

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 Stuart Forster
Come, Thou Redeemer of Earth Iain Quinn
Watchman, Tell Us of the Night Aaron David Miller

Introit

“Sanna, Sannanina” South African tune; arr. Greg Scheer
Hosanna!

*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: *In the days to come,
the mountain of God’s house shall be the highest mountain.*

People: O come, O come, Emmanuel!

Leader: *Nations will stream to it and people will say,
“Let us go up to the mountain of the Lord.”*

People: O come, O come, Emmanuel!

Leader: *For in that day God will judge between nations
and they shall beat their swords into plowshares.*

People: O come, O come, Emmanuel! Come and dwell among us!

*Prayer of Praise

*Hymn 347 “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

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

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

O God, we live as if the light had never defeated the night in the world or in us.
We confess that we ignore the Christ you sent to be among us, to be in us.
We've kept the birth of your Son confined to the Christmas season and do not
yearn for his birth each moment in our waiting hearts. Lord, you came to us in
the fullness of time. Forgive us for not opening our eyes to your coming. It's time
that we prepare for your coming. It's time that we prepare for your unending reign
on earth. Hear us, O God, as we come before you in silence, confessing those sins
we do not speak aloud, but hold in our hearts . . . (*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

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter (*sung*) :: “Let the Whole Creation Cry” (Psalm 148) The Hymnal, 679

*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 24:36–44. New Testament, page 26

Sermon :: “Watch!” Lucy Forster-Smith

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

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 384 “Soon and Very Soon”

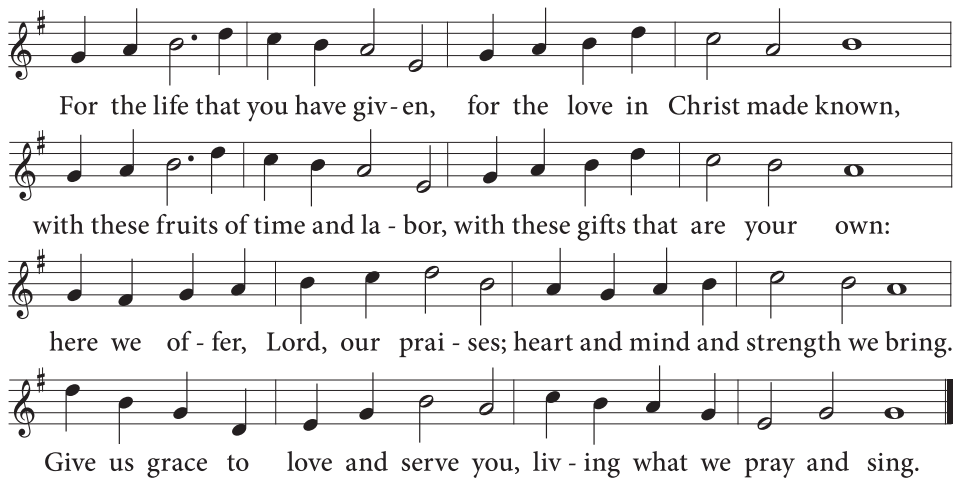
*Affirmation of Faith (*unison*) Apostles’ Creed

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.

Offering

Offertory Anthem :: “E’en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come” Paul O. Manz

*Offertory 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, 572

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and 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.

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

Memorial Acclamation (*sung*) The Hymnal, 573

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

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

The Communion

Communion Anthems

"Veni redemptor gentium" Jacob Handl

Come, thou redeemer of earth and manifest thy virgin birth; let every age adoring fall.

Such a birth befits the God of all.

"O esca viatorum" Iain Quinn

O food of travelers, angels' bread; manna wherewith the blest are fed. Come nigh and with thy sweetness fill the hungry hearts that seek thee still. Bring us to that time and place when this thy dear and veiled face, blissful and glorious, shall be seen, O Jesus, with no veil between.

Psalm 23 (*recited in unison after all have received the cup*)

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul; he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies; thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Prayer after Communion (*unison*)

Holy and loving God, we give thanks for your abundant gifts.

We are so blessed by your bounty, O God: for bread broken, cup shared;
for quenched thirst and hunger satisfied; for hearts brimming and hands to serve.
On this day and every day may we hold the way open for your love to wash over us
so we may love this world with abandon; through Christ. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 104 “O Lord, How Shall I Meet You”

*Benediction and Response

Postlude ♫ O Lord, How Shall I Meet You Michael Burkhardt

TODAY FOURTH CHURCH CELEBRATES THE SACRAMENT of the Lord's Supper. The invitation to the Lord's Supper is not just for Presbyterians or “members of the church.” Even one who doubts or whose trust is wavering may receive the bread and grape juice (in place of wine) in order to be assured of God's love and grace in Jesus Christ. The congregation is served in the pews by Fourth Church elders and deacons. The congregation also takes on the role of serving: worshipers take the bread (which is gluten-free) and grape juice from the plate held by their neighbor, and then they take the plate and serve the neighbor on their other side. Empty compostable glasses are placed in the ringed holes in the pew racks.

Worship Leaders

Rocky Supinger, Victoria G. Curtiss, Lucy Forster-Smith

Lighting the Advent Wreath

9:30 The Family of John Deverman and Eduvijes Martinez

11:00 Olivia and Erick Skaff

The Music Today

Morning Choir; Drum Circle

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

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist; John Doty, Director of the Drum Circle

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 or by writing “Light Up a Life” on the memo line of a check made payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church. You can also make your gift using Venmo or online (at www.fourthchurch.org/give-online).

THE BULLETIN COVER photo depicts the Christ candle in the center of the Advent wreath in the chancel. The cover quote is from Frederick Buechner’s book *Wishful Thinking*.

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

John Buchanan Pastor Emeritus

SOURCES AND CREDITS: 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.

The Prayer of Dedication is adapted from Walter Bruggemann’s “Giver Giver Giver.”

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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