

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

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel Robert Lau
Fanfare, Variations, and Toccata
on “Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding” James Biery

Introit

“Prepare the Way of the Lord” (9:30) Richard Proulx
Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight his paths. Rejoice, the Lord is at hand!

“Dance and Sing, for the Lord Will Be with Us” (11:00) . . . Hebrew folk melody
arr. Hal H. Hopson

Dance and sing for the Lord will be with us, glory, hallelujah. Peace and justice soon will be with us, glory, hallelujah. Clap your hands and sing, glory, hallelujah. Joyful voices ring, glory, hallelujah. Soon a Son shall come through Jesse; his delight shall be the Lord. He shall reign with truth and justice; come, O Savior, come. Wolf and lamb shall rest together; calf and lion shall join as friends. Peace shall come to all the nations; come, O Savior, come.

*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!*

*Prayer of Praise

*Hymn 163 “Wild and Lone the Prophet’s Voice”

*Stand as you are able. †Or “Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.”

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Almighty God, you who shaped out of nothing all that is,
forgive us for returning empty-handed.

You who called for the light,
forgive our preference for the shadows!

You who sent John to be a voice crying,
forgive our unwillingness to say anything at all.

We yearn for clean hearts, O God,
and renewed spirits within us.

Hear us, O God, as we come to you in this time of silence,
confessing those sins we speak only in our hearts . . .

(Please hold silence.)

Kyrie (*sung*) The Hymnal, 551

Lord, have mercy; Christ have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy; Christ have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.

Declaration of Pardon

Leader: *Friends, believe the good news:*

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Sacrament of Baptism (11:00)

Unison Prayer (11:00)

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

Canticle (*sung*)

“Blest Be the God of Israel” The Hymnal, 109

Anthem

“Vox Clamantis in Deserto” Juan Esquivel

The voice of one crying out in the wilderness,

“Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.”

First Lesson

Malachi 3:1-4 Old Testament, page 838

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

Luke 3:1-18 New Testament, page 56

Leader: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon 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.

[†]Or “to the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Ghost.”

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

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

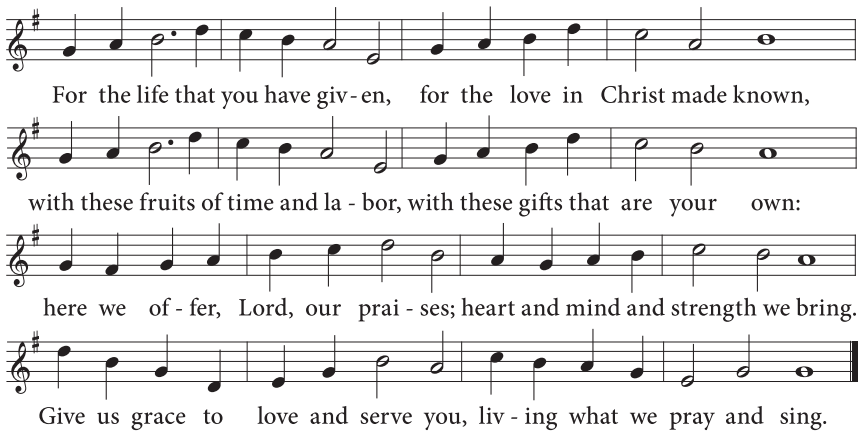
“Hear My Prayer, O Lord” Stephen Sturk
Hear my prayer, O Lord, and let my cry come unto thee. Amen.

Offering

Offertory Anthem

“Canite Tuba in Sion” Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina
*Sound the trumpet in Sion for the day of the Lord is at hand. See, he comes to save us.
Crooked paths shall be made straight and rough ways smooth. Come, Lord, and
delay not, alleluia.*

*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 (*unison*)

Thank you, God of love, for the promise of this season.
We are grateful for the generosity aroused in us
by Christ's coming into the world.
May these gifts represent a new spirit of joyous sharing among us,
for the sake of all your children everywhere. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 96. “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

*Benediction

Worshippers who wish to do so are invited to sing along with the choir during the Benediction responses.

Postlude

“Sleepers, Wake!” A Voice Astounds Us Sigfrid Karg-Elert

Baptism at Fourth Presbyterian Church

Baptism is the sign and seal of God’s grace and covenant in Christ. 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.

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.

The following children are being baptized at this morning’s 11:00 service.

Mayson Alan Palumbo,
child of Michael and Veronica Palumbo

Monaco Francis Palumbo,
child of Michael and Veronica Palumbo

James Premkumar,
child of Ashish Premkumar and Natalie Witek

Andrew Robert Ascher Reidy,
child of Conor Reidy and Whitney Stevens

Worship Leaders

Matt Helms, Judith L. Watt, Shannon J. Kershner

Lighting the Advent Wreath

9:30 The Hodges Family

11:00 The Bus Family

The Music Today

Morning Choir; Children's Choir (11:00)

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

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

Katy Sinclair, Associate Director of Music for Children and Youth

Hsing-Huei Huang, pianist

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. "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 at www.fourthchurch.org/give-online

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 QUOTE is from *Watch for the Light: Readings for Advent and Christmas*.

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Shannon J. Kershner Pastor

Lucy Forster-Smith Senior Associate Pastor

Associate Pastors

Victoria G. Curtiss Mission

Matt Helms Children and Family Ministry

Nanette Sawyer Discipleship and Small Group Ministry

Rocky Supinger Youth Ministry

Judith L. Watt Pastoral Care

Joseph L. Morrow Minister for Evangelism

Jeffrey Doane Parish Associate for Older Adults

Abbi Heimach-Snipes Pastoral Resident

Shawn Fiedler Ministerial Associate for Worship

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

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