



First Sunday of Advent

We Approach God

Gathering Music

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship**

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

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

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

We are longing for the world that God promises.

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

Let us worship Holy God.

* Please rise in body or spirit

Inspired by the radical hospitality of Jesus Christ, Fourth Church welcomes all of God's children into the life of the church regardless of sex, gender, sexual orientation, age, race, ethnicity, physical or mental ability, mental health, educational background, economic situation, religious background, or documentation status.

***Opening Song** (*congregation sings while masked*) “Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah”

Light one candle to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.
He shall bring salvation to Israel, God fulfills the promise.

Light two candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.
He shall feed the flock like a shepherd, gently lead them homeward.

Light three candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.
Lift your heads and lift high the gateway for the King of glory.

Light four candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.
He is coming; tell the glad tidings. Let your light be shining.

We Tell the Truth about Ourselves

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 the antiphon while masked*)

Lord, have mercy; Christ have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy; Christ have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.

God Forgives and Blesses Us

Friends, believe the good news!
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter Psalm 25:1–10

(congregation sings the antiphon while masked)

ANTIPHON: *May God give strength to the people; may God bless the people with peace*

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.
My God, I put my trust in you;
let me not be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.
Let none who look to you be put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

ANTIPHON

Show me your ways, O Lord,
and teach me your paths.
Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long.
Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.
Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love
and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.

ANTIPHON

You are gracious and upright, O Lord;
therefore you teach sinners in your way.
You lead the lowly in justice
and teach the lowly your way.
All your paths, O Lord, are steadfast love and faithfulness
to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies

Scripture Jeremiah 33:1–9, 14–16

Sermon: “Tireless Hope” Matt Helms

We Feast Together

Musical Reflection

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise!

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.

The Communion

We Offer Ourselves

Call for Offering

***Prayer of Dedication**

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.

We Go Out with Gratitude

***Closing Song** (*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.

***Benediction**

Sending Music

Worship Leaders

Matt Helms Associate Pastor
Joseph L. Morrow Associate Pastor
Anita Balodis Liturgist
The Fourth Church Jazz Quartet

Worship Notes

Our annual “Light Up a Life” offering is being received throughout the Advent 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. Gifts can also be placed in the offering boxes at the exit of the Chapel.

Incorporating ancient and contemporary traditions in this service, God is named corporately in a variety of ways that are gender neutral. This allows for your personal expressions as you are led to name the Holy in ways meaningful to you.

Acknowledgments

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PASTORAL STAFF

Shannon J. Kershner, Pastor
Lucy Forster-Smith, Senior Associate Pastor
Matt Helms, Associate Pastor for Children and Family Ministry
Joseph L. Morrow, Associate Pastor for Evangelism and Community Engagement
Nanette Sawyer, Associate Pastor for Discipleship and Small Group Ministry
Rocky Supinger, Associate Pastor for 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

News and Opportunities

We are glad to have you with us today and hope you will explore the many opportunities for learning, serving, and community building at Fourth Presbyterian 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.** * 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 would 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.** * Seating in the Chapel is set up for **social distancing.** 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. * **Worshippers are invited to sing while masked.** We invite those who are concerned about being near those who are singing to worship with us from home via our 10:00 a.m. livestream, which is also available for viewing later in the week, or our weekly **"Rhythm and Word"** videos. * **Worship in the Chapel can be heard** through hearing aids' "T" or "T-coil" setting. * **Please** silence electronic devices when in the Chapel. * The **doors open for worship** on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. For the 4:00 service, access is only by the Delaware doors to the Gratz Center. * **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. Validation tickets for the garage must be picked up from an usher.



For those who prefer to worship online or are unable to join us in person, we 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 afterwards. * **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). * Each week we release a **new video in our "Rhythm and Word: Midweek Music and Prayer"** series, a fifteen-minute worship experience weaving together scripture, prayer, and music offered by the Fourth Church Jazz Quartet. You can **subscribe to our YouTube channel** (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos) and watch the videos there on Wednesday evenings or anytime during the week or **receive them by email** (*sign up at www.bit.ly/rhythmandwordemail*).

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**

The season of Advent begins today! Daily **Advent devotions** written by Fourth Church members and staff are available as a resource for personal meditation and prayer. You can **receive them in your inbox** (sign up at www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions) or read them online (www.fourthchurch.org/devotions), via Facebook (facebook.com/fourthchurch), or Twitter (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 on December 1 (*where they will also be available for viewing afterwards*). To **receive them by email**, sign up online at www.bit.ly/rhythmwordemail. * **“What Is Waiting to Be Born in You”** is 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 Fourth Church member, 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



Women at Fourth is coordinating our annual **Christmas Wishes project to provide gifts for Chicago Lights Tutoring students**. To support this project we are collecting gift cards to Target, Amazon, 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 details, email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org). * We invite you to honor a loved one with a **contribution toward the Christmas flowers and wreaths that will decorate the Sanctuary and Chapel**. A list of those remembered will be printed in the Christmas bulletin. **Contributions can be made online at www.bit.ly/fpcgift** and must be received by December 12 for names to appear in the bulletin. For more information, contact Andrea Miller (amiller@fourthchurch.org).



As we begin our Advent journey to Christmas, we hope you will mark these special opportunities on your calendar: **Advent Lessons and Music service** 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*). * 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 desire social distancing to worship with us at 6:00. 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*).

