

*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

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel . . . . . Robert Lau

### Introit

“Prepare the Way of the Lord” . . . . . Richard Proulx  
*Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight his paths. Rejoice, the Lord is at hand!*

\*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: *The Promised one of God brings good news to the oppressed.*

People: **Praise be to God!**

Leader: *Christ binds up the brokenhearted,  
proclaims liberty to captives, release to prisoners.*

People: **Praise be to Jesus our Lord!**

Leader: *The Spirit of God comforts those who mourn,  
gives a mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.*

People: **Praise to the ever-living Spirit!**

Leader: *Rejoice, for God lives among us!*

People: **Praise and glory forever. Amen.**

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

### Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Faithful God, you love righteousness and turn away from evil, yet we have not lived lives of integrity and truth; we have failed to honor your best intention for our lives. We humbly admit our faults and turn to you in love. Forgive our offenses, and create in us a clean heart, that our lives would bring glory to you to the ends of the earth. 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.)*

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

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.

\*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*)

"Song of Zechariah" . . . . . The Hymnal, 109

Anthem

"Paeon of Advent" . . . . . Eugene Butler

*On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh; come then and hearken, for he brings glad tidings from the King of kings. Then cleansed be every Christian breast and furnished for so great a guest! Yea, let us each our hearts prepare for Christ to come and enter there. For thou art our salvation, Lord, our refuge and our great reward; once more upon thy people shine, and fill the world with love divine. All praise, eternal Son, to thee whose Advent sets thy people free, whom, with the Father, we adore, and Holy Ghost forevermore.*

First Lesson

Malachi 3:1-4 . . . . . Old Testament, page 838

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:<sup>†</sup>

as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,

world without end. Amen. Amen.

<sup>†</sup>Or "to the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Ghost."

Second Lesson

Luke 3:1-9 . . . . . New Testament, page 56

Leader: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Pre-paring” . . . . . Lucy Forster-Smith

Responding to the Word

\*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;  
 on 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

“He Shall Feed His Flock” from *Messiah* . . . . . George Frideric Handel

*He shall feed his flock like a shepherd; and he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young. Come unto him, all ye that labor. Come unto him all ye that are heavy-laden, and he will give you rest. Take his yoke upon you, and learn of him, for he is meek and lowly of heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls.*

\*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

Leader: *The Lord be with you.*

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: *Lift up your hearts.*

People: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Leader: *Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.*

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Prayer

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

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

Sanctus (*sung*) . . . . . The Hymnal, 552

**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.**

Leader: *. . . Great is the mystery of faith:*

Memorial Acclamation (*sung*) . . . . . The Hymnal, 553

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*) . . . . . The Hymnal, page 35

The Communion

Communion Anthem

“When Came in Flesh the Incarnate Word” . . . . . George Guest

*When came in flesh the incarnate Word, the heedless world slept on, and only simple shepherds heard that God had sent his Son. When comes the Savior at the last, from east and west shall shine. The awful pomp and earth aghast shall tremble at the sign. Then shall the pure of heart be blest, as mild he comes to them, as when upon the virgin’s breast, he lay at Bethlehem. Lord, who could dare see thee descend in state, unless he knew thou art the sorrowing sinner’s friend, the gracious and the true. Dwell in our hearts, O Savior blest, so shall thine Advent’s dawn ‘twixt us and thee, our bosom guest, be but the veil withdrawn.*

\*Prayer after Communion (*unison*)

Lord Jesus, you have put your life into our hands; now we put our lives in yours. Take us, renew and remake us. What we have been is past; what we shall be, through you, still awaits. Lead us on. Take us with you. Amen.

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Bearing the Word into the World

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

\*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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Victoria G. Curtiss, Lucy Forster-Smith

## Lighting the Advent Wreath

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Cathy and Ted Davis

## The Music Today

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Chancel Choir; Laura Perkett, soloist

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

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

Justin Taylor, 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 at [www.fourthchurch.org/give-online](http://www.fourthchurch.org/give-online)

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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 Prayer after Communion is from *A Wee Worship Book*, Fourth Incarnation, Wild Goose Resource Group, 1999. 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.

**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

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**THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO**

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