

## Gathering around the Word

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### Prelude

Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding. . . . . Richard Webster

### Introit

“Our King and Savior Draweth Nigh” . . . . . Leo Sowerby  
*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: *Show us your mercy, O Lord,*  
People: **and grant us your salvation.**  
Leader: *Truth shall spring up from the earth,*  
People: **and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

\*Hymn 360 . . . . . “Christ Is Coming!”

### Advent Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

God of our salvation, in Christ you have done great things;  
our hearts are filled with joy.  
By your power you lifted us out of the desert of sin  
and brought us with joy and gladness into your kingdom.  
Salvation is your gift to us.  
But we confess that often we try to replace your gift with our own efforts.  
We try to complete what is already perfect;  
we try to add to what is already full;  
we try to earn what we already have.  
Forgive us for our foolishness.  
Help us to focus on your grace.  
Help us to live grateful lives in return.  
O God, you alone know our hearts;  
hear us as we come before you in silence.  
*(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

Canticle (*sung*)

“My Soul Gives Glory to My God” . . . . . The Hymnal, 99

Anthem

“O Thou the Central Orb” . . . . . Charles Wood

*O thou the central orb of righteous love, pure beam of the most high, eternal light of this our wintry world, thy radiance bright awakes new joy in faith, hope soars above. Come, quickly come, and let thy glory shine, gilding our darksome heaven with rays divine. Thy saints with holy luster round thee move, as stars about thy throne, set in the height of God’s ordaining counsel, as thy sight gives measured grace to each, thy power to prove. Let thy bright beams disperse the gloom of sin; our nature shall feel eternal day, in fellowship with thee, transforming day to souls erewhile unclean, now pure within. Amen.*

First Lesson

Isaiah 7:10–15 . . . . . Old Testament, page 598

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

Luke 1:46–55 . . . . . New Testament, page 53  
Minister: *The Word of the Lord*.  
People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon . . . . . Judith L. Watt

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Responding to the Word

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\*Hymn 93 . . . . . “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

\*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 Solo

“Ave Maria” . . . . . Johann Sebastian Bach, Charles Gounod  
*Hail Mary, full of grace, God is with thee;  
blessed art thou amongst women,  
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.*

\*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: *It is truly right and our greatest joy . . .  
 . . . 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

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” . . . . . Gustav Holst

*Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;  
ponder nothing earthly minded for, with blessing in his hand,  
Christ our Lord to earth descendeth our full homage to demand.  
King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood,  
Lord of lords, in human vesture in the body and the blood  
he will give to all the faithful his own self for heavenly food.  
Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way  
as the light descendeth from the realms of endless day,  
that the powers of hell may vanish as the darkness clears away.  
At his feet the six-winged seraph; cherubim with sleepless eye  
veil their faces to the presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry,  
alleluia, Lord most high. Amen.*

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.

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Bearing the Word into the World

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

\*Benediction and Response

Postlude

Finale from *Variations on a Noël* . . . . . Marcel Dupré

## Worship Leaders

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Matt Helms, David Marshall, Judith L. Watt

## Lighting the Advent Wreath

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Bob and Julie Montgomery

## The Music Today

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The Chancel Choir; Laura Kubelka, alto soloist  
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)).

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.

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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**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**

Church office: 126 E. Chestnut Street, Chicago, IL 60611.2014

[www.fourthchurch.org](http://www.fourthchurch.org) | [www.facebook.com/fourthchurch](http://www.facebook.com/fourthchurch)

312.787.4570 | Voicemail 312.787.2729 | Fax: 312.787.4584