

Fourth Presbyterian Church

First Sunday of Advent

November 28, 2021 • 10:00 a.m.

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel Leo Sowerby

Savior of the Nations, Come Johann Sebastian Bach

“Sleepers, Wake!” A Voice Astounds Us J. S. Bach

Introit :: “To Thee, O Lord, Do I Lift Up My Soul” Sergei Rachmaninoff

To thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul, my God, I trust in thee.

***Doxology** (*congregation is invited to sing while wearing a mask*)

*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: *Friends, we are longing for something we have never known.*

All: *We are longing for a just world, for peace like rivers, for the end of suffering.*

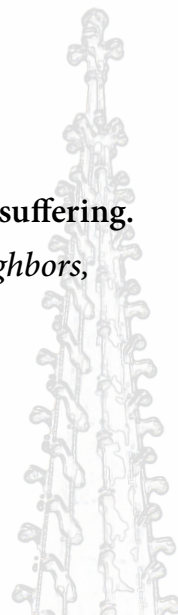
Leader: *We are longing for joy that is contagious, for nations that feel like neighbors,
and for hospitals that are empty.*

All: *We are longing for the world that God promises.*

Leader: *We live in hope, and we trust that God is still creating.*

All: *Let us worship Holy God.*

**Please rise in body or spirit. †Or “Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.”*



***Hymn 360** (*congregation sings while masked*) “Christ Is Coming!”

Christ is coming! Let creation from its groans and labor cease;
let the glorious proclamation hope restore and faith increase:
Christ is coming! Christ is coming! Come, O blessed Prince of peace.

Earth can now but tell the story of your bitter cross and pain;
we shall yet behold your glory, Lord, when you return to reign:
Christ is coming! Christ is coming! Let each heart repeat the strain.

With that blessed hope before us, flutes are tuned and harps are strung;
let the mighty advent chorus onward roll from tongue to tongue:
Christ is coming! Christ is coming! Let each heart repeat the song.

Long your exiles have been pining for your promised rest and home,
but in heavenly glory shining, soon the risen Christ shall come.
Christ is coming! Christ is coming! Joyful, shout the victory psalm.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Gracious God, we find ourselves with two options every day—
to continue longing for the world you have in mind, or to allow cynicism to win.
Do we hope against hope, or do we throw in the towel?
Do we insist on a better world, or do we assume it's impossible?
Forgive us for the days when cynicism wins. Forgive us for numbing and suppressing
our longing instead of using it to fuel a better world.
Kindle in us a hope that won't let go. Gratefully we pray. Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Kyrie (*congregation sings while masked*) 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:*
All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Welcome and Announcements

Anthem :: “Jesus Comes” Donald James

Jesus comes with all his grace, comes to save a fallen race. Object of our glorious hope, Jesus comes to lift us up. Let the living stones cry out; let the sons of Abraham shout; praise we all our lowly King, give him thanks, rejoice and sing. We shall gain our calling’s prize; after God we all shall rise filled with joy, and love, and peace, perfected in holiness.

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter Psalm 25:1–10

***Gloria Patri** (*congregation sings while masked*)

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 Jeremiah 33:1–9, 14–16

Sermon :: “Tireless Hope” Matt Helms

Responding to the Word

***Hymn 83** (*congregation sings while masked*). “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.

Israel’s strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

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

***Affirmation of Faith** (*unison*). From a *Brief Statement of Faith* (PCUSA)

In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.
In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

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

Offertory Anthem :: "O Radiant Dawn". Ralph Vaughan Williams

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.

***Offertory Response** (*congregation sings while masked*) The Hymnal, 144 (*verse 4*)

What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

***Prayer of Dedication** (*unison*)

Holy God, we your people, long for the day when
swords will be beaten into plowshares, the lion will lie down with the lamb,
and justice will roll like waters. Until that day of glory comes,
take these gifts and use them to build that world here.
We are hopeful. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

***Hymn 348** (*congregation sings while masked*) “Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending”

Lo, he comes with clouds descending, once for our salvation slain;
thousand, thousand saints attending join to sing the glad refrain:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Christ the Lord returns to reign.

Now redemption, long expected, comes in solemn splendor near;
all the saints this world rejected thrill the trumpet sound to hear:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! See the day of God appear!

Yea, amen, let all adore thee, high on thine eternal throne;
Savior, take the power and glory; claim the kingdom as thine own.
Come, Lord Jesus; come, Lord Jesus; come, Lord Jesus. Thou shalt reign, and thou alone!

***Charge and Benediction**

*Worshippers who wish to do so are invited to sing along (while masked)
with the choir during the Benediction responses.*

Postlude

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel George Shafer

*We invite you to enjoy the postlude.
If you need to leave prior to the end of the postlude,
please do so quietly out of respect for those who choose to stay.*



Those attending a Fourth Church worship service in person are entering an area where photography, video, and audio recording may occur on behalf of Fourth Church—including the weekly live stream of the Sunday morning service. By entering the worship service, you consent to the non-commercial use of the resulting visual and audio records; you waive all rights you may have to any claims of compensation for the use of these records; you release Fourth Church from any liability for the use of these records; and you waive the right to inspect or approve any of these records.





We are glad to be worshipping with you today and hope you will explore the many opportunities for learning, serving, and community building at Fourth Church!

✳ Inspired by the radical hospitality of Jesus Christ, we welcome everyone, without exception, into the life of this congregation. ✳ We invite you to join us at this intersection of faith and life as we share God's grace with one another and the world through worship and ministries of healing, reconciliation, and justice.



On the Fourth Church campus, including in worship, **everyone is required to wear masks, fully covering the nose and mouth.** Anyone not vaccinated against COVID-19 is also required to practice social distancing. ✳ For those worshipping with us in person, we are not checking vaccination status, but **by entering the Fourth Church campus you certify** that (a) you do not currently have COVID-19; (b) you are not experiencing COVID symptoms; (c) you have no reason to quarantine; and (d) you will practice social distancing if you are not vaccinated against COVID-19.



If you like to join us for **in-person worship**, we gather each Sunday for a **10:00 a.m. service** in the Sanctuary and a **4:00 p.m. Jazz at Four service** in Buchanan Chapel. ✳ In the Sanctuary, the **front section is for those required to or choosing to practice social distancing.** The remainder of the Sanctuary is open seating. Seating for Jazz at Four is set up for social distancing. ✳ The **congregation is invited to sing while masked.** We encourage those who are concerned about being near those who are singing to consider the socially distanced seating section or join those who worship with us from home via livestream. ✳ **Nursery care** is not available at this time. ✳ **Worship can be heard** in the Sanctuary and Chapel through the “T” or “T-coil” setting of hearing aids. ✳ Please silence **electronic devices** when in the Sanctuary or Chapel. ✳ On Sundays the **doors open for worship** at 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. For the morning service, access is by the Michigan Avenue doors to the Sanctuary and the Delaware doors to the Gratz Center. For the Jazz at Four service, access is only by the Delaware doors. ✳ **Sunday parking** is available at 900 N. Michigan (*access from Rush or Walton*) at the rate of \$9 between 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. and at the Hancock garage (875 N. Michigan, *enter from Delaware or Chestnut*) at the rate of \$10 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Validation tickets for the garages must be picked up from an usher.

You can read more about the guidelines in place for in-person worship as well as information about continued online opportunities **at www.fourthchurch.org/reopening**

Following the 10:00 a.m. service, Deacons are available in Stone Chapel (*through the door to the right of the pulpit*) to pray with **individuals who would like to offer prayers of praise or concern.** ✱ On Wednesdays we gather at 9:30 a.m. for **Morning Prayer via Zoom.** In December, we will also have an **in-person Morning Prayer** time at 10:00 a.m. in Buchanan Chapel (*masks required*), beginning this Wednesday, December 1. Prior to this time of prayer, Buchanan Chapel will be open for **opportunity to walk the labyrinth** between 9:00 and 9:45 a.m. on Wednesdays. For Zoom details or information about walking the labyrinth or in-person Morning Prayer, email Rocky Supinger (rsupinger@fourthchurch.org). ✱ A virtual **Sacred Pause time of meditation** is hosted by our Replogle Center on Tuesday mornings (7:45 a.m.) and Saturday mornings (8:30 a.m.) at facebook.com/reploglecenterforcounselingandwellbeing



For those who prefer to worship online or who are unable to join us in person, we continue to livestream our morning worship service at 10:00 a.m. at www.bit.ly/FPCworship and YouTube (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos). (*The prelude begins at approximately 9:45 a.m.*) The service is also available for viewing after the service. ✱ **Those without Internet access** are invited to listen to the morning service via phone by calling 888.916.9166 at the time of the service. ✱ During the week we make the **service and sermon available via podcast** on iTunes and Spotify (www.bit.ly/FPCpodcast).



For those who are facing life's challenges, **Stephen Ministers** provide a listening presence and regular spiritual support. 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. ✱ To explore options for teletherapy, call our **Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being** at 312.787.2729, ext. 2260. ✱ If you would like **to talk to a pastor** or notify the pastoral staff of personal concerns, illnesses, hospitalizations, or deaths, please call the church (312.787.4570). ✱ **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.



For resources and ways to connect with Fourth Church and one another, watch our website (**www.fourthchurch.org**), Facebook (**facebook.com/fourthchurch**), and Instagram (**instagram.com/fourthchurch**). ✱ Online events are posted on our **church calendar**, which is accessible from the home page of our website and at www.fourthchurch.org/calendar ✱ Those interested in **becoming Fourth Church members** are invited to contact Joe Morrow (jmorrow@fourthchurch.org).

Today is the First Sunday of Advent! As we light the first candle on the Advent wreath, we turn our focus to watching and waiting, expectancy and hope. Offering a **resource for personal meditation and prayer** on our Advent journey to Christmas, Fourth Church members and staff have written **daily Advent devotions** that you can **receive in your inbox** (sign up at www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions) or read online (www.fourthchurch.org/devotions), via Facebook (www.facebook.com/fourthchurch), or Twitter (www.twitter.com/fourthchicago). ✨ Also available as a resource for your Advent prayer and reflection is a weekly **“Rhythm and Word” Advent video series**. These brief worship experiences, which weave together scripture, prayer, a meditation, and music by the Fourth Church Jazz Quartet, will be released on **our YouTube channel** (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos) on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. beginning this Wednesday, December 1. *(They will also be available for viewing afterwards).* To **receive them by email**, sign up online at www.bit.ly/rhythmandwordemail



Another opportunity for reflection in this season is **“What Is Waiting to Be Born in You,”** an Advent invitation to explore through movement, meditation, words, music, and visioning the sacred gifts we offer to ourselves, each other, God, and the world at this uncertain time. Sue Schemper, a licensed clinical professional counselor and spiritual director, will lead us in this exploration during a Saturday morning **Advent workshop** hosted by the Spiritual Formation Council, Adult Education Committee, and the Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being **this Saturday**, December 4 at 9:00 a.m. For Zoom details register online at www.bit.ly/adventworkshop21



Again this year we invite you to give thanks for, remember, or honor a loved one with a contribution toward the **Christmas flowers, wreaths, and garlands** that will decorate the Sanctuary and Chapel. A list of those individuals remembered and honored will be printed in the Christmas bulletin. **Contributions can be made online at www.bit.ly/fpcgift** and must be received by Sunday, December 12 for names to appear in the bulletin. For more information about gifts toward Christmas flowers, contact Andrea Miller (amiller@fourthchurch.org).



Throughout this season of giving we are receiving a **“Light Up a Life” offering**, which extends mercy, kindness, and love to those who are most vulnerable. Gifts to this offering support the mission and outreach efforts of Fourth Church and Chicago Lights as they provide hot meals, clothing, encouragement, and extra support. Gifts can be made to this offering by noting “Light Up a Life” in the comments section when giving via the Fourth Church website (fourthchurch.org/give-online) or Venmo or on the memo line of a check made payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church.

Women at Fourth is again coordinating our annual **Christmas Wishes project to provide gifts for Chicago Lights Tutoring students**. To support this project we are collecting gift cards to Amazon, Target, and Walmart. If you are dropping off **gift cards** at the church, please do so by **this Friday, December 3**, mark them to the attention of Simon Crow, and designate the amount on the card(s). *(We are giving \$30 worth of gift cards to each student.)* We are also purchasing a book to give to each student and appreciate **monetary contributions to support the book purchases**. Monetary gifts can be made to Fourth Church, noting “Christmas Wishes” in the comments/memo line. For more details, email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org).



Each year we begin Advent with a **Fair Trade Bazaar** weekend planned by our World Mission and Social Justice Committee. Since we are unable to host the event onsite this year, the opportunity to browse handcrafted goods—including folk art, ceramics, textiles, baskets, jewelry, skin care products, and more from Chicago and around the world—has moved online. This opportunity to shop for a difference takes place **online at www.fourthchurch.org/mission/fair-trade.html** at any time of day or night this Friday through Sunday, December 3–5.



During this Advent season, and as we look ahead to Christmas, we hope you will mark these special worship opportunities on your calendar: **Advent Lessons and Music** on Sunday, December 12 at 6:30 p.m. *(in person and livestreamed)*. ✳ The **Longest Night** service, for those experiencing grief and sadness, on Tuesday, December 21 at 6:30 p.m. *(in person only)*.



Our Christmas worship this year will include a variety of in-person and online services: the **Christmas Eve Children’s Pageant**, which will be online only, streamed on Friday, December 24 at 4:00 p.m. ✳ Our **Christmas Eve Family Service** at 6:00 p.m. *(in person only)*; seating will be socially distanced. ✳ Two **Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols Services**, one at 8:00 p.m. *(in person and livestreamed)* and one at 10:00 p.m. *(in person only)*. There will be no socially distanced seating at either 8:00 or 10:00 p.m., so we invite those who prefer social distancing to worship with us at 6:00 p.m. For health reasons, at all three in-person services on Christmas Eve we will be using battery-operated tea lights rather than lit candles during “Silent Night” so that worshipers do not have to blow out candles. ✳ Our **Christmas Day Service** on Saturday, December 25 at 10:00 a.m. *(in person only; those who would like an online worship opportunity on Christmas Day are invited to watch the online Christmas Day service from last year or the Christmas Eve service)*.

Fourth Church offers a variety of ways to connect with one another, whether in person or online.

Those worshipping with us in person are invited to **greet one another in Anderson Hall or the Commons** following the service. ✨ This Wednesday, December 1 at 10:00 a.m., the **Benevolent Guild**—which has counted among its projects sewing face masks and making stuffed animals and taggies for children in the hospital—will meet in person; for details (*preregistration is required*), email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org). ✨ **Cornerstones**, a group for adults fifty and over, will gather online for a **Christmas concert by John Sherer and Cole Seaton** this Friday evening, December 3 at 5:30 p.m. For Zoom details, register at www.bit.ly/cornerstones1221 ✨ A **Muslim–Presbyterian interfaith dialogue about Maryam/Mary** will take place online on Tuesday, December 7 at 7:00 p.m. For Zoom details, register at www.bit.ly/dialogue120721 ✨ On Thursday, December 16 at 6:00 p.m. **Women at Fourth** will come together via Zoom to celebrate the festive and joyous spirit of the Christmas season with fun, games, readings, laughter, and fellowship. For Zoom details, register at www.bit.ly/wf1221



Men's Bible Study meets online on Tuesdays at 7:30 a.m., and **Horizons Bible Study for women** offers two online sessions on Wednesday, December 8, one at 12:00 p.m. and one at 6:30 p.m. For details for Men's or Women's Bible studies, email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org). ✨ **TwentiesThirties Bible Study** for young adults meets online on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. Email Joe Morrow (jmorrow@fourthchurch.org) for details.



On Tuesday evening, December 7 at 7:00 p.m. the **First Tuesday Book Club** will discuss via Zoom **IRL: Finding Realness, Meaning, and Belonging in Our Digital Lives** by Chris Stedman. For details, register at www.bit.ly/firsttuesday1221 ✨ On Tuesday, December 14 **Books by Women** will meet via Zoom at 6:00 p.m. to discuss people's favorite **Agatha Christie books**. For details, email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org).



Sunday School (*ages 3 through grade 5*) meets at 10:00 a.m. in the Gratz Center. ✨ **Youth programming** is taking a break this weekend but resumes next Sunday morning, December 5 with eighth-grade Confirmation at 9:15 a.m., Junior High Youth at 9:15 a.m., and Senior High Youth at 11:15 a.m. For details about youth groups, email Katie Patterson (kpatterson@fourthchurch.org). ✨ **Cherub and Children's Music Time** (*ages 3 through grade 5*) will also meet on Sunday at 9:30 a.m. and **Youth Music Time** (*grades 6–12*) will meet at 10:45 a.m. next Sunday as well.

One of our most popular adult education classes has been “God in the Modern Wing,” exploring spiritual and artistic expression in the work of modern abstract artists. Next Sunday, December 5 at 11:00 a.m., Walter Hansen will return to lead a one-session class, **“God in the Modern Wing: The Book,”** looking at the book that grew out of those presentations and following it with an optional walk to the Art Institute of Chicago to view some of the works. You can register for the class, which will meet in Borwell Dining Room, at www.bit.ly/modernwing1205 ✨ The following Sunday, December 12, Don Allerton will lead the two-week class **“Architecture of Fourth Church.”** In commemoration of the church’s 150th anniversary, this class—which will meet at 11:15 a.m. in Borwell Dining Room on December 12 and 19—gives us opportunity to examine our physical environment at Michigan Avenue and Chestnut Street, as we learn about the architectural aspects of our present building and take a tour of the campus.



This Friday **Estrella Piano Duo** (Elena Doubovitskaya and Svetlana Belsky) will present our weekly Noonday Concert at 12:10 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Our Noonday concerts are also livestreamed and available to view later on YouTube (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos) and at www.bit.ly/fpcprograms.

✨ The annual **Christmas with Tower Brass** concert will take place on Saturday, December 18 at 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. It will be livestreamed as well. *Masks must be worn by all attending concerts at Fourth Church.*



Our congregation is celebrating its sesquicentennial! During this 150th anniversary year we encourage you to visit the web page www.fourthchurch.org/150 to read **historical accounts** and **letters from Chicago’s faith leaders**. There you can also hear **greetings from Fourth Church friends** from across the globe and **view videos of pastors who formerly served at Fourth Church** as they share memories of their time with our congregation. These collections continue to grow, so do check back periodically!

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

Worship Leaders

Nanette Sawyer, H.D. Mitchell, Violet Mitchell, Joseph L. Morrow, Matt Helms

The Music Today

The Morning Choir

Michael Rees, Organ Scholar

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

Worship Notes

OUR ANNUAL “LIGHT UP A LIFE” OFFERING is being received throughout the Advent and Christmas seasons. Gifts to “Light Up a Life” support the mission and outreach efforts of Fourth Church and Chicago Lights as they extend mercy, kindness, and love to those who are most vulnerable. You can make a gift to this offering by noting “Light Up a Life” 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 made payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church. Those worshipping in the Sanctuary can also use the special offering envelopes found in the pew racks. Those envelopes can be placed in an offering plate during worship or in one of the offering boxes at the Sanctuary exit.

WE ARE DELIGHTED TO HAVE THE FULL MORNING CHOIR in worship leadership today for the first time since March 2020. We are also grateful to the members of the choir who, throughout the pandemic, have sung as soloists, recorded anthems from home for virtual quartets, or sung in in-person quartets and octets. A special thank-you also goes to Christopher Norton, who edited most of the virtual anthems, and to Fred Hickler, Roberto Flores, and all who have helped us share music via livestreaming.

Shannon J. Kershner Pastor

Lucy Forster-Smith Senior Associate Pastor

Associate Pastors

Matt Helms Children and Family Ministry

Joseph L. Morrow Evangelism and Community Engagement

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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Today’s Call to Worship, Prayer of Confession, and Prayer of Dedication are adapted from prayers by the Reverend Sarah (Are) Speed, A Sanctified Art LLC, sanctifiedart.org.

THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO

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