

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

Gathering around the Word

Prelude :: What Is This Lovely Fragrance Harrison Oxley

Introit :: “Our King and Savior Draweth Nigh” Stephen Sturk

Our King and Savior draweth nigh; O come, let us adore him.

*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.

*Call to Worship

Leader: *Look! The young woman is with child;*

People: she will call him Emmanuel, for God is with us.

Leader: *Do not be afraid—*

People: the Holy Spirit is at work here.

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

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.

*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 ♯ “Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending” Thomas Arne; arr. R. E. Martin

Lo! He comes with clouds descending, once for our salvation slain;

thousand saints attending swell the triumph of his train, alleluia.

Christ the Lord returns to reign. Every eye shall now behold him, robed in dreadful majesty.

Those who set at naught and sold him, pierced, and nailed him to the tree,

deeply wailing, shall the true Messiah see.

Those dear tokens of his passion still his dazzling body bears,

cause of endless exultation to his ransomed worshipers;

with what rapture gaze we on those glorious scars.

Yea, Amen! Let all adore thee, high on thine eternal throne;


Savior, take the power and glory; claim the kingdom for thine own, alleluia.

Thou shalt reign and thou alone. Amen.


Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter Psalm 80:1–7, 17–19



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



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

*Acclamation (*sung*) The Hymnal, 583



Scripture Lesson :: Matthew 1:18–25 New Testament, page 1

Sermon Rocky Supinger

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 144 “In the Bleak Midwinter”

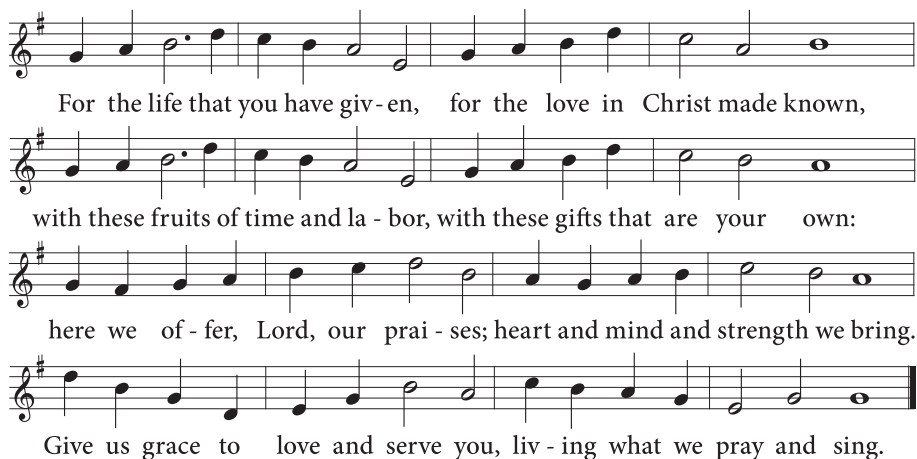
*Affirmation of Faith (*unison*) Philippians 2:5–11

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form, he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.
Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Offering

*Offertory Solo :: “Sweet Little Jesus Boy” Robert MacGimsey

*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 :: "We Wait and Hope for the Lord" Dale Wood

We wait and hope for the Lord, for he is our help and shield.

In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name.

Let your unfailing love be upon us, O Lord, as we put our hope in you.

Prayer after Communion (*unison*)

O God, you have so greatly loved us, long sought us, and mercifully redeemed us.

Give us grace, that in everything we may yield ourselves, our wills, and our works,

a continual thank-offering to you, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 147 "The First Nowell"

*Benediction and Response

Postlude :: Finale from *Variations on a Noël* Marcel Dupré

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

Lucy Forster-Smith, Rocky Supinger

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Kristen and Caroline Cochrane

The Music Today

Chancel Choir; Laura Kubelka, soloist

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

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

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).

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

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: 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.

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