



First Sunday after Christmas

December 27, 2020

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

He Is Born, the Divine Christ Child French carol; arr. Douglas Wagner

Tidings of Joy arr. Mary McDonald and Lloyd Larson

Introit :: “Gesu Bambino” Pietro Yon

*When blossoms flowered 'mid the snows upon a winter night
was born the child, the Christmas rose, the King of love and light.*

*The angels sang, the shepherds sang, the grateful earth rejoiced,
and at his blessed birth the stars their exultation voiced.*

O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

*Again, the heart with rapture glows to greet the holy night
that gave the world its Christmas rose, its King of love and light.*

*Let every voice acclaim his name, the grateful chorus swell;
from paradise to earth he came that we with him might dwell.*

O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

*Doxology (sung)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

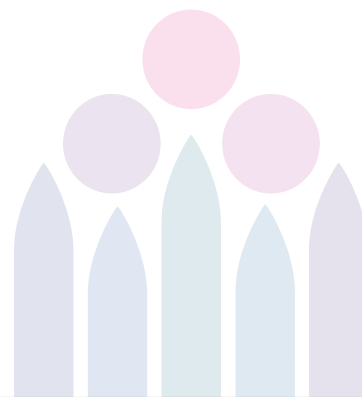
praise God, all creatures here below;

praise God above, ye heavenly host;

Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.† Amen.

Welcome and Call to Worship

Prayer of Praise



†Or “praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.”

Carol “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven’s door, and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Holy Incarnate God, by the light of your goodness and mercy
our failing to see your true light is clear:
we have not loved you, we have not loved our neighbors,
we have not loved ourselves.
Our feet have not brought good news to the poor
nor have our voices pronounced release to the captives.
Forgive us, inspire us with your holy honesty,
so that we may more clearly see your will
and walk with sure steps the way of wholeness and peace.
Through the Child of Bethlehem we pray. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

Leader: *Friends, believe the good news:*

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Solo :: “The Lamb” Gordon Jacob

*Little lamb, who made thee? Dost thou know who made thee?
Gave thee life, and bid thee feed by the stream, and o'er the mead;
gave thee clothing of delight, softest clothing, woolly bright,
gave thee such a tender voice, making all the vales rejoice?
Little lamb, who made thee? Dost thou know who made thee?
Little lamb, I'll tell thee, he is called by thy name, for he calls himself a lamb.
He is meek and he is mild, he became a little child.
I a child and thou a lamb, we are called by his name. Little lamb, God bless thee.*

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter Psalm 148

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise God in the heights.
Praise the Lord, all you angels; sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.
Praise the Lord, sun and moon; sing praise, all you shining stars.
Praise the Lord, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.
Let them praise the name of the Lord, who commanded, and they were created,
 who made them stand fast forever and ever,
 giving them a law which shall not pass away.
Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;
 fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God's will;
 mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;
 wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds;
 sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;
 young men and maidens, old and young together.
Let them praise the name of the Lord, whose name only is exalted,
 whose splendor is over earth and heaven.
The Lord has raised up strength for the people
 and praise for all faithful servants, the children of Israel,
 a people who are near the Lord. Hallelujah!

Gloria Patri (*unison*)

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 Luke 2:22–40

Sermon :: “Still Waiting” Lucy Forster-Smith

Responding to the Word

Hymn “Away in a Manger”

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

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.

Offering and Prayer of Dedication

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

Offertory Solo :: “Shepherd’s Pipe Carol” John Rutter

Going through the hills on a night all starry on the way to Bethlehem, far away I heard a shepherd boy piping on the way to Bethlehem. Angels in the sky brought this message nigh: “Dance and sing for joy that Christ the newborn King is come to bring us peace on earth, and he’s lying cradled there at Bethlehem.” “Tell me, shepherd boy piping tunes so merrily on the way to Bethlehem, who will hear your tunes on these hills so lonely on the way to Bethlehem?” Angels in the sky brought this message nigh: “Dance and sing for joy that Christ the newborn King is come to bring us peace on earth, and he’s lying cradled there at Bethlehem.” “None may hear my pipes on these hills so lonely on the way to Bethlehem, but a King will hear me play sweet lullabies when I get to Bethlehem.” Angels in the sky came down from on high, hovered o’er the manger where the babe was lying cradled in the arms of his mother, Mary, sleeping now at Bethlehem. “Where is this new King, shepherd boy piping merrily, is he there at Bethlehem?” “I will find him soon by the star shining brightly in the sky o’er Bethlehem.” Angels in the sky brought the message nigh, “Dance and sing for joy that Christ the newborn King is come to bring us peace on earth, and he’s lying cradled there at Bethlehem.” “May I come with you, shepherd boy piping merrily, come with you to Bethlehem? Pay my homage too at the new King’s cradle, is it far to Bethlehem?” Angels in the sky brought this message nigh, “Dance and sing for joy that Christ the newborn King is born this night in lowly stable yonder, born for you at Bethlehem.”

Bearing the Word into the World

Hymn “Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

Refrain

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching o’er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. *Refrain*

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior’s birth. *Refrain*

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*

Charge and Benediction

Postlude :: Noel Claude Balbastre



Throughout the Christmas season we are receiving a **“Light Up a Life” offering**, which helps shine God’s light of love on those who need it most this winter, including **those in need of the warmth, clothing, and nourishment** provided by our Chicago Lights Social Service Center and Fourth Church Meals Ministry programs. Gifts can be made to this offering by noting “Light Up a Life” either in the comments section when giving online via **Venmo** or the Fourth Church website (www.fourthchurch.org/give-online) or on the memo line of a **check** payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church.

Devotions for the Christmas season written by Fourth Church members and staff are available to you by daily email (sign up online at www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions) or read them online (www.fourthchurch.org/devotions), via Facebook (www.facebook.com/fourthchurch), or Twitter (www.twitter.com/fourthchicago).

Our online **New Year’s Eve Taizé service**, which is cohosted by Holy Name Cathedral, will be at 7:30 p.m. this Thursday, December 31 on our website as well as at www.bit.ly/FPCworship and via Facebook Live (www.facebook.com/fourthchurch) and YouTube (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos).

If you missed our online **Children’s Pageant, Christmas Eve service, or Christmas Day Service**—or would like to enjoy them again or share them with others—we invite you to view them at www.bit.ly/FPCworship or YouTube (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos). * Similarly, if you missed our online **Christmas with Tower Brass concert** or **John Sherer’s organ concert of Christmas favorites**, you can still enjoy them online at www.bit.ly/fpcprograms or YouTube.

For the foreseeable future we are gathering online for **livestream-only worship**. * In addition to livestreaming our 11:00 a.m. Sunday service at www.bit.ly/FPCworship (*where the service is available throughout the week*), the service is available via **Facebook Live** (facebook.com/fourthchurch) and **YouTube** (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos) at 11:00 a.m. on Sundays. * Those without Internet access are invited to **listen to the service live via phone by calling 888.916.9166** (*toll-free*) at the time of the service (*the prelude typically begins around 10:45 a.m.*). * During the week we also make the service and sermon available via **podcast on iTunes and Spotify** (www.bit.ly/FPCpodcast); you can also receive our sermons **by email** (www.bit.ly/fpcsermons).

The Session of Fourth Church has called an **online congregational meeting** for Sunday, January 10 following 11:00 a.m. worship. The meeting will be online at www.bit.ly/fpcprograms (call in at 888.916.9166). The purpose of the meeting will be to elect an **Associate Pastor Nominating Committee** to identify and recommend a candidate to serve Fourth Presbyterian Church as **Associate Pastor for Caring Ministries and Spiritual Formation**.

Ensure you receive the latest updates from Fourth Church by adding your email address to our distribution list. Simply sign up at www.bit.ly/newsfromfpc

If you would like to connect with others for a time of fellowship following worship today, please join us following the postlude for **virtual Coffee Hour via Zoom at www.bit.ly/fpcfellowship** (Zoom details are posted at www.fourthchurch.org). You can also take part in Coffee Hour **by phone:** dial 312.626.6799 and enter meeting ID number 963 5583 1751#.

We encourage you to mark your calendars for three events planned for January 2021:

“Faith in Uncertain Times: Reflecting on the Past and Envisioning the Future” is an online Michigan Avenue Forum that will be held Thursday, January 14 at 7:00 p.m. That evening Lucy Forster-Smith will moderate a panel discussion bringing together Shannon Kershner; Horace Smith, Pastor of Apostolic Faith Church; Otis Moss III, Senior Pastor of Trinity United Church of Christ; David Crawford, President of McCormick Theological Seminary; and Ozzie Smith Jr., Pastor Emeritus of Covenant United Church of Christ. ✳ Explore **“Journal Writing as a Spiritual Formation”** in a Zoom workshop hosted by the Spiritual Formation Council on Saturday morning, January 16. For details about this event led by the Reverend Christine Vogel, email Carol Allerton (callerton@fourthchurch.org). ✳ On Saturday morning, January 23 at 10:00 a.m., David Hogue, Professor Emeritus of Pastoral Theology and Counseling at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary will lead a workshop on **“Loving Our Neighbor in a Time of Social Distancing.”** Watch for details about these events in the new year.

Also coming up in 2021 is the **Chicago Lights Gala of Hope at Home** on Friday, March 5 at 7:00 p.m. The gala annually benefits the life-changing youth development and social service programs of Chicago Lights—the community outreach arm of Fourth Church—and the community support efforts of our Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being. For more information, email Laura Woods (lwoods@chicagolights.org).

On Wednesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. we gather for **Morning Prayer via Zoom**. Email Carol Allerton (callerton@fourthchurch.org) for the details. ✳ **If you have a prayer request**, Dave Handley (dhandley@fourthchurch.org) is receiving these requests as part of our Morning Prayer and Deacon Prayer Ministries. ✳ **If you would like to talk to a pastor**, please call the church (312.787.4570). ✳ **To explore options for teletherapy** with our Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being, call the Center at 312.787.2729, ext. 2260. ✳ If you would like to have a **one-time phone conversation with a Stephen Minister or arrange for ongoing talks**, please leave a confidential message at 312.573.3365.

We are looking for Fourth Church members with **gifts for compassionate listening** to become Stephen Ministers and walk alongside individuals experiencing life challenges. The next fifty-hour **training course for new Stephen Ministers** will be offered in March 2021; for information about applying for the training, see www.fourthchurch.org/caring/stephen-ministers.html

Watch our **website** (www.fourthchurch.org) for additional resources and ways to connect. Online events are posted on the church calendar at www.fourthchurch.org/calendar; we also encourage you to follow us on **Facebook** (facebook.com/fourthchurch) and **Instagram** (instagram.com/fourthchurch) for updates, sermon quotes, images from Fourth Church, and more.

Worship Leaders

Joseph L. Morrow, Sarah Forbes Orwig, Jeffrey Doane, Lucy Forster-Smith

The Music Today

Mio Nakamura, Pianist

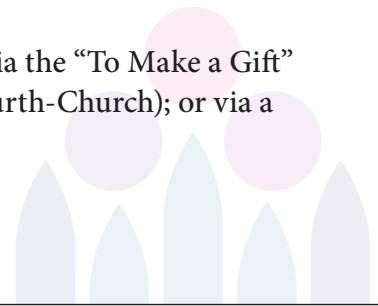
Kimberly Gunderson, Soloist

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

Worship Notes

ENGLISH COMPOSER JOHN RUTTER (b. 1945) composed “Shepherd’s Pipe Carol” when he was only eighteen years old. It was one of his first published anthems, and he later arranged it into a solo version, heard today. Rutter’s music is often associated with Christmas, but he has written numerous vocal and instrumental works, making him one of the most celebrated of living composers.

OFFERING GIFTS can be made at fourthchurch.org/give-online (or via the “To Make a Gift” button on our website: www.fourthchurch.org); via Venmo (@Fourth-Church); or via a check made payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church.



Shannon J. Kershner Pastor
Lucy Forster-Smith Senior Associate Pastor

Associate Pastors

Matt Helms Children and Family Ministry

Joseph L. Morrow Minister for Evangelism and
Community Engagement (*Associate Pastor-Elect*)

Nanette Sawyer Discipleship and Small Group Ministry

Rocky Supinger Youth Ministry

David Handley Interim Minister for Caring Ministries

Jeffrey Doane Parish Associate for Older Adults

Maggie Shreve Parish Associate for Jail Ministry

John Buchanan Pastor Emeritus

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THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO
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TO NOTIFY PASTORAL STAFF of personal concerns, illness, hospitalization, or deaths or to request prayer, contact David Handley (dhandley@fourthchurch.org; 312.573.3360). (Please note: hospitals do not inform churches when a member is admitted.) Those experiencing difficult times are invited to consider meeting with a Stephen Minister: leave a confidential message at 312.573.3365.