

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

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

March of the Magi Kings Théodore Dubois

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

Leader: *We gather wondering, “Where will we find the Babe born in Bethlehem?”*

People: We will find the Babe in the laughter of children,
in the wisdom of grandparents.

Leader: *We gather asking, “Where will we find the Child of Christmas?”*

People: We will find the Child where the needy are gifted with hope,
where the oppressed are set free.

Leader: *We gather wanting to know, “Where will we find the Christ who has come for us?”*

People: We will find our Hope where fear is overwhelmed by grace,
where hatred is overwhelmed by love,
where all people are overwhelmed by joy.

*Hymn 141 “On This Day Earth Shall Ring”

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

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

We search for your light, Star Caster,
but too often end up settling for the dimness of temptation.
Our motives for seeking to find Christ are not always pure,
for we expect him to fulfill our desires rather than your hopes for us.
We want the gifts of wealth, health, success, and fulfillment,
rather than those of servanthood, compassion, and peace.
Forgive us, Shaper of our lives, for foolishly putting our needs ahead of your grace.
Help us to be like those wise people so long ago
who found hope instead of a destination, salvation instead of a sign.
As we journey with your Child, our Lord and Savior,
fill us with the light of your joy and love. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

Leader: *Friends, believe the good news:*
People: 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.”

Concerns of the Church

Anthem :: “The Morning Star” American folk hymn; arr. Virgil Thomson
*How splendid shines the morning star, God’s gracious light from darkness far, the root of Jesse
blessed. Thou David’s son of Jacob’s stem. My bridegroom, king and wondrous Lamb, thou hast
my heart possessed. Sweetly, friendly, O thou handsome, precious ransom, full of graces, set and
kept in heavenly places.*

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson :: Isaiah 60:1–6. Old Testament, page 649

Psalter :: Hymn 149 (Psalm 72) “All Hail to God’s Anointed”

*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.

Second Lesson :: Matthew 2:1–12 New Testament, page 1

Sermon :: “First Things First” Victoria G. Curtiss

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 146 “Gentle Mary Laid Her Child”

*Affirmation of Faith (*unison*). From *A Brief Statement of Faith* (PCUSA)

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.

Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:

preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives,
teaching by word and deed and blessing the children,
healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted,
eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners,
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,

Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain
and giving his life for the sins of the world.

God raised this Jesus from the dead,

vindicating his sinless life,

breaking the power of sin and evil,

delivering us from death to life eternal.

Offering

Offertory Voluntary :: Prelude on the Introit for Epiphany. Maurice Duruflé

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

*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.

Sealing the Word

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

Invitation

Great Thanksgiving

Leader: *The Lord be with you.*

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: *Lift up your hearts.*

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

Leader: *Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.*

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

Prayer

Leader: *It is truly right and our greatest joy . . .*

. . . forever singing to the glory of your name:

Sanctus (*sung*) The Hymnal, 552

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power, God of might,
 heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
 Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

Leader: . . . *Great is the mystery of faith:*

Memorial Acclamation (*sung*) The Hymnal, 553

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

The Lord's Prayer (*unison*) The Hymnal, page 35

The Communion

Communion Anthem

"'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime" French folk melody; arr. H. Barrie Cabena

'Twas in the moon of wintertime, when all the birds had fled, Great Spirit, Lord of all the earth sent angel choirs instead. Before their light the stars grew dim and wandering hunters heard the hymn: Jesus, your king, is born; Jesus is born. In excelsis gloria. O children of the forest free, the angel song is true: the holy child of earth and heaven is born today for you. Come kneel before the radiant boy who brings you beauty, peace, and joy.

*Prayer after Communion (*unison*)

Loving God, you graciously feed us, who have received these holy mysteries,
with the bread of life and the cup of eternal salvation.

May we who have received this sacrament be strengthened in your service;

we who have sung your praises tell of your glory and truth;

we who have seen the greatness of your love see you face to face in your realm.

For you have made us your own people by the death and resurrection of your Son, our Lord
and by the life-giving power of your Spirit. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 151 "We Three Kings of Orient Are"

*Benediction and Response

Postlude

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

Worship Leaders

Matt Helms, Margaret Laing, Victoria G. Curtiss

The Music Today

The Chancel Choir

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 being received throughout the Christmas season.

It 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

THIS MORNING, COMMUNION IS SERVED by intinction. The congregation comes forward by the center aisle to receive the bread, which they then dip into the chalice of grape juice.

(Gluten-free bread is available in a small tumbler in each basket of bread.) Worshipers return to their pews by the side aisles.

The invitation to the Lord’s Supper is not just for Presbyterians or “members of the church.” All who confess Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord are invited to partake of the Lord’s Supper.

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

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

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THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO

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