



Fourth Presbyterian Church

First Sunday of Advent

November 27, 2022 • 10:00 a.m.

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Variations on “Watchman, Tell Us of the Night” Aaron David Miller
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel. Jason W. Krug
“Sleepers, Wake” A Voice Astounds Us Robert Hobby

Introit

“So Many Reasons to Rejoice” Eddie Robinson
Delivered out of darkness into the kingdom of his Son; forgiven of my sin and redeemed through his blood. O yes, I have so many reasons to rejoice. He woke me up this morning and he started me on my way. He gave me health and strength to let me see another day. O yes, I have so many reasons to rejoice.

*Doxology

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.

*Lighting the Advent Wreath

Leader: *People of God, what gives you hope?*

All: *The sunrise every single morning.*

Leader: *The kindness of strangers.*

All: *A restorative walk in the woods.*

Leader: *A table for feasting surrounded by friends.*

All: *Hands clasped in prayer.*

Leader: *A baby taking its first steps*

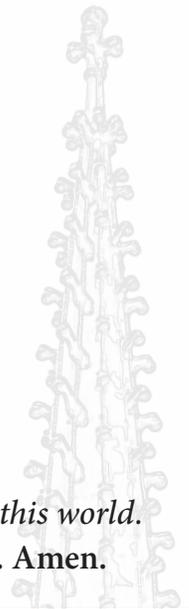
All: *Advocating for justice in our community*

Leader: *The ringing of church bells.*

All: *The turning of seasons.*

Leader: *Today we light the candle of hope to remember that God is at work in this world.*

All: *From generation to generation, God is bringing good news of hope. Amen.*



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

***Hymn 104** “O Lord, How Shall I Meet You ”

O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you aright?
Your people long to greet you, my hope, my heart’s delight!
O kindle, Lord most holy, a lamp within my breast,
to do in spirit lowly all that may please you best.
Love caused your incarnation; love brought you down to me;
your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty.
O love beyond all telling, that led you to embrace
in love, all loves excelling, our lost and fallen race.
You come, O Lord, with gladness, in mercy and goodwill,
to bring an end to sadness and bid our fears be still.
In patient expectation we live for that great day
when your renewed creation your glory shall display.

Prayer of Confession

God of today and tomorrow, you tell us to bring our full selves before,
that there is room enough for us in all frailty. But we say our lives are too messy.
You tell us to bring our hopes and dreams, but we respond that it is too risky.
You plead with us to be unafraid to bring our grief, but we feel inclined to forget.
Holy One, we know in our hearts that there is room for us with you.
Forgive us for withholding our full selves from you.
Forgive us for reserving the good we can do.
Help us remember, today and tomorrow, there is room for us all with you. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

Leader: *Friends, believe the good news:*
All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Welcome and Announcements

Anthem :: “In the Stillness” Arlen Clarke

*In the stillness of our darkness, in the shadows of the night; earth is waiting for the promise,
longing for the coming light. Once before he came in blessing, still he comes, our hearts to win.
Come, Lord Jesus, come in glory; let your heaven on earth begin. Come, almighty, to deliver;
let us all thy grace receive. Suddenly return, and never, nevermore our presence leave.
Light of light shine through our darkness, turn our night to radiant day; come, Lord Jesus,
come in glory, open all our hearts to praise. Amen.*

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson Isaiah 2:1-5

*Gloria Patri

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.

Psalter Psalm 122

Sermon Nancy Benson-Nicol

Responding to the Word

***Hymn 384**. “Soon and Very Soon”

Soon and very soon we are going to see the King.

Soon and very soon we are going to see the King.

Soon and very soon we are going to see the King.

Hallelujah, hallelujah, we’re going to see the King!

No more crying there: we are going to see the King.

No more crying there: we are going to see the King.

No more crying there: we are going to see the King.

Hallelujah, hallelujah, we’re going to see the King!

No more dying there: we are going to see the King.

No more dying there: we are going to see the King.

No more dying there: we are going to see the King.

Hallelujah, hallelujah, we’re going to see the King!

Soon and very soon we are going to see the King.

Soon and very soon we are going to see the King.

Soon and very soon we are going to see the King.

Hallelujah, hallelujah, we’re going to see the King!

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

***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.

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.

Call to Offering

Offertory Anthem :: "E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come" Paul Manz
Text adapted from Revelation 1:4; 4:8; 22:20, 5

***Offertory Response** 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, in this season of watching and waiting
our hearts brim with joy for all you do for us.
As we give back to you a portion of our livelihood,
we are so grateful for the many gifts we receive from you, O God.
Thank you for our lives, for this faith community,
for the work of our hands, and for hearts awakened.
And thank you for Jesus, who came to bless and came to save.
In his name we pray. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

***Hymn 88** “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who orderest all things mightily:
to us the path of knowledge show; and teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times didst give the law in cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Root of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save and give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

People, Look East Michael Bedford

*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.*



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.



Although wearing a mask is not required at Fourth Church, we as a community have made a commitment to be **a mask-welcoming campus**, encouraging the wearing of masks by anyone who wants or needs to wear one. As a mask-welcoming campus, we remain committed to **ensuring no one will feel out of place should they choose to wear a mask while at Fourth Church.**

✳️ In the Sanctuary, the **front section on the pulpit side is for those required to or choosing to practice social distancing, and everyone sitting in that section is required to wear a mask.** The remainder of the Sanctuary is open seating.



For those who prefer to worship online or who are unable to join us in person, we livestream our morning service at 10:00 a.m. on our YouTube channel (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos), where 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 10:00 a.m. Sunday **service and sermon available via podcast** on iTunes and Spotify (www.bit.ly/FPCpodcast). ✳️ You can also receive the previous Sunday's **sermon text by email** by subscribing online at www.bit.ly/fpcsermons ✳️ Available by podcast as well is an invitation to join Matt Helms and Rocky Supinger in biblical exploration as they discuss the **"Bible Top Ten"** in their **podcast** by that title (fourthchurch.org/podcast), with new episodes released every other Tuesday.

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 join us for **in-person worship**, we gather each Sunday at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary and at 4:00 p.m. for our Jazz at Four service (*with Communion*) in Buchanan Chapel. ✨ On Sundays the **doors open for worship** a half hour prior to the service. 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 to the Gratz Center. ✨ **Sunday parking** is available at 900 N. Michigan (*access from Rush or Walton*) at the rate of \$9 for 6 hours between 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. (*and \$18 for up to 12 hours*) 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. ✨ During the morning service **nursery care** is available on the fourth floor of the Gratz Center. ✨ **Worship can be heard** in the Sanctuary and Chapel through the “T” or “T-coil” setting of hearing aids. ✨ Please silence **electronic devices** during worship.



Following worship, a **pipe organ tour** begins at 11:15 a.m. at the front of the Sanctuary ✨ Also following worship, 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. ✨ We also gather on Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. for **Morning Prayer via Zoom** and at 10:00 a.m. for **in-person Morning Prayer** in Buchanan Chapel. For Zoom details, email Nancy Benson-Nicol (*nbenson-nicol@fourthchurch.org*). ✨ The Chapel is open for **opportunity to walk the labyrinth** between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. For information about the labyrinth, email Rocky Supinger (*rsupinger@fourthchurch.org*). ✨ A **Sacred Pause time of meditation** is hosted virtually by our Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being at facebook.com/reploglecenterforcounselingandwellbeing on Tuesdays (7:45 a.m.) and Saturdays (8:30 a.m.).



We ask that those of you worshipping with us in person **please take a moment to sign the pew information pads** so that we might know you are here. Then please pass the pad down your pew so that all worshipers have an opportunity to provide updated information and to greet one another by name following the service. ✨ Those worshipping in person this morning are also invited to **greet one another during Coffee Hour** in Anderson Hall and the Commons following the service. ✨ **For additional ways to connect** with one another and Fourth Church, whether in person or online, as well as for various **resources**, watch our **website** (www.fourthchurch.org) and **Facebook** (facebook.com/fourthchurch) ✨ Events are posted on our **church calendar**, accessible from our website’s home page and at www.fourthchurch.org/calendar

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** (*subscribe 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). ✨ Also available as a resource for your Advent prayer and reflection is a weekly “**Rhythm and Word**” **Advent video series**. Beginning this week these brief worship experiences, which weave together scripture, prayer, and music by the Fourth Church Jazz Quartet, will be released on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. on our YouTube channel (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos), where they will also be available for viewing afterwards. **To receive them by email**, sign up online at www.bit.ly/rhythmwordemail



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 Best Buy, Starbuck’s, McDonald’s, Uber, Target, and Amazon (*and giving a total of \$25 worth of cards to each student*). Gift cards can be dropped off at the church reception desk to the attention of Simon Crow by Monday, December 5. (*Please designate the amount on the cards.*) **Monetary contributions** can also be made to support the purchase of a book for each student. Gifts can be made online at www.fourthchurch.org/give-online or by writing a check payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church with “Christmas Wishes” designated in the memo line.



We invite you to **remember or honor a loved one** with a contribution toward the **Christmas flowers, wreaths, and garlands** that will decorate the Sanctuary and Buchanan Chapel this Advent and Christmas. 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 11 for names to appear in the bulletin. For more information, contact Gloria Vicente ([312.252.3571](tel:312.252.3571); gvicente@fourthchurch.org).



The Fourth Church Racial Equity Council invites you to join them for a complimentary special **screening of the movie Till** on Saturday, December 3 at 1:30 p.m. at Cinema Chatham Theater (*210 W. 87th St.*). A discussion led by the Reverend Dr. Waltrina Middleton, Executive Director of the Community Renewal Society, will follow the movie. Complimentary roundtrip bus transportation will be provided from Fourth Church, departing at 12:30 p.m. Seating is limited, and thus **reservations are required**. Register at www.bit.ly/tilldec3

Beginning next Sunday morning, December 4, a new adult education class, **“Welcoming the Stranger,”** will meet at 11:15 a.m. in Borwell Dining Room and via Zoom. For Zoom details for this three-week class, register at www.bit.ly/ae stranger1222 * **Men’s Bible Study** meets via Zoom on Tuesday mornings at 7:30 a.m. **Women’s Bible Study**—which offers two Zoom gathering times (12:00 and 6:30 p.m.) on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month—next meets on Wednesday, December 14. For Zoom details for Bible studies, email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org). * If you would like to **read Scripture and lead prayers during a worship service**, please email Rocky Supinger (rsupinger@fourthchurch.org) to express your interest.



Sunday School meets at 10:00 a.m. on the fourth floor of the Gratz Center. * **Confirmation** (*eighth grade*) meets this morning at 9:00 a.m. in Room 5G. **Junior High** youth worship with their families at 10:00 a.m. **Senior High** meets at 11:15 a.m. in the Bumpus Room.



The **Benevolent Guild**—which has counted among its projects making stuffed animals and taggies for children in the hospital—meets this Wednesday, November 30 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 5B. For Zoom details, contact Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org). * **Cornerstones**, a group for those fifty and over, will gather for their annual **Christmas Carol Sing-Along** led by John Sherer this Friday evening, December 2. To sign up, register (*required*) at www.bit.ly/cornerstones1222 by Wednesday, November 30. * **LGBTQIA+ Widen Our Welcome Brunch** will be held on Sunday, December 4 following the morning worship service. * **Knitting and Crocheting** next meets on Tuesday, December 6 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 5B. * **Books by Women** will discuss **Miss Benson’s Beetle** by Rachel Joyce in person and via Zoom on Tuesday, December 13 at 6:00 p.m. in the Bumpus Room. For Zoom details contact Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org). * On Thursday, December 15 **Women at Fourth** will meet for a time of holiday fellowship and celebration in the Michigan Avenue Manse at 5:30 p.m. Register at www.bit.ly/waf1222



Fourth Church Meals Ministry is in need of volunteers to assist in helping our neighbors who are hungry and experiencing food insecurity. To explore these volunteer needs, see our Volunteer Ministry platform, VOMO (www.bit.ly/fpcvolunteers) or contact Robert Crouch, Director of Volunteer Ministry (rcrouch@fourthchurch.org). * **Chicago Lights Tutoring is in need of in-person (at Fourth Church) and online mentors** to connect one-to-one with a student (*grades 1–12*) one evening a week. There are openings for **weekly tutors** as well as **substitute tutors**. For details, visit chicagolights.org/volunteer/#tutoring or contact Mark Dennison (mdennison@chicagolights.org).

Our **Friday Noonday Concert** series will feature **pianist Jooyoung Kim** this Friday, December 2.

We hope you will join us at 12:10 p.m. in the Sanctuary or for the livestream on YouTube (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos). ✱ **Bach Marathon: Brandenburg Concertos 1–6** will be presented by the **Chicago Civic Orchestra** on Monday, December 5 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Tickets are required but free from www.cso.org



Several holiday concerts will be taking place at Fourth Church in December. The **St. Charles Singers will present “Candlelight Carols”** on Saturday, December 3 at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Tickets are available from www.stcharlessingers.com ✱ CSO Presents **“A Chanticleer Christmas”** on Tuesday and Wednesday, December 6 and 7 at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Tickets are available from www.cso.org ✱ **Chicago a cappella will sing “Holidays a cappella”** on Friday, December 9 at 8:00 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel. Tickets are available from www.chicagoacappella.org ✱ The Fourth Church **Festival of Advent Lessons and Music** evening service will be held on Sunday, December 11 at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. ✱ This year’s **Christmas with Tower Brass** concert will take place on Saturday, December 17 at 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. There are no tickets; donations will be received at the door. ✱ **The Christmas Cantata: Gloria by John Rutter** will be performed by the Morning Choir and Tower Brass on Sunday, December 18 during 10:00 a.m. worship.



For those facing life’s challenges, **Stephen Ministers** provide a listening presence and regular spiritual support. 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 or in-person conversations with a counselor, call our **Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being** at 312.787.2729, ext. 2260. ✱ To **talk to a pastor** or **notify the pastoral staff** of personal concerns, illnesses, hospitalizations, or deaths, please email caringministries@fourthchurch.org; if the situation is an emergency or requires immediate attention, please call the church at 312.787.4570 to be connected to the Minister on Call. ✱ To **submit a prayer request** to our Morning Prayer or Deacon Prayer Ministries, please email caringministries@fourthchurch.org

Worship Leaders

Joseph L. Morrow, Samantha Borg-Breen, Jerry Johnson, Lucy Forster-Smith, Nancy Benson-Nicol

The Music Today

The Handbell Choir; Briana Belding-Peck, Director

The Gospel Choir; Bryan Johnson, Director

The Morning Choir; Kimberly Gunderson, Soloist

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.

Shannon J. Kershner Pastor

Lucy Forster-Smith Senior Associate Pastor

Associate Pastors

Nancy Benson-Nicol Caring Ministries and Spiritual Formation

Matt Helms Children and Family Ministry

Joseph L. Morrow Evangelism and Community Engagement

Nanette Sawyer Discipleship and Small Group Ministry

Rocky Supinger Youth Ministry and Worship

John Buchanan Pastor Emeritus

SOURCES AND CREDITS: ““Soon and Very Soon” text

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THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO

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