

*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

“Sleepers Wake!” A Voice Astounds Us . . . . . Johann Sebastian Bach

### Introit

“Our King and Savior Draweth Nigh” . . . . . 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.

### \*Invocation

\*Hymn 347 . . . . . “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

### 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.**

\*Exchange of Peace

Leader: *The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.*

People: **And also with you.**

*We invite you to greet those around you, wishing them "peace" or "the peace of Christ."*

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

"Comfort, Comfort Ye My People". . . . . Paul J. Bunjes

*Comfort, comfort ye my people, speak ye peace, thus saith our God;  
comfort those who sit in darkness, mourning 'neath their sorrow's load.  
Speak ye to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them;  
tell her that her sins I cover and her warfare now is over.*

First Lesson

Isaiah 40:1–11 . . . . . Old Testament, page 627

Leader: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: **Thanks be to God.**

\*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.**

Second Lesson

John 1:1–8, 14–18 . . . . . New Testament, page 86

Minister: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon . . . . . Rocky Supinger

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## Responding to the Word

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\*Hymn 106 . . . . . “Prepare the Way, O Zion”

\*Affirmation of Faith . . . . . Apostles’ Creed

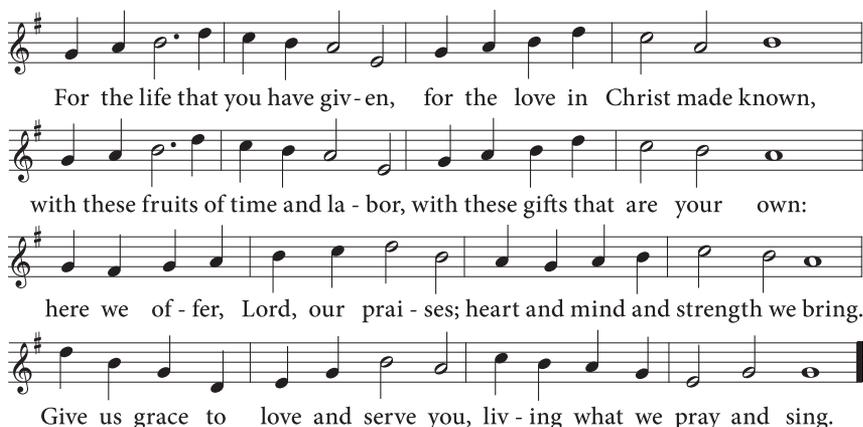
I believe in God the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried;  
he descended into hell;  
the third day he rose again 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 Voluntary

“Savior of the Nations, Come” . . . . . Johann Sebastian Bach

\*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.

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## Sealing the Word

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### 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: *We praise you, for you are Emmanuel . . .*

*. . . forever singing to the glory of your name:*

Sanctus (*sung*) . . . . . The Hymnal, 565

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, 566

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

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

“Word Made Flesh, We Welcome You” . . . . . English carol  
arr .Richard Proulx

*Word made flesh, we welcome you; come to dwell among us here, alleluia.  
Thus has God made known to us his salvation for us all, alleluia.  
Close to me, he called my name; you my Father, I your Son, alleluia.*

Prayer after Communion (*unison*)

O God, you have so greatly loved us,  
long sought us, and mercifully redeemed us.  
Give us grace, that in everything we may yield ourselves,  
our wills, and our works, a continual thank-offering to you,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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Bearing the Word into the World

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\*Hymn 105 . . . . . “People, Look East”

\*Benediction and Response

Postlude

Savior of the Nations, Come . . . . . Paul Manz

THIS MORNING, COMMUNION IS SERVED BY INTINCTION.  
The congregation comes forward by the center aisle to receive the bread, which they then dip into the chalice of grape juice. (Gluten-free bread is available in a small tumbler in each basket of bread.) Worshipers return to their pews by the side aisles.  
The invitation to the Lord’s Supper is not just for Presbyterians or “members of the church.” All who confess Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord are invited to partake of the Lord’s Supper. Even one who doubts or whose trust is wavering may receive the bread and grape juice (in place of wine) in order to be assured of God’s love and grace in Jesus Christ.

## Worship Leaders

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Judith L. Watt, Ruthi Beckman, Rocky Supinger

## Lighting the Advent Wreath

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Jim Kendzel

## The Music Today

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The Chancel Choir

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

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

Grant Nill, Organ Scholar

## Worship Notes

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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](http://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.

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 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.

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**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

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**THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO**

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