

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

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## Gathering around the Word

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### Prelude

O How Fleeting, O How Cheating . . . . . Johann Sebastian Bach  
Annum per Annum . . . . . Arvo Pärt  
The Old Year Has Passed Away . . . . . J. S. Bach

### Introit

“A New Year Carol” . . . . . Walter de la Mare  
arr. Paul Stetsenko

*Here we bring new water from the well so clear,  
for to worship God with, this happy new year.  
Sing levy dew, the water and the wine,  
the seven bright gold wires and the bugles that do shine.  
Sing of the reign of fair maid with gold upon her toe,  
open you the west door and turn the old year go.  
Open you the east door and let the new year in.*

\*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

**Leader:** *In this Christmas season of great joy we praise the Lord,  
for in mercy and abundant steadfast love  
God has become our Savior.*

**People:** **Even in times of danger and threat we praise God,  
who has set us free from fear and death  
through Jesus Christ, the pioneer of our salvation.**

**Leader:** *With all creation, in the midst of the congregation,*

**People:** **we praise and put our trust in God alone.**

### \*Prayer of Praise

\*Hymn 147 . . . . . “The First Nowell”

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*\*Stand as you are able.*

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Merciful God, in great love you have claimed us as your children.  
We confess that we have not loved you as we should.  
We have not participated fully in your purposes and plans;  
we grow weary and give up when the way is hard.  
We have not loved our brothers and sisters as you intend.  
Complacent in the presence of injustice and violence,  
we fail to recognize our own complicity.  
Forgive us, especially when we fail to protect children,  
so vulnerable and precious in your sight.  
Forgive our misuse of power against people  
and against your creation.  
Help us to praise you by living in harmony and peace.  
Set us free from fear, that we may wholly trust in you.  
We pray in the name of Jesus Christ,  
who shared our flesh and blood. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

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

Concerns of the Church

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Listening for the Word

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Prayer for Illumination

Psalter (*responsively*)

Psalm 148 . . . . . Old Testament, page 550

Anthem

“The Coventry Carol” . . . . . Traditional English carol  
arr. William Ferris

*Lullay, thou little tiny child; by by lully lullay.  
O sisters too, how may we do for to preserve this day,  
this poor youngling, for whom we sing; by by, lully lullay?  
Herod the king, in his raging, charged he hath this day  
his men of might, in his own sight, all children young to slay.  
Then woe is me, poor child for thee! And ever morn and day,  
for thy parting, nor say nor sing, by by, lully, lullay.*

First Lesson

Matthew 2:13–23 . . . . . New Testament, page 2  
Leader: *The Word of the Lord.*  
People: Thanks be to God.

\*Gloria Patri (*sung*). . . . . The Hymnal, 581  
Glorify 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.

Second Lesson

Hebrews 2:10–18 . . . . . New Testament, page 205  
Leader: *The Word of the Lord.*  
People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Tested and Perfect” . . . . . Nanette Sawyer

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Responding to the Word

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\*Hymn 154 . . . . . “Jesus Entered Egypt”

\*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.

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” . . . . . Orlando Gibbons

Offertory Anthem

“The Old Year Now Away Has Fled” . . . . . English ballad  
arr. Richard Peek

*The old year now away is fled, the new year it is entered.  
Then let us now our sins down tread and joyfully all appear.  
Let’s merry be this day, and let us now both sport and play;  
hang grief, cast care away! God grant us a happy new year!  
The name day of Christ we keep, who for our sins did often weep,  
his hands and feet were wounded deep and his blessed side with a spear.  
His head they crowned with thorn, and at him they did laugh and scorn  
who for our good was born. God grant us a happy new year.  
And now with new year’s gifts each friend unto each other they do send;  
God, grant we may all our lives amend and that the truth may appear.  
Now, like the serpent’s skin, cast off all evil thoughts and sin,  
and so the year begin. God grant us a happy new year.*

\*Presentation of the Offering and 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.

\*Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication (*unison*)

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.**

All: **Eternal God,  
who makes all things new,  
we thank you for good gifts of life.  
Help us to begin this year in your faith  
and to continue it in your grace.  
Guided by you in all our doings,  
we dedicate our lives to your service.  
Use us, and these gifts we bring,  
to proclaim the good news of your kingdom  
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

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**Bearing the Word into the World**

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\*Hymn 686 ..... “God of Our Life”

\*Benediction and Response

Postlude

Fanfare for the New Year ..... Calvin Hampton

## Worship Leaders

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Hardy H. Kim, Nanette Sawyer

## The Music Today

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Members of the Morning Choir

Carol Carpenter and Sean Stanton, flutists

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

## Worship Notes

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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.

THE BULLETIN COVER PHOTO, taken at night, depicts a snow-covered tree in the Walter Family Courtyard by the Delaware entrance.

SOURCES AND CREDITS: The Call to Worship and Prayer of Confession are adapted from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A*, Volume 1: Advent through Pentecost. 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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**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