

*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 Kenneth Leighton
“Sleepers, Wake!” A Voice Astounds Us Jacobus Kloppers
Gabriel’s Oboe Ennio Morricone
People, Look East Kristina Langlois

Introit

“We Wait and Hope for the Lord” Dale Wood
*We wait and hope for the Lord, for he is our help and shield.
In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name.
Let your unfailing love be upon us, O Lord, as we put our trust in you.*

*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: *We gather in preparation,*
People: for good news is about to be proclaimed.
Leader: *We gather in expectation,*
People: for joy is soon to be delivered.
Leader: *We gather in affirmation,*
People: for we say “Yes!”
Yes to the manger,
yes to love made flesh,
yes to the One who comes to all.
Leader: *Praise God!*
People: God’s name be praised.

*Prayer of Praise

*Hymn 105 “People, Look East”

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

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

O promised Christ: we are a world at war.
Our peace depends on your coming.
We are a broken people. Our pardon depends on your coming.
We are full of good intentions but weak at keeping promises;
our only hope of doing God’s will
is that you should come and help us do it.
Lord Christ, Word made flesh, our world waits for your peace,
for your pardon, and for your grace.
Even so: come, Lord Jesus.
Come to us in the silence and hear the confessions of our hearts
that we cannot yet speak aloud . . .

(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

“En natus est Emmanuel” Michael Praetorius
*Behold, this day is born Emmanuel, Christ the Lord, foretold by Gabriel,
the Savior of the world. He lies in a manger bed, wondrous little
boy is he; the light appears on this day, born of the virgin Mary.*

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Canticle (*sung*)

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

*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.

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

Scripture Lesson

Micah 5:2–5a Old Testament, page 815

Leader: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: Thanks be to God.

Proclamation of the Word through Music

A Ceremony of Carols by Benjamin Britten

1. Procession

Today Christ is born; today the Savior has appeared;
today the angels sing, the archangels rejoice;
today the righteous rejoice, saying,
“Glory to God in the highest, alleluia!”

2. Welcome Yule

Welcome to you, our heavenly King.
Welcome, you who was born one morning;
welcome, for you we shall sing!
Welcome, Stephen and John;
welcome, all innocent children;
welcome, Thomas, the martyred one;
welcome, good new year;
welcome, twelfth day, both in fear;
welcome, saints left and dear.
Candlemas, queen of bliss,
welcome both to more and less.
Welcome, you that are here;
welcome, all, and make good cheer.
Welcome, all, another year.

3. There Is No Rose

There is no rose of such virtue
as is the rose that bore Jesus, alleluia;
for in this rose (called Mary) were heaven and earth
in a single, little space; miraculous thing.
By that rose, we now may see:
there be one God in persons three,
created in the parents’ image.
The angels sang to the shepherds,
“Glory to God in the highest!” We rejoice.
Leave we all this worldly mirth,
and follow we this joyful birth.
We cross over to Christ’s world.

4a. That Young Child

When that young child began to weep,
with song, she lulled him asleep:
that was so sweet a melody
it passed all minstrelsy.
The nightingale sang also,
but her song is hoarse and not the same;
whoever listens to the nightingale's song,
instead of Mary's, does wrong.

4b. Balulalow

O love of my heart, young Jesus sweet,
prepare your place in my heart,
and I shall rock thee with great love,
and I shall never leave your side.
I shall praise you forever
with sweet songs of your glory;
the knees of my heart shall I bow
and sing the right lullaby.

5. As Dew in April

I sing of a maiden that is mateless;
her son was the King of kings.
From his mother he came to us,
quietly as dew in April that falls on the grass.
His mother's labor was painless and quiet
as dew in April that falls on the grass.
As his mother lay there, he came quietly
as dew in April that falls on the flower branches.
Never has there been such a mother and maiden;
how fitting it is that this be God's mother.

6. This Little Babe

This little babe so few days old has come to rifle Satan's fold. All hell
quakes at his presence, though he himself shivers. For in this weak,
unarmed guise he will surprise the very gates of hell! With tears he
fights and wins the field, his naked breast stands for a shield; his shots
are his cries; his arrows, the looks of his weeping eyes. His martial
ensigns are cold and need, and his feeble flesh, his warrior's steed.

His camp is pitched in a stall; his bulwark is a broken wall, the crib
his trench; haystacks are his stakes; of shepherds, he enlists his troops.
And sure of wounding the foe, the angels sound the trumpets alarm.
My soul joins Christ in the fight, stay by the tents that he has pitched;
within his crib is sure protection, the little babe will be your guard; if
Christ can foil your foes with joy, stay near the heavenly boy.

7. Interlude (*harp solo*)

8. In Freezing Winter Night

Behold, a silly tender babe
in freezing winter night;
in homely manger lies trembling,
alas, a piteous sight.
The inns are full; no man will yield
this little pilgrim a bed,
but forced he is with silly beasts,
in crib to shroud his head.
This stable is a prince's court,
this crib his chair of state;
the beasts are parcel of his pomp,
the wooden dish his plate.
The persons in poor attire
his royal liveries wear.
The prince himself is come from heaven;
this pomp is prized there.
With joy approach, O Christian, now,
do homage to thy King,
and highly praise his humble pomp
which he from heaven doth bring.

9. Spring Carol

It is always a pleasure
to hear the birds sing,
to see the deer in the dale,
the sheep in the vale,
the corn springing from the earth.
God supplies sustenance for us all;
then we should always give him praise
and give him thanks.

10. Deo Gracias

Give thanks to God!

Adam was bound in sin
for four thousand years,
although he thought this not too long.

It was all for an apple that he took,
as clerics find written in their books.

Had the apple never been taken,
then our lady would have never been a heavenly queen.

Blessed be the time the apple was taken;
therefore we must sing, "Thanks be to God!"

11. Recession

Today Christ is born;
today the Savior has appeared;
today the angels sing,
the archangels rejoice;
today the righteous rejoice, saying,
"Glory to God in the highest, alleluia!"

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 144 "In the Bleak Midwinter"

*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.

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

“Amen” Philip W. J. Stopford

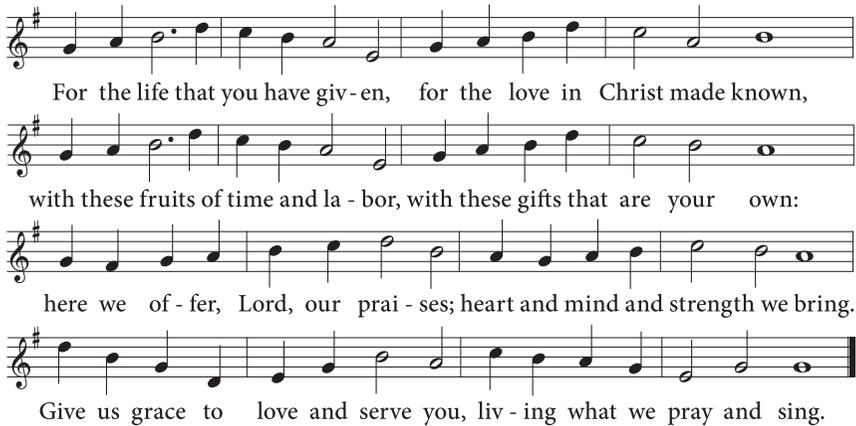
Offering

Offertory Anthem

“O Magnum Mysterium” Morten Lauridsen

*O great mystery and wondrous sacrament, that animals should see
the newborn Lord, lying in a manger! Blessed is the virgin whose
womb was worthy to bear the Lord Jesus Christ. 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*)

O Mighty One,
you have done and are doing great things for us,
and holy is your name.
Bless all we offer you—our very selves—
that through us your grace and favor
may be known to all the world,
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 136. “Go Tell It on the Mountain”

*Benediction

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

Postlude

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel Adolphus Hailstork

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 Lessons and Carols in Buchanan Chapel | Communion

New Year’s Eve Taizé Service • Monday, December 31

7:30 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel

A Ceremony of Carols was written by the English composer Benjamin Britten during World War II while he was returning on a cargo vessel to his homeland after spending three years in the U.S. The ship stopped in Halifax, Nova Scotia, where Britten picked up a book of medieval poems, some of which he integrated into the work we hear today. (Customs officials reportedly seized multiple compositions-in-progress from Britten on the premise that they could be “secret code.” He apparently did not recover all of the confiscated works, but the composition that became *A Ceremony of Carols* survived and was published in 1942.)

The work was originally composed for treble choir and harp. The full-choir version offered today was arranged a year after publication in response to the popularity of the piece.

Worship Leaders

Joseph L. Morrow, Lucy Forster-Smith, Shannon J. Kershner

Lighting the Advent Wreath

9:30 Laura Lee Larson and Jeannine Forrest

11:00 Nathalie Loma

The Music Today

Morning Choir; Laura Perkett, Kimberly Gunderson, Sarah van der Ploeg, Brett Potts, Carla Janzen, and Carol Carpenter, soloists

Laura Perkett, oboist; Kara Bershad, harpist

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

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

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 BULLETIN COVER quote is from Martin Luther’s hymn “Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her” (“From Heaven Above to Earth I Come”). A Scottish translation of those words is sung as the lullaby “Balulalow” as part of this morning’s Christmas Cantata.

SOURCES AND CREDITS: The Call to Worship and Prayer of Dedication are adapted by from *The Worship Sourcebook* (Calvin Institute of Christian Worship). 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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Nanette Sawyer Discipleship and Small Group Ministry

Rocky Supinger Youth Ministry

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John Buchanan Pastor Emeritus

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THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO

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