

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

Introit :: “Prepare the Way of the Lord” Richard Proulx

Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight his paths. Rejoice, the Lord is at hand!

*Doxology (*sung*) The Hymnal, 606

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Invocation

*Hymn 82 “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

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.

*Stand as you are able.

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 # “E’en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come” Paul O. Manz

*Peace be to you, and grace from him who freed us from our sins,
who loved us all and shed his blood that we might saved be.*

*Sing holy, holy to our Lord, the Lord, almighty God,
who was, and is, and is to come; sing holy, holy Lord!*

*Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein,
rejoice on earth ye saints below, for Christ is coming soon!*

*E’en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, and night shall be no more;
they need no light, nor lamp, nor sun, for Christ will be there all.*

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

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

Psalter Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19



Pre - pare the way of the Lord. Pre-*pare* the way of the Lord,



and all peo-ple will see the sal - va - tion of our God.

*Acclamation (*sung*) The Hymnal, 583



Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est!
Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

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

Sermon :: “Prepare the Way” Matt Helms

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 106 “Prepare the Way, O Zion”

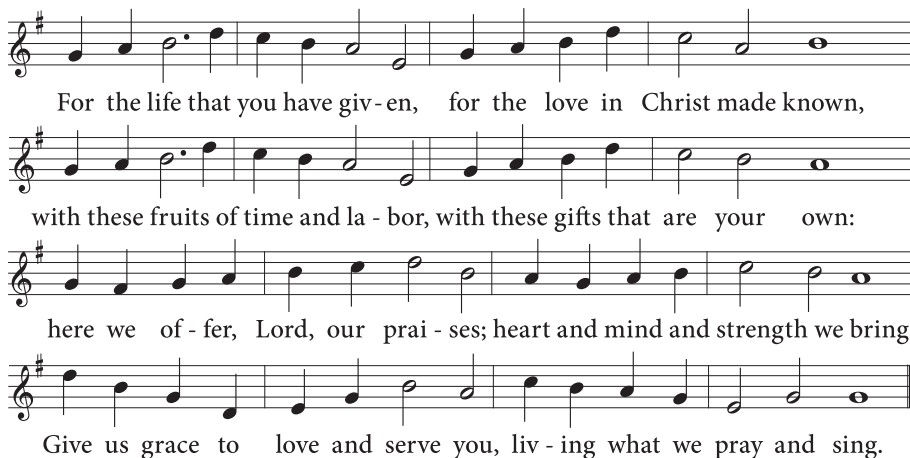
*Affirmation of Faith (*unison*) Apostles’ Creed

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 Voluntary :: Improvisation on “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

*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 Anthem :: “O Word, That Goest Forth on High” Robert Lehman
*O Word that goest forth on high from God’s own depths eternally,
who in these latter days wast born for succor to a world forlorn.*

Prayer after Communion (*unison*)

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
and filled with the promises of this table,
let us strive to serve and follow Christ and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God’s new heaven and earth praying,
“Come, Lord Jesus!” Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 105 “People, Look East”

*Benediction and Response

Postlude :: Comfort, Comfort Ye My People David N. Johnson

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.” 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.

Worship Leaders

Judith L. Watt, Matt Helms

Lighting the Advent Wreath

John Marr and H.D. Mitchell

The Music Today

Chancel Choir

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

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

Laura Bottei, Organ Scholar

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 IMAGE depicts one of the pendants hanging from the Sanctuary chandeliers.

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 © 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 PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO
Church office: 126 E. Chestnut Street, Chicago, IL 60611.2014
www.fourthchurch.org | www.facebook.com/fourthchurch
312.787.4570 | Voicemail: 312.787.2729 | Fax: 312.787.4584
