

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

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

- Benedictus Alec Rowley
Four Advent Pieces Robert J. Powell
 Prepare the Way, O Zion
 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus
 People, Look East
 Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

Introit

- “A Jubilant Gloria” (9:30) Mary Lynn Lightfoot
*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace to all. Hosanna to God, alleluia.
We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee.
Thou alone art holy, thou alone art most high with the Holy Spirit. Grant us peace.*
- “Come, Come, Emmanuel” (11:00) Lynn Shaw Bailey and Becki Slagle Mayo
*Come, come, Messiah; come, Emmanuel; come, promised one. Prophets of old have told
of your coming; long have we waited, long have we prayed. Kingdoms and kings will bow
down before you; come, Emmanuel, today. We are your children; you are our Savior.
Lovingly guide us, we pray. Help us to follow; help us to listen.*

- *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: *Awake! Rejoice! Prepare to meet your God!*
People: **Christ is coming. Open the door. Sweep the path. Prepare the way!**
Leader: *Christ came at Christmas to live as one of us.*
People: **Christ comes today to love us and to lead us.**
Leader: *Christ will come tomorrow, wherever we may be.*
People: **Come quickly, Lord Jesus!**

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

*Prayer of Praise

*Hymn 88 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Almighty God, you who shaped out of nothing all that is,
forgive us for returning empty-handed.

You who called for the light, forgive our preference for the shadows!

You who sent John to be a voice crying,
forgive our unwillingness to say anything at all.

We yearn for clean hearts, O God, and renewed spirits within us.

Hear us, O God, as we come to you in this time of silence,
confessing those sins we speak only 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

Sacrament of Baptism (11:00)

Unison Prayer (11:00)

Holy God, remind us of the promises given in our own baptism
and renew our trust in you.

Make us strong to obey your will and to serve you with joy;
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Anthem :: “O Radiant Dawn” James MacMillan

O radiant dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice:

come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.

*Isaiah had prophesied, “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone.” Amen.*

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson :: Isaiah 11:1–10 Old Testament, page 602

Psalter Psalm 72:1–7, 18–19

Leader: *Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king's son;*

People: **that he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice;**

Leader: *that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.*

People: **Let him defend the needy among the people,
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**

Leader: *May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.*

People: **Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.**

Leader: *In his time may the righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.*

People: **Blessed are you, Lord God, the God of Israel; you alone do wondrous deeds!**

Leader: *And blessed be your glorious name forever,
and may all the earth be filled with your glory.*

Children age three through grade five are invited to come forward during the singing of the Gloria Patri.

*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.**

Sending Forth: Hymn 748 “Go with Us, Lord”
Children depart for Sunday School with their teachers.

Second Lesson :: Matthew 3:1–12 New Testament, page 2

Sermon Shannon J. Kershner

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

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 83 “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

*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.

Prayer Response :: “Amen” Anonymous

Offering

Offertory Anthem :: “I Look from Afar” Anthony Piccolo

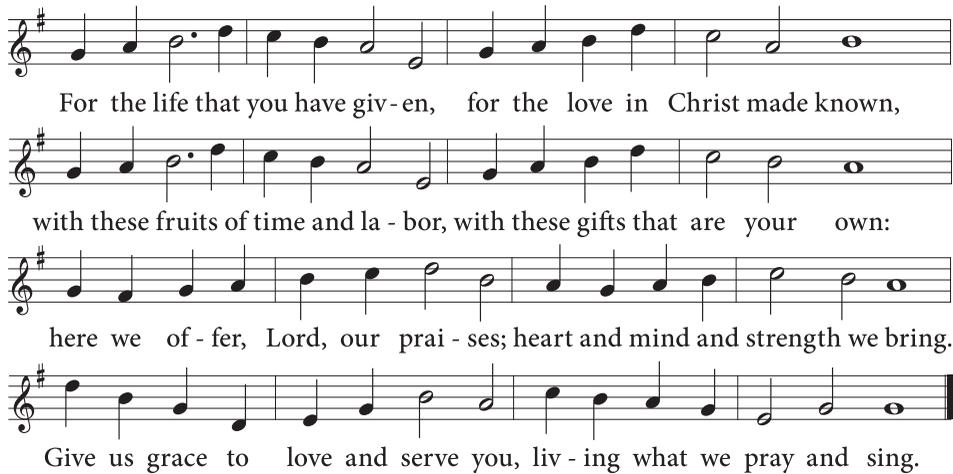
I look from afar, and behold, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth.

Go ye out to meet him and say; “Tell us if thou art he who shall reign over the people of Israel.”

*All ye inhabitants of earth, and ye children of God, rich and poor, one with another, go ye out
to meet him, and say, “Hear, O thou shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a flock.*

*Hear, O thou shepherd of Israel, tell us if thou art he.” Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be
ye lifted up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in who shall reign over the
people of Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, 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.

*Prayer of Dedication (*unison*)

Thank you, God of love, for the promise of this season.
We are grateful for the generosity aroused in us by Christ's coming into the world.
May these gifts represent a new spirit of joyous sharing among us,
for the sake of all your children everywhere. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 96 "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

*Benediction and Response

Postlude ♯ The King of Glory Comes Israeli folk song; arr. Aaron David Miller

Baptized Today

11:00 Marie Josephine Lucey, child of Patrick Lucey and Jennifer Ebie Lucey

Worship Leaders

Judith L. Watt, Matt Helms, Shannon J. Kershner

Lighting the Advent Wreath

9:30 The Vester Family

11:00 The Gedey Family

The Music Today

Morning Choir; Youth Choir (9:30); Children's Choir (11:00); Carol Carpenter, flutist

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

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

Katy Sinclair, Associate Director of Music for Children and Youth

Hsing-Huei Huang, Pianist

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 (@Fourth-Church) or online (at www.fourthchurch.org/give-online).

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

Maggie Shreve Parish Associate for Jail Ministry

John Buchanan Pastor Emeritus

SOURCES AND CREDITS: Parts of today's liturgy are from *Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany: Liturgies and Prayers for Public Worship* by Brian Wren (Louisville, KY: WJKP, 2008); reproduced by permission, copyright © 2007 by Brian Wren.

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

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