

WORSHIP LEADERS

John H. Boyle Parish Associate
Allyson Rich Liturgist
John W. W. Sherer Organist and Director of Music
The Vespers Choir

A prayer service in the style of Taizé is held the fourth Friday of the month at 7:30 p.m. The next service is Friday, January 25.

Daily devotions, written by Fourth Church staff, are available in the literature racks and by e-mail from devotions@fourthchurch.org.

Inquirers' Class offers an opportunity to explore Presbyterian history and beliefs. This one-session class is also a prerequisite for membership. Attend Monday, January 7 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.; Saturday, January 19 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon; or Sunday, January 27, 2008 from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. For information about membership, contact Calum MacLeod, Associate Pastor, at the church at 312.981.4025 (cmacleod@fourthchurch.org).

For pastoral care; to notify the church of illnesses, hospitalizations, or deaths; to pass along a prayer request to be remembered in Morning Prayer; or to arrange homebound Communion, contact Ali Trowbridge, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care, at 312.573.3360 (atrowbridge@fourthchurch.org).

The Lorene Replogle Counseling Center, a ministry of Fourth Church, offers support groups as well as individual, couples', and premarital counseling. Information about the Center is available in the literature racks or by calling 312.787.8425.

Parking is available Sundays at 900 North Michigan (access from Rush or Walton Street) at the rate of \$6.25 after 5:00 p.m.

The Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago
John M. Buchanan, Pastor

Church office: 126 E. Chestnut Street, Chicago, IL 60611.2014; www.fourthchurch.org
312.787.4570; Staff extensions: 312.787.2729; Fax: 312.787.4584

Fourth Presbyterian Church
Sunday, December 30, 2007
6:30 p.m.

vespers

PRELUDE Of the Father's Love Begotten *David Lasky*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God's love is unchanging, while life ebbs and flows.

People: **In every change, God will remain faithful.**

Leader: Thanks be to God.

People: **The Lord's name be praised.**

INVOCATION

*HYMN 308 "O Sing a Song of Bethlehem" *Tune: KINGSFOLD*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(unison) **God of our lives, we confess that we live as if our lives were ours to do with as we please.
We call that freedom.
In that freedom we think only of ourselves and disregard the feelings and needs of others.
We call that our right.
Forgive our self-absorption,
and teach us that freedom has its discipline,
and that our rights are not ours alone. Amen.**

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Leader: Friends, believe the good news.

People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

PSALTER Psalm 90:1–6, 12 *(responsively)* (page 517, O.T.)

ANTHEM "What Is This Lovely Fragrance?" *French carol
arr. Healey Willan*

**Stand as you are able.*

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Ecclesiastes 3:1, 2, and 8 (page 581, O.T.)

Matthew 2:16–23 (page 2, N.T.)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

COMMUNION MEDITATION

by John H. Boyle

SUBJECT TO CHANGE

*HYMN 265 “Great God, We Sing That Mighty Hand” *Tune: WAREHAM*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(unison)

We are not alone, we live in God’s world.

We believe in God: who has created and is creating,

who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,

to reconcile and make new,

who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God. We are called to be the church:

to celebrate God’s presence, to love and serve others,

to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus,

crucified and risen, our Judge and our Hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

(United Church of Canada)

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM “A Child My Choice” *Richard Dirksen*

*DOXOLOGY (The Hymnal, 592)

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

INVITATION

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

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

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Minister: . . . who forever sing to the glory of your name:

People: **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,**
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One
who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

(unison)

Gracious and generous God,
we have received your gifts of faithful love
and forgiving grace in this bread and cup,
symbols of a body broken and
a life poured out for our sakes.

In gratitude we dedicate ourselves
to give what we can, whenever we can,
wherever we can, and to whomever we can,
so that others may know your love and
experience your grace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

*HYMN 281 “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah” *Tune: CWM RHONDDA*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Joy to the World

Wilber Held