



Fourth Presbyterian Church

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24, 2023 • 10:00 a.m.

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

- My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout Ron Schmoltze
- Come Now, O Prince of Peace Roberta Rowland-Raybold
- Fugue on the Magnificat Johann Sebastian Bach

Introit

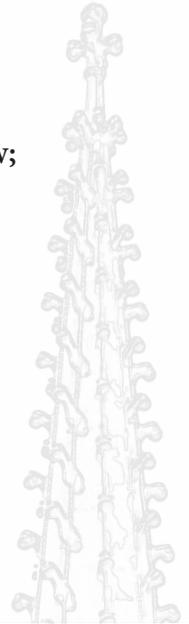
“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” Polish carol/arr. David Willcocks
Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall; oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the babe is Lord of all. Swift are winging angels singing, nowells ringing, tidings bringing, Christ the babe is Lord of all.

*Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;
 praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. † Amen.

*Call to Worship

- One: *“I will shake all the nations,” says the Holy One,*
- All: *“and what is desired by all nations will come.”*
- One: *We pray before God with the blessed Mary,*
- All: *“May it be with us according to God’s Spirit.”*
- One: *May the child of hope, peace, joy, and love come.*



**Please rise in body or spirit. †Or “Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.”*

***Hymn 100** “My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout”

My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant’s plight, and my weakness you did not spurn,
so from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?

Refrain:

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.

Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me,
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn,
you will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn. *(Refrain)*

From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears every tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn;
there are tables spread; every mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn. *(Refrain)*

Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast:
God’s mercy must deliver us from the conqueror’s crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound,
till the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around. *(Refrain)*

Prayer of Confession and Lighting of the Advent Wreath *(unison)*

God of grace and glory, we are filled with anticipation as Christmas is near.
Yet so many of us are tired, troubled, and weary, for the world is far from your desires.
We confess our sins against you and those around us:
our sharp words, our careless actions, our thoughtless responses,
our inability to see the deep needs and wounds around us.
As we approach Christmas, teach us to recognize Jesus Christ, your beloved Son,
our true desire, and to hunger and thirst for that which only he can give. Amen.

Hymn 88 *(verse 4)* “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

O come, thou Root of Jesse, free thine own from Satan’s tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save and give them victory o’er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Declaration of Pardon

One: *Believe this good news:*

All: 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,” and encourage those online to use this time to share your presence with us, using the online form.

Welcome and Announcements

Anthem

“Angelus ad Virginem” David Blackwell
The angel Gabriel came to the virgin, entering secretly into her room; the virgin’s fear calming, he said, “Hail, queen of virgins; you will conceive the Lord of heaven and earth and bear him, still a virgin, to be the salvation of mankind; you will be made the gate of heaven, the cure of sins.” “How can I conceive, when I have never known a man? How can I transgress resolutions that I have vowed with a firm mind?” “The grace of the Holy Spirit shall do all this. Do not be afraid, but rejoice without a care, since your chastity will remain in you unspoiled through the power of God.” To this, the noble virgin, replying, said to him, “I am the humble servant of almighty God. To you, heavenly messenger and bearer of such a great secret, I give my consent, and wishing to see done what I hear, I am ready to obey the will of God.” Hail, mother of our Lord, who brought peace back to angels and mankind when you bore Christ! May Christ show favor to us and blot out our sins, giving us help to enjoy a blessed life.

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter Psalm 126

One: *The Word of God for the people of God.*

All: Thanks be to God.

***Gloria Patri**

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 Luke 1:26–38

One: *The grass withers, and the flower fades,*
All: but the word of our God shall stand forever.

Sermon

Can We Go Over That First Part Again? Tom Are Jr.

Responding to the Word

***Hymn 99** “My Soul Gives Glory to My God”

My soul gives glory to my God; my heart pours out its praise.
God lifted up my lowliness in many marvelous ways.
My God has done great things for me: yes, holy is God’s name.
All people will declare me blessed, and blessings they shall claim.
From age to age to all who fear, such mercy love imparts,
dispensing justice far and near, dismissing selfish hearts.
Love casts the mighty from their thrones, promotes the insecure,
leaves hungry spirits satisfied; the rich seem suddenly poor.
Praise God, whose loving covenant supports those in distress,
remembering past promises with present faithfulness.

***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 *(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.

Call to Offering

Offertory Anthem

“Ave Maria” Franz Biebl
The angel of the Lord declared unto Mary, and she conceived of the Holy Spirit. Hail Mary, full of grace; the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Hail, Mary, mother of God, pray with us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. “Behold, the handmaid of the Lord. Be it done unto me according to thy word.” Hail Mary, full of grace; the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Hail, Mary, mother of God, pray with us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. And the word was made flesh and dwelt among us. Hail Mary, full of grace; the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Hail, Mary, mother of God, pray with us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Holy Mary, mother of God, pray with us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

*Offertory Response Hymn 144, v. 4

What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

*Prayer of Dedication

One: *In this moment of worship we embrace your presence again, O God,*

All: *and we offer you our love.*

One: *In this moment of prayer we proclaim again your purpose for the world, O Savior,*

All: *and we offer you our resources.*

One: *In this moment of giving we hear your call again, O Lord,*

All: *and we offer you ourselves.*

One: *Use us—all that we have and all that we are—to touch the world with the Christmas message:*

All: *God is love. God is with us. God will never leave us. Amen.*

Bearing the Word into the World

***Hymn 119** “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king.

Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”

Joyful all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;

with the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord,

late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin’s womb.

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate deity,

pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!

Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.

Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,

born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come Garth Edmundson

You are invited!

December 24–December 30, 2023



The following pages are our invitation to you—an invitation to explore the many opportunities for learning, serving, and community building at Fourth Church as well as an invitation to connect with one another, our staff, and the varied resources available to you here. We hope you will spend a few minutes looking over the opportunities and identifying those that interest you!

Welcome!

We are glad to be worshipping with you today and invite you to continue to join us at this intersection of faith and life as we share God’s grace with one another and the world through worship and ministries of healing, reconciliation, and justice. ✨ Inspired by the radical hospitality of Jesus Christ, we welcome everyone, without exception, into the life of this congregation!

Joining us in person

If you like to join us for **in-person worship**, we typically gather at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. However, please note that we will have **only one morning service next Sunday, December 31, and it will be at 10:00 a.m. (and also livestreamed)**. Our 2:00 service will not be held today or on December 31 but will resume on Sunday, January 7. ✨ On Sundays the **doors open for worship** a half hour prior to each service. There are three fully accessible entrances, without steps, that lead to the Sanctuary: on Michigan Avenue (*through the glass Loggia doors between the courtyard and the main Sanctuary doors*); at 126 E. Chestnut; and at 115 E. Delaware. ✨ **Sunday parking** is available at 900 N. Michigan (*access from Rush or Walton*) at the rate of \$9 for 6 hours (*and \$18 for up to 12 hours*) and at the Hancock garage (875 N. Michigan, *enter from Delaware or Chestnut*) at the rate of \$10 between 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Validation tickets for the garages must be picked up from an usher. ✨ **Worship can be heard** through “T” or “T-coil” settings of hearing aids. ✨ Please silence **electronic devices** during worship.

Joining us online

Each Sunday our worshipping body is a wonderful mix of those online, on the phone, and in the pews. For those who prefer to worship online or who are unable to join us in person, **this Sunday and December 31 we will be streaming the 10:00 a.m. service** on our YouTube channel (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos), where it can be viewed any time after the service begins. (*For tips on how to watch—from the beginning—a service that is already in progress, see fourthchurch.org/watch-from-the-beginning*) We will also be streaming our **8:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols service** tonight. When our regular schedule resumes on January 7, we will return to livestreaming our 9:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. services. ✨ **Those without Internet access** are invited to listen via phone by calling 888.916.9166 at 10:00 a.m. today and next Sunday as well as 8:00 p.m. this evening.

Joining us with children

Children are always welcome in worship! **If you need to step out to comfort your child**, the Hospitality Suite, on the second floor of the Gratz Center, is a quiet space for families where worship is livestreamed. During Sunday morning services **nursery care** is available on the fourth floor of the Gratz Center for infants through two-year-olds. ✨ Please note that while there is nursery care this morning, there will be **no nursery care this afternoon or evening during the Christmas Eve services or on Christmas Day**. Children are invited to be with their parents in worship for those services.

Let us know you're worshipping with us!

Please let us know you are here by filling out an information form. Those worshipping with us via livestream will find **a link to the online form**—which takes only 20 seconds to complete!—included in the descriptive text below the video (*after exiting full-screen view*); a QR code is also displayed during the “Welcome and Announcements” that can be scanned with a phone camera to take you to the form. Those worshipping with us in person are asked to use the **information pads in the pews**, passing them down the pew so worshipers have opportunity to greet one another by name following the service.

Worship podcasts and sermon text

During the week the Sunday morning **service and sermon is available via podcast** on multiple podcast platforms and at **fourthchurch.org/podcasts** ✨ You can also receive the previous Sunday morning's **sermon text** (*fourthchurch.org/sermons*) **by email** by subscribing at www.bit.ly/fpcsermons.

Prayer and meditation

Those who would like to **offer individual prayers of praise or concern with a Deacon today** are invited to do so in Stone Chapel (*through the door to the right of the pulpit*) following the service. ✨ On Wednesdays we gather at 9:30 a.m. for **Morning Prayer via Zoom**. For Zoom details, email Nancy Benson-Nicol (nbenson-nicol@fourthchurch.org). Our **in-person Morning Prayer** in Buchanan Chapel will not be held this week but will resume at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 3. ✨ Buchanan Chapel is open for **opportunity to walk the labyrinth** between 1:00 and 2:00 p.m. this Wednesday and Thursday. ✨ A **Sacred Pause time of meditation** is offered virtually by our Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being at facebook.com/reploglecenterforcounselingandwellbeing on Tuesdays (7:45 a.m.) and Saturdays (8:30 a.m.).

Ensure you receive the latest updates from Fourth Church by adding your email address to our distribution list. Simply sign up at www.bit.ly/newsfromfpc

Christmas Eve

We hope you will join us later today and tomorrow in celebrating the birth of Christ! We will gather for **four candlelight Christmas Eve services** this afternoon and evening: the **Christmas Eve Children's Pageant** at 4:00 p.m.; **Family Service** at 6:00 p.m., and **Lessons and Carols** at 8:00 p.m. (*also livestreamed*) and 10:00 p.m. ✨ For Christmas Eve services, entry will be through the glass Loggia doors next to the courtyard on Michigan Avenue. **Seating will begin** at 3:15 p.m. for the Pageant; seating for the other three services will begin forty-five to thirty minutes prior to the start of each service. ✨ **Discounted parking** for today's afternoon and evening services will be available at the 900 N. Michigan garage only, at the rate of \$9 for 6 hours (*and \$18 for up to 12 hours*).

Christmas Day

Tomorrow on **Christmas morning** we will gather again for a joyous service of worship at 10:00 a.m. ✨ Discounted **Christmas Day parking** will be available at the 900 N. Michigan garage only and will cost \$20. Parking validations can be purchased in the Commons tomorrow morning prior to returning to the garage. ✨ We will not be livestreaming the Christmas Day service. Instead we invite those looking for an **online option on Christmas Day** to view the Christmas Eve service from tonight or any of our past seasonal offerings available on YouTube (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos). We will also be sharing there tomorrow morning a brief **Christmas "Rhythm and Word" video**, offering a time of scripture, music, and reflection for Christmas Day.

New Year's Eve

Next **Sunday, December 31**, we will have **just one morning worship service, at 10:00 a.m.** (*also livestreamed*). We will then gather in our Sanctuary with neighbors and our friends from Holy Name Cathedral at 6:30 p.m. for a candlelit **New Year's Eve Taizé service** (*in person only*). This Taizé service offers moving music, space for prayer, and meditative pause for reflecting on the year past and looking ahead to the year to come. (*The 2:00 p.m. service will not be held today or on New Year's Eve but will resume on January 7. Our schedule of two morning worship services will resume on January 7 as well.*)

Sharing Christmas joy

Our annual **"Light Up a Life" offering** provides funds for **Fourth Church programs** that support our neighbors and congregation; for **Chicago Lights**, as it extends kindness and love to those who are most vulnerable; for **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance**; and for the **Presbyterian Church (USA) Joy Offering**. You can make a gift to "Light Up a Life" by indicating that designation (*when giving online via Venmo or the church website: www.fourthchurch.org/give*) or on the memo line of a check payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church. Those worshipping in the Sanctuary can also use the offering envelopes found in the pew racks.

This morning's opportunities

Today **Sunday School** for children from three years old to fifth grade meets at 10:00 a.m. on the fourth floor of the Gratz Center. Sunday School will not meet next Sunday, December 31 but will resume at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. on January 7. ✨ **Eighth-grade Confirmation** and **Junior and Senior High** youth groups are on break until Sunday morning, January 7. ✨ **We will not be hosting Coffee Hour** this morning, due to Christmas Eve scheduling and Anderson Hall being used for Meals Ministry's weekly Sunday Night Supper, which today is being served earlier. On future Sundays we hope you will stay after worship to join us for Coffee Hour fellowship. ✨ On exhibition in the Loggia is "**Light in the Darkness,**" featuring the artwork of Jan Brandt and Amy Hanks.

Get connected. Stay connected.

Men's Bible Study meets via Zoom on Tuesday mornings at 7:30 a.m. For details, email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org). ✨ Our free **Friday Noonday Concerts series** (*in the Sanctuary and livestreamed*) will feature **organist John Sherer** this Friday, December 29. For a schedule of concerts at Fourth Church, see www.fourthchurch.org/concerts ✨ **Center for Life and Learning** winter programming for **adults sixty and over** begins on Tuesday, January 2. See www.fourthchurch.org/cll for details. ✨ **Knitting and Crocheting** meets on Tuesday, January 2 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 5B. ✨ "**Finding Faith in Hard Times: When Bad Things Happen to Good People**" is the topic of a three-week Adult Education class led by Amy Pagliarella beginning Sunday, January 7 at 11:00 a.m. in Borwell Dining Room and via Zoom. ✨ Signups are open for 2024 **Meals Ministry volunteer opportunities**. You can find them at www.bit.ly/fpcvolunteers ✨ For **additional ways to connect** with one another and this congregation, whether in person or online, as well as for various **resources and opportunities**, watch **our website: fourthchurch.org** ✨ To see all that is going on at Fourth Church, be sure to bookmark our **online church calendar**, which is accessible from our website's home page and at fourthchurch.org/calendar ✨ We also invite you to **follow us** on YouTube (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos), Facebook (facebook.com/fourthchurch), and Instagram (instagram.com/fourthchurch). ✨ For **snapshots of life at Fourth Church** as well as news and updates, subscribe to our weekly newsletter at ww.bit.ly/newsfromfpc

Making year-end gifts

For those wanting to have a year-end gift applied to our 2023 budget or fulfill a 2023 Stewardship pledge by credit card, charges must be made to the card by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, December 31 in order for those **gifts to be credited as 2023 contributions**. For those wanting to make a gift or pledge fulfillment by check and have the gift recorded as a 2023 gift, please be sure the envelope is postmarked with a 2023 date. ✨ For information about giving through **stock transfers** or required **distributions** from one's IRA or **prepaying one's 2024 pledge**, please contact Katy Frey Bever (kbever@fourthchurch.org).

Christmas reflections

Daily Christmas devotions, written by Fourth Church members and staff and based on **favorite hymn texts of the season**, are available as a **resource for personal meditation and prayer**. We invite you to receive them in your inbox (*subscribe at www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions*), read them online (*www.fourthchurch.org/devotions*), or share them via Facebook (*www.facebook.com/fourthchurch*). ✨ Our **“Rhythm and Word” video series** offers ten minutes of midweek music, scripture, and prayer for viewing at home. The next video will be released on **Christmas Day** at 9:00 a.m. on YouTube. On January 3 we will return to releasing the videos on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. To receive them by email, sign up at www.bit.ly/rhythmandwordemail; you can also subscribe to our YouTube channel: www.bit.ly/fpcvideos ✨ Matt Helms and Rocky Supinger invite you to tune in to their **“Bible Top Ten” podcast** (*www.fourthchurch.org/podcasts*). This lively, informative, and often amusing podcast explores the Bible through a rotating series of top ten lists, with recent topics on lesser-known figures of Advent and stories of waiting.

When the season isn't easy

Feelings of grief over losses can be heightened at this time of year. **Expectations for the holidays** can be different from the realities. The season can be lonely, and the turning of the year can be both challenging and an opportunity when we seek someone to walk alongside us in embracing change and opportunity. Such experiences need not be dealt with alone. Fourth Church's **Reprogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being** offers various resources and a supportive environment for reflecting on, exploring, and coping with such experiences. To learn how the Reprogle Center can help, call the Center at 312.787.8425 or visit www.reproglecenter.org

Pastoral care and a listening presence and witness

To **talk to a pastor** or **notify pastoral staff** of personal concerns, illnesses, hospitalizations, or deaths, email caringministries@fourthchurch.org; if the situation requires immediate attention, please call the church at 312.787.4570 to be connected to the Minister on Call. ✨ To **submit a prayer request** to our Morning Prayer or Deacon Prayer Ministries, email caringministries@fourthchurch.org ✨ For **those facing life's challenges**, Stephen Ministers provide a listening presence. To talk with a Stephen Minister, please leave a confidential message at 312.573.3365.

Campus hours this week

The Fourth Church campus will be closed on Christmas Day (*except for worship at 10:00 a.m.*); on Tuesday, December 26; and on Friday, December 29 (*except for the Friday Noonday concert*). On **Wednesday and Thursday**, December 27–28 the church offices will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The reception desk will also be staffed **Saturday**, December 30 from 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Worship Leaders

Joseph L. Morrow, the Gallenbeck family, Nancy Benson Nicol,
Tom Are Jr.

The Music Today

Morning Choir
Michael Rees, Organ Scholar
John W. W. Sherer, Organist and Director of Music

Worship Notes

THIS MORNING'S OFFERTORY ANTHEM was composed in 1959 by Franz Biebl for a men's choir at his church in Bavaria. It was made popular by Chanticleer after the Cornell Glee Club introduced it to America, and it has since become one of the most beloved Christmas anthems.

OFFERING GIFTS TO SUPPORT THE MINISTRY AND MISSION of Fourth Church can be placed in the plates passed during the service, or, afterwards, in an offering box at the exit from the Sanctuary. They also can be given via Venmo (@Fourth-Church) or online at fourthchurch.org/give

Tom Are Jr. Interim Pastor
Lucy Forster-Smith Senior Associate Pastor
Associate Pastors
Nancy Benson-Nicol Caring Ministries and Spiritual Formation
Matt Helms Children, Family, and Welcoming Ministries
Joseph L. Morrow Evangelism and Community Engagement
Nanette Sawyer Discipleship and Small Group Ministry
Rocky Supinger Youth Ministry and Worship
Amy Pagliarella Parish Associate for Caring Ministries
John Buchanan Pastor Emeritus

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THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO
Church office: 126 E. Chestnut Street, Chicago, IL 60611.2014
www.fourthchurch.org www.facebook.com/fourthchurch
312.787.4570 Voicemail: 312.787.2729 Fax: 312.787.4584

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