



Fourth Sunday of Advent

Gathering Music

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" *Richard Storrs Willis and Edmund Hamilton Sears*

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.

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.
4. I've got to keep myself faithful; you know I've been so good,
except for drinking, but he knew that I would.
I'm gonna leave this place better than the way I found that it was,
and Jesus gonna be here, gonna be here soon.
And Jesus gonna be here, gonna be here soon.

Advent Wreath Lighting and Responses

Leader 1: We light the fourth candle of Advent:

the candle of Mary who bears the Divine Glory,
the candle of beauty and strength,
the candle of all midwives of faith who bring the Divine to birth.

(Four candles are lit)

Leader 2: God, who comes to us in the form of angels,

you came to earth through a brave young mother.

We praise you for drawing near to us and never being far from us.

Leader: Isaiah foretold a servant who would bring forth justice.

All: Blessed be the advent of Christ.

Leader: A shoot will come from the root of Jesse.

All: Blessed be the advent of Christ.

Leader: The lion will lie down with the lamb, and a little child shall lead them.

All: Blessed be the advent of Christ.

Leader: A child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests on his shoulders.

All: Blessed be the advent of Christ.

Leader: He is called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

All: Blessed be the advent of Christ.

Leader: He is called Emmanuel, God-with-Us.

All: Blessed be the advent of Christ, who is with us now and always. Amen.

Scripture Lesson: Prepare the Way

Isaiah 40:1–5 (Old Testament, page 627)

***Hymn** “Prepare the Way, O Zion”

Scripture Lesson: The Birth of Jesus Foretold

Luke 1:26–38 (New Testament, page 53)

Anthem “Gabriel’s Message” *Basque traditional*

Scripture Lesson: Mary’s Song of Praise

Luke 1:46–55 (New Testament, page 53)

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

Offertory Music “The Little Drummer Boy” *Katherine Davis, Henry Onorati, and Harry Simeone*

Scripture Lesson: The Birth of Jesus

Luke 2:1–7 (New Testament, page 54)

The Communion

Communion Music “Do You Hear What I Hear” *Gloria Shayne and Noel Regney*

1. Said the night wind to the little lamb,
“Do you see what I see?
Way up in the sky, little lamb,
do you see what I see?
A star, a star dancing in the night,
with a tail as big as a kite,
with a tail as big as a kite.”
2. Said the little lamb to the shepherd boy,
“Do you hear what I hear?
Ringing through the sky, shepherd boy,
do you hear what I hear?
A song, a song high above the trees,
with a voice as big as the sea,
with a voice as big as the sea.”
3. Said the shepherd boy to the mighty king,
“Do you know what I know?
In your palace warm, mighty king,
do you know what I know?
A child, a child shivers in the cold;
let us bring him silver and gold,
let us bring him silver and gold.”
4. Said the king to the people everywhere,
“Listen to what I say.
Pray for peace, people everywhere.
Listen to what I say.
The child, the child sleeping in the night,
he will bring us goodness and light,
he will bring us goodness and light.”

Scripture Lesson: Angels and Shepherds Praise God

Luke 2:13–20 (*New Testament, page 55*)

***Hymn** "Joy to the World"

Scripture Lesson: God Is Revealed to Us in Love

1 John 1:1-4; 4:7-9, 16 (*New Testament, page 224*)

Spreading the Light "Silent Night"

Christmas Poem "It Is Not Over" *Ann Weems*

Unison Prayer (*unison*)

O Holy God, you have blessed us with your love and given us a glimpse of your glory,
a vision of angels, the warmth of your love in candle flames.
Open our eyes to see you in our world, all around us.
Open our hands, that we may bless the world with your generous love.
Plant trust in our hearts so that we may remember
that nothing in all creation can separate us from your love.
We pray it in the name of our baby King, your Love-Made-Flesh, Jesus our Christ,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

***Closing Song** "Let There Be Peace on Earth"

1. Let there be peace on earth,
and let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth,
the peace that was meant to be.
With God as our Father,
brothers all are we.
Let me walk with my brother
in perfect harmony.

2. Let peace begin with me;
let this be the moment now.
With every step I take,
let this be my solemn vow:
to take each moment
and live each moment
with peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth
and let it begin with me.

***Benediction**

Sending Music

Worship Leaders

Shannon J. Kershner	Pastor
Hardy H. Kim	Associate Pastor
Lucy Smith Quartet	Lucy Smith, vocals Amr Fahmy, piano Bryan Doherty, bass Michael Caskey, drums Greg Ward II, alto saxophone

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*. “Prepare the Way, O Zion” copyright © 1982 Hope Publishing Company. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

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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 and Christmas

The 4:00 jazz service will not be held next Sunday, December 25 or Sunday, January 1 but will resume on Sunday, January 8.

The “Longest Night” service, which will be held this 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.

Through “Light Up a Life” gifts, you can honor or remember someone special while also providing important year-end support of programs that help neighbors whose needs are great this holiday season. Gifts can be made using the brochures in the literature racks or online at www.fourthchurch.org

Join the Advent Photo-a-Day Challenge. Details are available online 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).

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.

Nursery care on Christmas Eve will be available from 3:00 to 7:15 p.m. It will not be available during the last two services.

We will be live streaming the 8:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve service for those who are unable to be with us or who want to share the service with those who are out of town. The live stream will be available at www.bit.ly/FPCworship where it will also be available after Christmas Eve.

Christmas Day worship will be held at 11:00 a.m. It will be followed by a Christmas Dinner at 12:15 p.m. in Anderson Hall. Reservations (*required*) can be made at www.bit.ly/cdin1216

Did you make a pledge to Fourth Church for 2016?

We are counting on gifts pledged for 2016 to be fully fulfilled by year end—and welcome any additional generosity where it is possible—so that we can ensure that all that we have budgeted for in 2016 can be done. If you anticipate being unable to fulfill your pledge, please let Andrea Miller know (312.640.2576) so we can plan accordingly. Thank you for all that your gifts make happen!



News and Opportunities

Enrichment

Weekly Seeds, a weekly women's Bible study, will resume meeting on Sunday, January 8 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 5H.

"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

New adult education classes begin Sunday, January 8 in Room 5G: "Suffering and Hope in Second Isaiah," led by Tom Dozemann and John Buchanan, at 9:30 a.m. and "Bonhoeffer's The Cost of Discipleship," led by Reggie Williams, at 11:00 a.m.

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, next meets Saturday, January 14 at 9:00 a.m. in Room 4F.

Children, Youth, and Family

No Nursery, Sunday School, or youth gatherings will be held next Sunday, December 25 or on Sunday, January 1. Families are encouraged to worship together, using the family version of the worship bulletin, which is available from the ushers each week. For more information, contact Matt Helms at mhelms@fourthchurch.org

Music and the Arts

A Lakeside Singers holiday concert will be held today 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 this Thursday, December 22 at 2:00 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel.

Organist John W. W. Sherer, Organist and Director of Music, will perform this Friday's free Noonday concert at 12:10 p.m. in the Sanctuary. For a full listing of concerts at Fourth Church, visit www.fourthchurch.org/concerts

Those who would like to receive *Music Notes*, a weekly email newsletter about music at Fourth Church, are invited to subscribe by sending email addresses to music@fourthchurch.org.

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., Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Saturday from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Mission and Outreach

Reservations for the Chicago Lights Urban Farm 2017 CSA (Community-supported Agriculture) program are now available. For details, contact Deja Stout at dstout@chicagolights.org

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

Candle sleeves to put drip sleeves on candles for Christmas Eve services; December 22 and 23

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

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

Communion-bread cutters; starting 2017

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

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

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

Fellowship

Young Adults will resume gathering for discussion and fellowship on Sunday, January 8 at 12:30 p.m. in Room 5A.

To sponsor Coffee Hour in honor or memory of a loved one or for a special occasion, contact Anne Ellis at 312.573.3369 (aellis@fourthchurch.org).

News and Resources

Be sure to bookmark the Fourth Church website—www.fourthchurch.org—for easy access to the Fourth Church calendar, information about upcoming events, an archive of sermons and prayers, photos, and much more.

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.

Follow Fourth Church on Twitter: @FourthChicago

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.

Be sure to “like” Fourth Church on Facebook to see the latest photos of church life, keep up-to-date on Fourth Church news, and access resources, including excerpts from sermons and prayers.

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, January 14 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon; Monday, February 6 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.; or Saturday, February 18 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. 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

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