

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

What Child Is This?

Prelude

Noël Aaron David Miller
What Is This Lovely Fragrance Harrison Oxley
What Child Is This Ralph Vaughan Williams
He Is Born, the Divine Christ Child Morgan Simmons

Introit

“Alleluia, to Us a Child Is Born” Iain Quinn
*Alleluia, to us a child is born; come, let us adore him, alleluia. Glory to the Father,
and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will
be forever. 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.

Someone Comes

*Lighting the Christ Candle

Leader: *Here is good news of great joy, for all people:
God has rescued us from the domain of death
and brought us into the realm of Christ.
The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has never captured it.
Let us pray that we may know the warmth
and brightness of Jesus Christ
and show Christ’s love to the world.*

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

**Stand as you are able.*

*Hymn 132 “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

*Litany of Praise Luke 2:11; Romans 8:38–39; Philemon 4:4

Leader: *Do not be afraid: I bring you good news of great joy, for all people.*

*To you is born this day, in the city of David, a Savior,
who is the Messiah, the Lord.*

*There is nothing in death or life, in things present
or things to come, nothing in all creation*

that can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say, Rejoice!

All: Thanks be to God! Amen!

Prayer

Who Is This Child?

Concerns of the Church and Introduction to the Service

First Reading: *Glory Revealed to All*

Isaiah 40:1–5. Old Testament, page 627

Hymn 110 “Love Has Come”

Second Reading: *A Servant with Gentle Strength*

Isaiah 42:1–4. Old Testament, page 630

Hymn 115. “Away in a Manger”

Third Reading: *Equal, Beloved, and United*

Galatians 4:4–7, 3:27–28 New Testament, page 178

Anthem

“Love Came down at Christmas” John Rutter

*Love came down at Christmas, love all lovely, love divine;
love was born at Christmas, star and angels gave the sign.*

*Worship we the Godhead, love incarnate, love divine;
worship we our Jesus, but wherewith for sacred sign?*

*Love shall be our token, love be yours and love be mine;
love to God and all souls, love for plea, and gift and sign.*

Why Lies He in Such Low Estate?

Introduction

Fourth Reading: *A Servant of Peace Is Born*

Luke 2:1-7. New Testament, page 54

Hymn 144 “In the Bleak Midwinter”

Fifth Reading: *Adored by Outsiders*

Luke 2:15-21. New Testament, page 55

*Hymn 134 “Joy to the World”

Christmas Meditation. Shannon J. Kershner

Let Loving Hearts Enthroned Him

*Hymn 145 “What Child Is This”

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.

Prayer Response

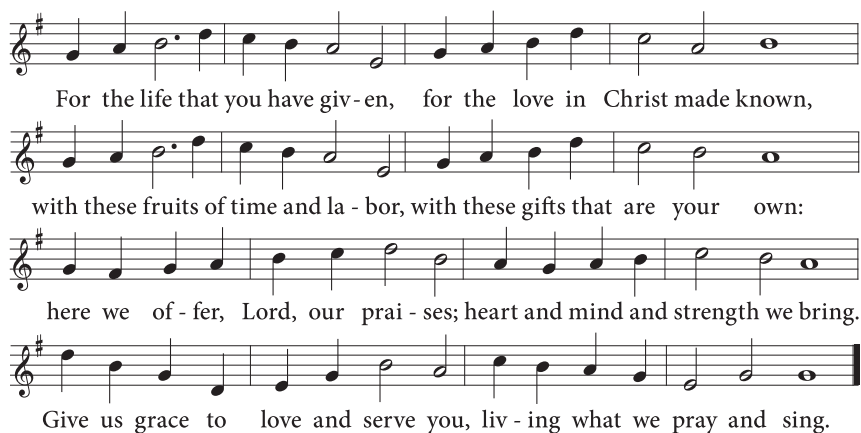
“Amen” Clarence Dickenson

Offertory Anthem

“What Sweeter Music” J. Rutter

*What sweeter music can we bring than a carol, for to sing the birth of this
our heavenly King? Awake the voice! Awake the string! Dark and dull night,
fly hence away, and give the honor to this day that sees December turned to May.
Why does the chilling winter’s morn smile like a field beset with corn? Or smell
like a meadow newly shorn thus on the sudden? Come and see the cause, why
things thus fragrant be; ’tis he is born, whose quickening birth gives life and luster,
public mirth, to heaven and the under earth. We see him come and know him
ours, who, with his sunshine and his showers, turns the patient ground to flowers.
The darling of the world is come, and fit it is, we find a room to welcome him.
The nobler part of all the house here is the heart, which we will give him
and bequeath this holly, and this ivy wreath, to do him honor, who’s our
King and Lord of all this reveling.*

*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.

*Litany of Dedication and Affirmation

Leader: *The reign of Christ comes not by conquest,
domination, and manipulation,
but by gracious love, gladly given and willingly received.
The reign of Christ comes near
whenever people covenant together and say:*

All: **Christ, we are your body. Live in our hearts.
Christ, we are your people. Govern our lives.
Christ, we are your witnesses. Send us out in your name!**

*Hymn 136 “Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

*Benediction

Postlude

Noël Claude Balbastre

Gifts supporting Christmastime Sanctuary adornments have been made in memory and in honor of family, friends, and loved ones.

In Memory of

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	Robert Dean Marshall		

Worship Leaders

Abbi Heimach-Snipes

Ben Heimach-Snipes

Hannah Kershner

Shannon J. Kershner

The Music Today

Members of the Morning Choir

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

Worship Notes

THE “LIGHT UP A LIFE” OFFERING is being received this Christmas season. “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.

SOURCES AND CREDITS: This service of worship has been adapted from Brian Wren’s *Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany: Liturgies and Prayers for Public Worship* and is used by permission. Hymn tune names—as well as composers of the music and authors of the text—are listed in the hymnal with each hymn.

All scripture readings this morning are taken from the *Common English Bible*. 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
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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

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John Buchanan Pastor Emeritus

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