

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

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Savior of the Nations, Come Wilhelm Friedemann Bach

Introit

“Our King and Savior Now Draws Near” Iain Quinn
*Our King and Savior now draws near; come, let us adore him. Glory to the Father,
and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and
ever shall be. Amen.*

*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: *The prophet Isaiah declares, “A young woman is with child
and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel
(which means God-with-Us). The risen Christ declares,
“I am with you always, to the end of the age.”*

Reader 2: *We light this candle as a sign of God’s presence in Christ,
now and always. That we may trust that God is with us
and live in the light of Christ’s coming—*

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

*Hymn 348 “Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending”

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

God of the future, you are constantly coming into the world.
We confess that we often miss your presence.
We miss your presence because we either look for you in the wrong places
or expect you to show yourself in certain ways.
And we miss your presence because
our very human natures yearn for you to fill us.
We fall short in so many ways.
In your mercy, forgive us.
Grant us wisdom to welcome your way
and to seek things that will endure.
Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

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

Concerns of the Church

Anthem

“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers” English melody
arr. Evelyn Larter

*Rejoice, rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear.
The evening is advancing, and darker night is near.
The bridegroom is arising, and soon he draweth nigh.
Up, pray, and watch, and wrestle; at midnight comes the cry.
See that your lamps are burning; replenish them with oil
and wait for your salvation, the end of earthly toil.
The watchers on the mountain proclaim the bridegroom near.
Go meet him as he cometh, with alleluias clear.
Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear!
Arise, thou Son so longed for, over this benighted sphere!
With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see
the day of earth’s redemption that brings us unto thee. Alleluia!*

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter (*responsively*)

Psalm 80:1–7, 17–19. Old Testament, page 511

*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.

Scripture Lesson

Matthew 1:18–25 New Testament, page 1

Minister: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Judith L. Watt

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 144 “In the Bleak Midwinter”

*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.

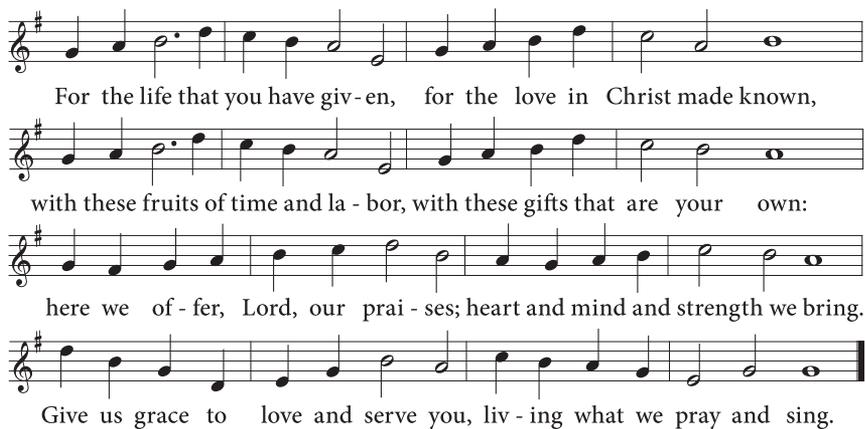
Offering

Offertory Solo

Mariä Wiegenglied (Mary’s Lullaby) Max Reger

*Amid the roses, Mary sits and rocks her Jesus-child,
while amid the treetops sighs the breeze so warm and mild.
And soft and sweetly sings a bird upon a bough,
“Ah, baby, dear one, slumber now!
Happy is thy laughter, holy is thy silent rest,
lay thy head in slumber fondly on thy mother’s breast.
Ah, baby, dear one, slumber now!”*

*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

“O Word, That Goest Forth on High” Robert Lehman
*O Word, that goest forth on high from God’s own depths eternally,
who in these latter days wast born for succor to a world forlorn.*

Prayer after Communion (*unison*)

Loving God, by your Spirit
open our eyes to the generosity of your hand
and nurture our souls in all spiritual gifts.
Fill us with gratitude overflowing,
that we may share life and love in praise to you.
We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ,
the One coming into the world. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 143 “Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

*Benediction and Response

Postlude

Finale from *Variations on a Noël* Marcel Dupré

Worship Leaders

Matt Helms, Judith L. Watt

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Marsha Heizer

The Music Today

The Chancel Choir; Laura Perrett, soloist.
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.

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John Buchanan Pastor Emeritus

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