

*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

The Bells of Speyer . . . . . Ludwig Senfl; arr. Erich Peterson  
Savior of the Nations, Come . . . . . Johann Sebastian Bach  
Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming . . . . . Johannes Brahms; arr. Robert King  
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel . . . . . Leo Sowerby  
Good Christian Friends, Rejoice . . . . . Michael Praetorius  
arr. Aaron David Miller

### Introit

“All Around the World” (9:30) . . . . . Anonymous  
*All around the world kids are praying to God. Children lift up hands and voices,  
saying “Hear our prayer, O Lord.” Jesus teaches us to have a conversation with the  
mighty God who made the whole creation. You can say a prayer in any situation.  
God is listening, God is there. This is the day that the Lord has made; we will  
rejoice and be glad in it. Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice.*

“Our King and Savior Now Draws Near” (11:00) . . . . . Iain Quinn  
*Our King and Savior now draws near; come, let us adore him.  
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be. Amen.*

\*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.<sup>†</sup> Amen.

### \*Call to Worship

Leader: *Christmas comes, but not yet.*  
People: Before we celebrate, let us wait,  
taking time to remember who is coming.  
Leader: *Let us prepare our lives and look outwards in love.*  
People: Let us worship God!

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

\*Prayer of Praise

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

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.)*

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.

Concerns of the Church

Anthem

“Veni redemptor gentium” . . . . . Jacob Handl

*Come, thou redeemer of the earth and manifest thy virgin birth.*

*Let every age adoring fall; such a birth befits the God of all.*

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Listening for the Word

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Prayer for Illumination

Canticle (*sung*)

“Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above” . . . . . The Hymnal, 645

\*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.

Scripture Lesson

Luke 1:39–45 . . . . . New Testament, page 53  
Leader: *The Word of the Lord.*  
People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon . . . . . Shannon J. Kershner

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Responding to the Word

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

\*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.

New Members (11:00)

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.

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

Prayer Response

“Amen” . . . . . Dale Wood

Offering

Offertory Anthem

“Laetentur caeli” . . . . . William Byrd

*Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad. Sing forth praise, ye mountains, for our Lord shall come and take pity on his afflicted people. There shall arise in thy days righteousness and an abundance of peace.*

\*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*)

God of righteousness, you have saved us from the worst the world can do and have promised to redeem the whole creation when Christ comes again. In faith and hope we offer our gifts of money and self, that we may be part of what you are doing in the world even now, as we watch for Christ’s coming in glory. Amen.

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Bearing the Word into the World

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\*Hymn 104 . . . . . “O Lord, How Shall I Meet You”

\*Benediction

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

Postlude

Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine . . . . . Hieronymus Praetorius; arr. E. Peterson



# Christmas Worship

## **“Longest Night” Service**

**Tuesday, December 18**

6:30–7:30 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel

*For those experiencing pain, loss,  
grief, or loneliness this season*

## **Christmas Cantata**

**Sunday, December 23**

*A Ceremony of Carols* by Benjamin Britten  
During 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. worship

## **Four Christmas Eve**

### **Candlelight Services**

**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

## **Christmas Day Service**

**Tuesday, December 25**

11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

## **First Sunday after Christmas**

**Sunday, December 30**

8:00 a.m. Communion

9:30 a.m. Christmas Lessons and Carols

11:00 a.m. Christmas Lessons and Carols

4:00 p.m. Jazz Communion

## Worship Leaders

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Judith L. Watt, Jeffrey Doane, Shannon J. Kershner

## Lighting the Advent Wreath

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9:30 Jessica H. Wang and Connie W. Chang

11:00 Blake and Barbara Anderson

## The Music Today

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Morning Choir; Tower Brass; Cherub Choir (9:30)

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

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

Matthew Comerford, Artistic Director of Tower Brass

Katy Sinclair, Associate Director of Music for Children and Youth

Hsing-Huei Huang, Pianist

## Worship Notes

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WE WELCOME YOUTH FROM CHICAGO SINAI CONGREGATION who are attending today's 9:30 a.m. service. At 11:00 a.m., they will be visiting our Confirmation class, which last week visited Chicago Sinai.

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](http://www.fourthchurch.org/give-online)

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SOURCES AND CREDITS: The Call to Worship is adapted from *Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany: Liturgies and Prayers for Public Worship* by Brian Wren. 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.

**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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