Hardy Kim (hkim@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 January 22 or February 26.

Sunday parking is available 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 from the Chestnut Street reception desk.

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