



Second Sunday of Advent

We Approach God

Gathering Music

Greeting

***Joining Our Voices**

As farmers wait for rainfall
As prisoners wait for freedom

We wait for the coming of God

As exiles yearn for home
As peacemakers yearn for justice

We long for the coming of God

As travelers search for shelter
As disciples look for answers

We prepare for the coming of God

* Please rise in body or spirit

Inspired by the radical hospitality of Jesus Christ, Fourth Church welcomes all of God's children into the life of the church regardless of sex, gender, sexual orientation, age, race, ethnicity, physical or mental ability, mental health, educational background, economic situation, religious background, or documentation status.

***Opening Song** “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”



Please note

Copyrighted musical pieces that we do not have permission to distribute online (but only to include in the printed order of worship) are not shown in this version of the bulletin.

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We Tell the Truth about Ourselves

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

**When our spirits despair and we deny our blessedness,
forgive us, O God.**

**When we ignore the mighty things you have done,
when we doubt your mercy,
forgive us, O God.**

**When we are proud
in the thoughts of our hearts,
when our power rests on the oppression of others,
when our wealth causes others to go hungry,
forgive us, O God.**

Silent Confession and Response

God Forgives and Blesses Us

***Passing of the Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

All are invited to stand and share the peace of Christ with one another.

We Proclaim the Story

Canticle Isaiah 40:1–11 (*the congregation sings the antiphon*)

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her
that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.
A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.
Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

ANTIPHON (*unison*) **With power and glory, come; with power and glory, come.**

Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?"
All people are grass; their constancy is like the flower of the field.
The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.
The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand for ever.
Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!"
See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.
He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms
and carry them in his bosom and gently lead the mother sheep.

ANTIPHON (*unison*) **While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.**

Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

Scripture Reading

Matthew 1:18–25

Sermon Nanette Sawyer

We Offer Ourselves

Musical Reflection

***Sharing of Gifts**

In gratitude for the love and grace extended to us by God, we share our resources to support ministries of justice, mercy, and beauty. Please place your gifts and pledges in the plate as it passes.

Offertory Music

***Doxology** "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

We Feast Together

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise!

Sanctus “Angels We Have Heard on High” (*Refrain*)

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.**

The Communion

*We celebrate an open table. All, including children, are invited to the Lord’s Table to receive Communion.
You are invited to come forward, receive the bread (gluten-free bread is available—just ask), dip the
bread into the nonalcoholic grape juice, and return to your seat by stopping at one of our prayer
stations to offer your prayers of gratitude or sorrow.*

We Go Out with Gratitude

Prayer of Thanksgiving (*unison*)

**Holy God, you bless us with many gifts,
you retrieve us from despair and fear,
you visit us with surprising proclamations,
and you intend for us good things.
We thank you for your steadfast love,
for sending signs of assurance,
and for the gift of faith.
Use our gifts to bring comfort and justice to those in need,
reforming the ways of our world for the sake of new life. Amen.**

***Sending Song** “Soon and Very Soon”

***Benediction**
Sending Music

Worship Leaders

Nanette Sawyer	Associate Pastor
Joseph L. Morrow	Minister for Evangelism
Sandra Glenn	Lighting the Advent Wreath
Morgan Pirtle	Vocals
Paul Bedal	Piano
Bryan Doherty	Bass
Marcus Evans	Drums

A note on inclusive language

Incorporating ancient and contemporary traditions in this service, God is named corporately in a variety of ways that are gender neutral. This allows for your personal expressions as you are led to name the Holy in ways meaningful to you.

Acknowledgments

Words—The Call to Worship is by Ruth Burgess, posted on the blog Of Life, Laughter, and Liturgy (www.bit.ly/2ARwsNp). The Prayer of Confession is by Joanna Harader and posted on Spacious Faith (spaciousfaith.com). The Prayer of Thanksgiving is by Kimberly Bracken Long, from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 1: Advent through Pentecost*; Westminster John Knox Press.

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PASTORAL STAFF

Shannon J. Kershner, Pastor
Lucy Forster-Smith, Senior Associate Pastor
Victoria G. Curtiss, Associate Pastor for Mission
Matt Helms, Associate Pastor for Children and Family Ministry
Nanette Sawyer, Associate Pastor for Discipleship and Small Group Ministry
Rocky Supinger, Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry
Judith L. Watt, Associate Pastor for 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

News and Opportunities

Advent and Christmas

Today is the last day for Christmas flower gifts to be made in memory or honor of loved ones.

Contributions will make possible this year's Christmas garland and flowers in the Sanctuary and Chapel. Names of those remembered—and submitted no later than today (December 9)—will be printed in the Christmas bulletin. Contributions can be made by using the forms in the literature racks or online at www.bit.ly/FPCgifts

This evening the Festival of Advent Lessons and Music will be celebrated at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

A cookies-and-cocoa reception hosted by Women at Fourth follows in Anderson Hall.

The Christmas with Tower Brass concert takes place this Wednesday, December 12 at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary; donations (*suggestion of \$20*) will be received at the door.

Bella Voce will sing A Ceremony of Carols this Friday, December 14 at 7:30 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel.

Tickets are available at www.bellavoce.org

Chicago a capella's holiday concert will be held this Friday, December 14 at 8:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Tickets are available at www.chicagoacappella.org

The Christmas cantata A Ceremony of Carols by Benjamin Britten will be sung by the Morning Choir as part of the 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. services on Sunday, December 23.

The "Longest Night" service, which will be held Tuesday, December 18 at 6:30 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel, recognizes the feelings of loneliness, grief, alienation, and sadness —personal and regarding world events — that are often present during this season.

We will gather for four candlelight Christmas Eve services on Monday, December 24:

4:00 p.m. Children's Pageant

6:00 p.m. Family Service

8:00 p.m. Lessons and Carols

10:00 p.m. Lessons and Carols

We will worship on Christmas Day at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, December 25.

A traditional Christmas dinner will be held on Christmas Day at 12:15 p.m. in Anderson Hall as a time to share Christmas with friends new and old. Reservations (*required*) can be made online at www.bit.ly/cdin2018

A candlelit New Year's Eve Taizé service will be held at 7:30 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel on Monday, December 31.

The "Christmas Wishes" project, which is in its final week, collects gifts for Chicago Lights Tutoring students who might not otherwise receive them. Contact Anne Ellis (312.573.3369; aellis@fourthchurch.org) for details.

Expectations for the holidays can be different from the realities, and feelings of grief over losses can be heightened. Fourth Church's Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being offers a supportive environment for reflecting on and coping with such experiences. For information, call the Center at 312.787.8425.

Daily Advent devotions written by members and staff are available via email (subscribe online at www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions); in the literature racks; and on [facebook.com/fourthchurch](https://www.facebook.com/fourthchurch), Twitter (@FourthChicago), and www.fourthchurch.org

News and Resources

In order to conclude 2018 with a balanced budget, we are counting on gifts pledged for 2018 to be fully fulfilled by year end—and welcome additional generosity where it is possible! If you anticipate being unable to fulfill your pledge, please let Andrea Miller know (312.640.2576) so we might plan accordingly. Thank you!

A weekday daytime training course for Stephen Ministers will begin in the spring. Those interested in this fifty-hour class—and making a two-year commitment to this ministry of caring—can find information at www.bit.ly/fpcstephen

Mission

Fourth Church Prison Ministry is looking for volunteers to visit with men in a minimum-security space at the Cook County Jail. Learn more at an informational meeting next Sunday, December 16 at 12:20 p.m. in Room 5F.

Mission trips to Cuba (May 6–15) and **Guatemala** (August 4–11) are being planned for 2019. Learn more or apply (by January 15) at www.fourthchurch.org/mission/trips

A trip to Alabama and Mississippi that focuses on the civil rights movement is being planned by the Racial Equity Council for October 26–November 2, 2019. See www.bit.ly/crtrip2019 for details and an application.

Information about ways to support immigrants at the southern border is available at www.bit.ly/fpcimmref or by contacting Vicky Curtiss (vcurtiss@fourthchurch.org).

Enrichment

“Longing for God: Faith Development over a Lifetime,” a class with Lucy Forster-Smith, concludes next Sunday, December 16 at 11:00 a.m. in Room 5G.

Books by Women meets Tuesday, December 11 at 6:00 p.m. in the Bumpus Room to discuss *Crossing Thresholds: The Making and Remaking of a 21st Century Chaplain* by our Senior Associate Pastor, Lucy Forster-Smith.

Horizons Women’s Bible Study meets this Wednesday, December 12 at 12:00 p.m. in Room 5H.

Children, Youth, and Family

Sunday School meets at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. on the fourth floor of the Gratz Center.

Youth (grades 6–12) meet next Sunday, December 16 at 9:30 a.m. in the Bumpus Room for a Christmas party.

“Cookies, Cocoa, and Caroling” Family Night will be Friday evening, December 21 at 5:30 p.m. in Borwell Dining Room and will include a shared dinner, cookie decorating, games, and crafts.

The youth ski retreat will be January 18–20; register at www.bit.ly/fpcski2019 by December 15.

Details about summer 2019 youth trips to New Jersey, Detroit, and the Presbyterian Youth Triennium are posted at www.bit.ly/summertrips19; register by January 15.

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers to unload food trucks on second and fourth Monday mornings

Sunday Night Supper volunteers to greet and serve on Sundays, December 23 and 30 from 3:45 to 6:15 p.m.

Candle-slevers on Thursday, December 20 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. to prepare for Christmas Eve services

To sign up or to learn about other volunteer opportunities or donation needs, stop by Coffee Hour today or contact Robert Crouch (312.981.3382)

Calendar for December 9–16, 2018

Sunday, December 9 *Second Sunday of Advent*

- 4:00 p.m. **Jazz at Four • Nanette Sawyer preaching** Buchanan Chapel
- 5:00 p.m. Meals Ministry Sunday Night Supper Anderson Hall
- 6:30 p.m. Advent Festival of Lessons and Music. Sanctuary
- 7:30 p.m. Cookies-and-Cocoa Reception Anderson Hall

Monday, December 10

- 9:00 a.m. Day School Preschool (*also Tues.–Fri.*) Day School Classrooms
- 4:00 p.m. Meals Ministry Monday Night Supper Catholic Charities
- 5:00 p.m. Chicago Lights Tutoring (*also Tues.–Thurs.*) Fifth Floor, Gratz Center

Tuesday, December 11

- 7:45 a.m. Sacred Pause Silent Meditation Stone Chapel
- 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. Meals Ministry Bag Lunches (*also Wed., Thurs.*) Anderson Hall
- 6:00 p.m. Books by Women Bumpus Room
- 7:00 p.m. Meditation with Replogle Center Boyle Conference Room

Wednesday, December 12

- 9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer Buchanan Chapel
- 9:30 a.m. Benevolent Guild Room 5B
- 12:00 p.m. *Horizons* Bible Study for Women Room 5H
- 7:30 p.m. Christmas with Tower Brass. Sanctuary

Thursday, December 13

- 6:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal. Sanctuary

Friday, December 14

- 12:10 p.m. Noonday Concert: Anthony Williams, Organ Sanctuary
- 7:30 p.m. Bella Voce: *A Ceremony of Carols* Buchanan Chapel
- 8:00 p.m. Holidays *a cappella* with Chicago *a cappella* Sanctuary

Saturday, December 15

Sunday, December 16 *Third Sunday of Advent*

- 8:00 a.m. **Worship • Rocky Supinger preaching**. Sanctuary
- 8:00 a.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal Buchanan Chapel Choir Loft
- 9:00/10:00/10:30 a.m. Cherub/Youth/Children's Choir Rehearsals Room 4F
- 9:00, 10:30 a.m.; 12:00 p.m. Coffee Hour Commons
- 9:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Nursery Nursery / Day School
- 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. **Worship • Shannon J. Kershner preaching** Sanctuary
- 9:30 a.m. "Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about the Bible" Room 5G
- 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. Sunday School. Fourth Floor, Gratz Center
- 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Youth Christmas Party. Bumpus Room
- 10:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. Time of Prayer with Deacons. Stone Chapel
- 11:00 a.m. "Longing for God" Room 5G
- 12:00 p.m. New Member Brunch Page Smith Room
- 12:00 p.m. Sanctuary Tour Sanctuary
- 12:15 p.m. Organ Tour Sanctuary
- 12:20 p.m. Prison Ministry Room 5F
- 4:00 p.m. **Jazz at Four • Shannon J. Kershner preaching** Buchanan Chapel
- 5:00 p.m. Meals Ministry Sunday Night Supper Anderson Hall

During Today's Worship

All are encouraged to visit a prayer station to offer joys and concerns by writing them on a prayer card. The cards will be collected at the end of worship, read by the pastoral staff during the week, and then displayed in an ongoing art project.

We celebrate an open table at Communion. All, including children, are invited to the Lord's Table to receive Communion. You are invited to come forward, receive the bread (gluten-free bread is available—just ask), dip the bread into the nonalcoholic grape juice, and return to your seat by stopping at one of our prayer stations to offer your prayers of gratitude or sorrow.

Worship can be heard through the "T" or "T-coil" setting of hearing aids.

Please silence all electronic devices when in the Chapel.

Printed copies of sermons recently preached at Fourth Church are available in the literature racks. They are also available at www.fourthchurch.org/sermons and by email: subscribe at www.bit.ly/fpcsermons

If You Are New to Fourth Church

Inquirers' Class explores Presbyterian history and beliefs. This one-session class is also a prerequisite for membership. Attend Sunday, January 13 or February 10 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon in the Page Smith Room (register online for the class at www.bit.ly/fpcinquirers). We invite you to worship with us at 8:00 a.m. or 4:00 p.m. the day you attend the class. For details or membership information, contact Joe Morrow (member@fourthchurch.org; 312.981.3399) or go to www.bit.ly/fpcinquirers

Information about opportunities and resources available to you here at Fourth Church is available in the literature racks as you're leaving the church. You can also find information on our website (www.fourthchurch.org), our page on Facebook (facebook.com/fourthchurch), and in our weekly email newsletter (subscribe online at www.bit.ly/newsfromfpc).

If you are interested in considering baptism or becoming a member of Fourth Church during the 4:00 p.m. service, please contact Joe Morrow (jmorrow@fourthchurch.org) or any pastor involved in the service. Information is available about the Baptism Seminar and Inquirers' Class, which are necessary for preparation. A monthly opportunity to be baptized or join the church at the 4:00 service is available on December 23.

To notify pastoral staff of personal concerns, illnesses, hospitalizations, or deaths; to pass along a prayer request; or to arrange homebound Communion with a Deacon, contact Judy Watt, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care, at 312.573.3360 (jwatt@fourthchurch.org).

Sunday parking is available at 900 North Michigan (access from Rush or Walton Street) at the rate of \$8 between 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Validation tickets for the 900 garage must be picked up from the Chestnut Street reception desk.

The Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago

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