

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

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Creator of the Stars of Night John Barr

Introit

“Our King and Savior Draweth Nigh” Stephen Sturk
Our King and Savior draweth nigh; O come, let us adore him.

*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 35:5–6, the prophet declares
that when God comes among us,
the deaf shall hear, the blind shall see,
and the tongue of the speechless shall sing for joy.*

Reader 2: *We light this candle as a sign of our hope
that God’s love in Christ brings healing to us
and to the whole world.
As we witness to the power of healing love,
in ourselves and in others—*

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

*Hymn 93 “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

You have taught us to be patient and strong and promised to supply our needs, merciful God. Yet we grow weary of waiting and discouraged about our desires. We blame our troubles on others, withholding from them the tolerance and care you have shown to us. Forgive our indulgence and help us to stand firm. Make us steadfast in the midst of our sighing and sorrow. Teach us to be patient and hopeful, that in Christ we may have endurance in spite of our need. 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

First Lesson (*responsively*)

Luke 1:46–55. New Testament, page 53

Anthem

“Christ the Apple Tree”. Stanford Scriven

*The tree of life my soul hath seen, laden with fruit and always green;
the trees of nature fruitless be compared with Christ the apple tree.*

*This beauty doth all things excel, by faith I know, but ne'er can tell
the glory which I now can see in Jesus Christ the apple tree.*

*For happiness I long have sought, and pleasure dearly I have bought;
I missed of all, but now I see 'tis found in Christ the apple tree.*

*This fruit doth make my soul to thrive; it keeps my dying faith alive,
which makes my soul in haste to be with Jesus Christ the apple tree.*

*I'm wearied with my former toil, here I will sit and rest awhile;
under the shadow I will be, of Jesus Christ the apple tree.*

Second Lesson

Isaiah 35:1–10 Old Testament, page 623

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.

Third Lesson

Matthew 11:2–11 New Testament, page 10
Minister: *The Word of the Lord*.
People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Is This the One?” Victoria G. Curtiss

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 87 “Comfort, Comfort Now My People”

*Affirmation of Faith (*unison*) from A Brief Statement of Faith

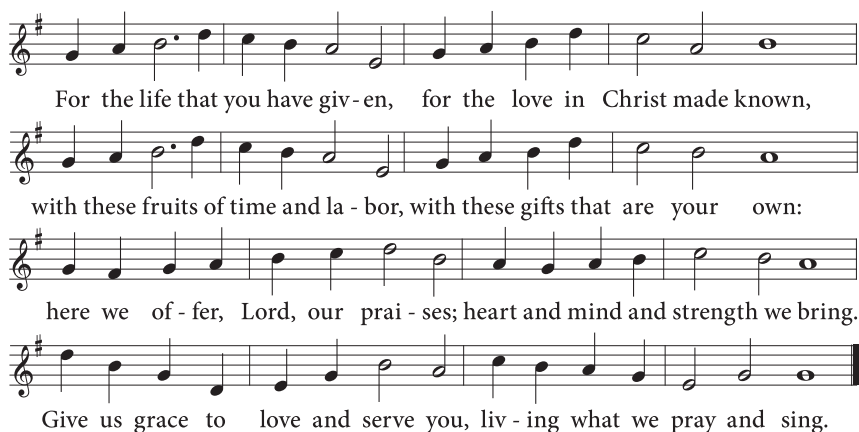
We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:
preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives,
teaching by word and deed and blessing the children,
healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted,
eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners,
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.
Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,
Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain
and giving his life for the sins of the world.
God raised this Jesus from the dead,
vindicating his sinless life,
breaking the power of sin and evil,
delivering us from death to life eternal. Amen.

Offering

Offertory Voluntary

Come Thou Now, Jesus, Down from Heaven Johann Sebastian Bach

*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: . . . *who forever sing to the glory of your name:*

Sanctus (*sung*) The Hymnal, 572

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, 573

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

“In the Stillness” Arlen Clarke

*In the stillness of our darkness, in the shadows of the night,
earth is waiting for the promise, longing for the coming light.
Once before he came in blessing, still he comes, our hearts to win.
Come, Lord Jesus, come in glory, let your heaven on earth begin.
Come, Almighty, to deliver, let us all thy grace receive;
suddenly return, and never, never more our presence leave.
Light of light, shine through our darkness, turn our night to radiant day.
Come, Lord Jesus, come in glory; open all our hearts to praise. Amen.*

Prayer after Communion (*unison*)

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery
in which you have given yourself to us.
Grant that we may go into the world
in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 82 “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

*Benediction and Response

Postlude

Dialogue from *Magnificat*. Jean François Dandrieu

Worship Leaders

Rocky Supinger, Sue Thompson, Victoria G. Curtiss

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Sue Thompson and Rocky Supinger

The Music Today

The Chancel Choir

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

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

Worship Notes

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

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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