

The beginning of the prelude is a call to silent, personal preparation for the worship of God.

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright Dieterich Buxtehude
March of the Magi Kings Théodore Dubois
Prelude on the Introit for Epiphany Maurice Duruflé

Introit

“We Have Seen His Star” Richard Proulx
We have seen his star in the east and we have come to adore the Lord.

*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 (*unison*)

We gather wondering,
“Where will we find the Babe born in Bethlehem?”
We will find the Babe
in the laughter of children and the wisdom of elders.
We come asking,
“Where will we find the Child of Christmas?”
We will find the Child
where the sick receive healing and the oppressed are set free.
We gather wanting to know,
“Where will we find the Christ who has come for us?”
We will find our Redeemer where fear is overwhelmed by grace,
where hatred is surpassed by love, where all people abound in joy.

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

*Prayer of Praise

*Hymn 143 “Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

O Holy One, as a new year begins we come seeking your redemptive promises.

Vulnerably, we lay before you both the bright gleam
of our dreams, but also our failures.

We yearn for faith, but often refuse to see it in those
whose beliefs or identities are different from our own.

We seek hope, but are quick to let cynicism and indifference
diminish what is possible for ourselves and others.

We long for love, but chase fleeting desires and selfish ambitions
rather than pursue selfless sharing.

Forgive and renew us.

Broaden our limited visions of goodness.

Remove all that impedes us from living into the future
of faith, hope, and love unfolding in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

Leader: *Friends, believe the good news:*

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Concerns of the Church

Anthem

“Dormi, Jesu” Bernard Sexton

Sleep, Jesus. The mother smiles when she sees such sweet sleep.

*Sleep, gentle Jesus. If you do not sleep, the mother weeps;
in song she prays while she works, come, gentle little sleep.*

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter Psalm 8

Leader: *O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory above the heavens.*

People: **Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark
because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger.**

Leader: *When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars that you have established;*

People: **what are human beings that you are mindful of them,
mortals that you care for them?**

Leader: *Yet you have made them a little lower than God,
and crowned them with glory and honor.*

People: **You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under their feet,**

Leader: *all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,*

People: **the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.**

Leader: *O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!*

*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.**

Scripture Lesson

Matthew 2:1–12. New Testament, page 1

Sermon. Joseph L. Morrow

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

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 152 “What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright”

*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

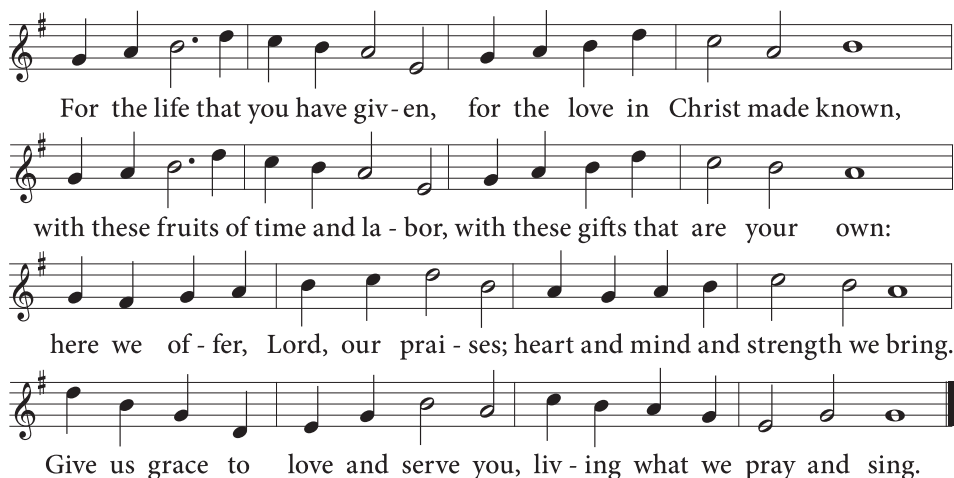
“Amen” Dale Wood

Offering

Offertory Anthem

“Hope for Resolution” Paul Caldwell and Sean Ivory

*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*)

Loving God,
as travelers from afar presented your beloved Child their gifts,
we give you our whole selves this day.
Receive not only the fruit of our labors
but also our righteous aspirations and generous hearts.
By your power and grace
transform what we offer in gratitude
into sources of abundance for a world in need.
May all our giving magnify the gifts of your justice and joy promised for all. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 147 “The First Nowell”

*Benediction and Response

Postlude

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright Niels W. Gade

Worship Leaders

9:30 Vicky Curtiss, Nate Nichols, Rocky Supinger, Joe Morrow

11:00 Vicky Curtiss, Samuela Kosipa, Rocky Supinger, Joe Morrow

The Music Today

Members of the Morning Choir; Pro Musica Youth Chorus

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

Worship Notes

TODAY IS EPIPHANY, the twelfth day of Christmas. *Epiphany* is a Greek word meaning “appearance,” “manifestation,” or “coming to light.” On this day we remember the magi following the light of the star to worship Jesus as king of all people.

THE “LIGHT UP A LIFE” OFFERING is received during the Christmas season. “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

FOURTH CHURCH WELCOMES the Pro Musica Youth Chorus, based in Oak Park and directed by William Chin. This choir has performed with the Chicago Chamber Musicians, Joffrey Ballet, and the Oriana Singers. Recent tours have taken them to Carnegie Hall and to London, England.

WITH THE START OF THIS NEW YEAR, the bulletin size has been expanded to enhance readability.

THE BULLETIN COVER photo depicts Christmas lights on Michigan Avenue shining through the frost on a leaded-glass window at Fourth Church.

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 M. Fiedler Ministerial Associate for Worship

John Buchanan Pastor Emeritus

SOURCES AND CREDITS: The Call to Worship is adapted from Thomas Shuman. 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.

This worship bulletin is printed on acid-free paper. All bulletins and inserts left in the baskets by the doors are recycled.

The Fourth Church logo (*front cover*) is based on the Great East Window in the Sanctuary.

THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO

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