

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

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

“Sleepers Wake!” A Voice Astounds Us Johann Sebastian Bach
Savior of the Nations, Come J. S. Bach
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel Robert Lau

Introit

“This Is the Day That the Lord Has Made” (9:30) Les Garrett
“Rejoice in the Lord, Always” (9:30) Anonymous
“Our King and Savior Draweth Nigh” (11:00) 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

Leader: *Our God is the One who comes to us in a burning bush,
in an angel’s song, in a newborn child.*

People: *Our God is the One who cannot be found locked in the church,
not even in the sanctuary.*

Leader: *Watch . . . for you know not when God comes.*

People: *Watch, that you might be found
whenever,
wherever,
God comes.*

Leader: *Let us worship God!*

*Prayer of Praise

*Hymn 347 “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

**Stand as you are able.*

Advent Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

O God, we live as if the light had never defeated the night in the world or in us. We confess that we ignore the Christ you sent to be among us, to be in us. We've kept the birth of your Son confined to the Christmas season and do not yearn for his birth each moment in our waiting hearts. Lord, you came to us in the fullness of time. Forgive us for not opening our eyes to your coming. It's time that we prepare for your coming; it's time that we prepare for your unending reign on earth. Hear us, O God, as we come before you in silence, confessing those sins we do not speak aloud, but hold in our hearts.

(Please hold silence)

Sung Response (*unison*)

"Wait for the Lord" (Psalm 27) The Hymnal, 90

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart!

Declaration of Pardon

Leader: *Friends, believe the good news:*

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Sacrament of Baptism

Unison Prayer

Holy God, remind us of the promises given in our own baptism and renew our trust in you.

Make us strong to obey your will and to serve you with joy; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Concerns of the Church

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter (*sung*)

"O Hear Our Cry, O Lord" (Psalm 80) The Hymnal, 355

Anthem

"Ex Sion" Josef Rheinberger

Out of Zion God's perfect beauty shines forth. God is coming in broad daylight. Summon before God the consecrated nation who made a covenant with God by sacrifice, alleluia. I rejoiced when it was said unto me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord." Alleluia.

First Lesson

Isaiah 40:1-11 Old Testament, page 627

Leader: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: Thanks be to God.

Children age three through grade five are invited to come forward during the singing of the Gloria Patri.

*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.

Sending Forth

Hymn 748 “Go with Us, Lord”

Children depart for Sunday School with their teachers.

Second Lesson

John 1:1-8, 14-18 New Testament, page 86

Minister: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: Thanks be to God.

Advent Sermon Series: A Tour of Gospel Homes

“Christmas at John’s House” Shannon J. Kershner

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 106 “Prepare the Way, O Zion”

*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” William Byrd

Offering

Offertory Anthem

“The Word Was God” Rosephanye Powell

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him that have been made; nothing was made he has not made.

*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 Dedication

May our gifts go forth into our world, so that where people hunger, they may be fed; where there is war, peace might be welcomed; where families are broken, they might be made whole. Then others will be as blessed as we have been by your love, grace, and compassion. In Jesus’ name, we offer our gifts and this prayer of gratitude. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 105 “People, Look East”

*Benediction and Response

Postlude

March on a Theme by Handel Alexandre Guilmant

“Let the little children come to me . . .
for it is to such as these that the
kingdom of heaven belongs.”
Matthew 19:14 (NRSV)

Baptism at Fourth Presbyterian Church

On the second Sunday of each month, Fourth Church includes the Sacrament of Baptism in morning worship. Baptism is the sign and seal of God’s grace and covenant in Christ. As *The Book of Order* of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) explains, baptism signifies the faithfulness of God, the washing away of sin, rebirth, putting on the fresh garment of Christ, and adoption into the covenant family of the church.

The baptism of children witnesses to the truth that God’s love claims people before they are able to respond in faith. The congregation, on behalf of the whole church, assumes responsibility for nurturing the baptized children in the Christian life, and it is for this reason that the congregation makes such a promise during the service. In the unison prayer we also remember that we too were baptized and as children of God are part of the worldwide family of faith.

Being baptized at the 9:30 worship service:

Greer Sweeney Schenk, child of Hunter and Kira Schenk
Arabella Meihua Vitale, child of Tony and Lisa Vitale

Being baptized at the 11:00 worship service:

Seamus Michael Dower, child of Matthew and Siobhan Dower
Sofie Elaine Hunt, child of Bryon and Emilie Hunt
Bubba Eugene Trumbull, child of William and Dana Trumbull
Gwyneth Robin Watson, child of Bradley and Lindsey Watson

Worship Leaders

9:30 Matt Helms, Marc Miller, Judith L. Watt, Shannon J. Kershner

11:00 Matt Helms, Chris Horsman, Judith L. Watt, Shannon J. Kershner

Lighting the Advent Wreath

9:30 The Stracks Family

11:00 The Epps Family

The Music Today

The Morning Choir; the Cherub Choir

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

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

Katy Sinclair, Associate Director of Music for Children and Youth (9:30)

Hsing-Huei Huang, pianist (9:30)

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; by writing “Light Up a Life” on the memo line of a check made payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church; or online (www.bit.ly/FPCgifts).

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.

THE BULLETIN COVER photo depicts Christmas lights on Michigan Avenue shining through the frost on a leaded-glass window at Fourth Church.

SOURCES AND CREDITS: The Call to Worship is adapted from “The Coming of God” by Ann Weems. Hymn tune names—as well as composers of the music and authors of the text—are listed in the hymnal with each hymn. The Advent Prayer of Confession is adapted from *The Worship Sourcebook*, Calvin Institute of Christian Worship. 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. The Prayer of Dedication is by Thom Shuman (lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com).

Shannon J. Kershner Pastor

Victoria G. Curtiss Associate Pastor for Mission

Matt Helms Associate Pastor
for Children and Family Ministry

Rocky Supinger Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry

Judith L. Watt Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care

Nanette Sawyer Minister for Congregational Life

Alex Wirth Minister for Evangelism

Jeffrey Doane Parish Associate for Older Adults

Abbi Heimach-Snipes Pastoral Resident

John Buchanan Pastor Emeritus

This worship bulletin is printed on recyclable paper that contains recycled post-consumer waste and is acid free. All bulletins and inserts left in the baskets by the doors are recycled.

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