



**Prelude**

- Noel . . . . . Jean-Jacques Beauvarlet-Charpentier
- Angels We Have Heard on High . . . . . French carol/arr. Larry Sue
- He Is Born, the Divine Christ Child . . . . . French carol/arr. Morgan Simmons
- In the Bleak Midwinter . . . . . Gustav Holst/arr. L. Sue
- What Child Is This . . . . . English ballad/arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams

**Introit** :: “Away in a Manger” . . . . . William James Kirkpatrick/arr. David Willcocks  
*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.*

**\*Opening Responses**

Leader: *Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy.*  
People: **To us is born this day in the city of David a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord.**  
Leader: *This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in cloth and lying in a manger.*  
People: **Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace!**  
Leader: *Let us go now to Bethlehem.*

*\*Please rise in body or spirit.*

**\*Carol 133 :: “O Come, All Ye Faithful”**

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;

O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem! Come, and behold him, born the King of angels!

O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;

O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

True God from true God, Light from light eternal,

born of a virgin, a mortal he comes; very God, begotten, not created!

O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;

O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;

sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God, all glory in the highest!

O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;

O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;

Jesus, to thee be all glory given; Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!

O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;

O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

**Lighting of the Christ Candle**

Leader: *Tonight we gather around a story—God’s story and our story. And our story is—*

People: *Amazing!*

*Hopeful,*

*Still unfolding,*

*Resilient,*

*Still in progress,*

*Tied to each other’s stories.*

*—The candle is lit—*

Leader: *Tonight we tell the story of Christ’s birth, the story of love made flesh.*

*This story weaves through every generation. The story picks up  
the bits and pieces of our stories and braids us together.*

**Anthem :: “Love Came Down at Christmas” . . . . . John Rutter**

*Love came down at Christmas, love all lovely, love divine; love was born at Christmas, star and  
angels gave the sign. Worship we the Godhead, love incarnate, love divine; worship we our Jesus,  
but wherewith for sacred sign? Love shall be our token, love be yours, and love be mine; love to  
God and all souls, love for plea and gift and sign.*

**A Time with Children** . . . . . *Rocky Supinger*

**\*Carol 113** . . . . . “Angels We Have Heard on High”

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o’er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?  
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

**The Story of Jesus’ Birth** . . . . . Luke 2:8–20

**\*Carol 121** . . . . . “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary and, gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

**Homily** . . . . . *Shannon J. Kershner*

**\*Carol 134.** . . . . . “Joy to the World”

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;  
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

**Prayer**

**Offering**

**Offertory Anthem** :: “Come with Rejoicing” . . . . . Ukrainian carol /arr. Mark Sedio

*Come with rejoicing, loud praises voicing born is Christ, the Savior. Kneel here before him, shepherds adore him, God’s own purest treasure. Angels are singing with jubilation, welcome the child, creation’s salvation, sing the joyful story, tell the wondrous glory, alleluia, Jesus is born! There in a stable manger, a cradle, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Blessed gift from heaven, to us is given, worship now and ever.*

**The Light Shines.** . . . . . John 1:1-5

**Spreading the Light.** . . . . . “Silent Night”

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright ’round yon virgin mother and child!  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace; sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight; glories stream from heaven afar,  
heav’nly hosts sing “Alleluia: Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born!”

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love’s pure light radiant beams from thy holy face,  
with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth; Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light; with the angels let us sing  
Alleluia to our King: Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born.

## Sentences of Light

**\*Carol 119** . . . . . “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king.

Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”

Joyful all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;

with the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin’s womb.

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate deity,  
pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!

Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.

Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,

born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”

## **\*Benediction**

**Postlude** # Carillon on a Ukrainian Carol . . . . . Mykola Leontovych /arr. Gerald Near

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***Gifts supporting Christmastime Sanctuary adornments have  
been made in memory and in honor of family, friends, and loved ones.***

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**In Memory of**

Mary Shawn Addington  
Albert C. Allen  
Dorothy (Nickel) Allen  
Norman K. Anderson  
Roy and Evelyn Anderson  
Ruth and Willis Andrews  
Michael Assaf  
Magdalena Bacas  
James and Joan Bailey  
Eric Stephen Ball  
Mr. and Mrs. O.E. Banker  
Archie and LaVone Barkhoff  
Henry and Eleanore Bates  
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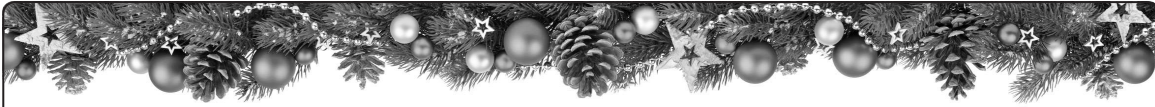
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Ruth and Eugene C. Zeltmann

**In Honor of**

All Staff at  
Fourth Presbyterian Church  
Jeanne Frances Bailey  
Caryn Blomquist and  
Jeffrey Edgar  
Josephine Horsman  
Dorothee Knapp  
Bill and Mary Sue Lewis  
Judy and Tom Monroe  
Nancy A. Nelson  
Lydia Olson  
Yvonne and Pat Pierce  
Christena Rath  
The Sterkel and Wetherald Family  
Alison and Larry Thomas  
Sue Thompson

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***Want to enjoy more of Christmas with Fourth Church?***

We will be gathering again in the Sanctuary at 8:00 and 10:00 p.m. tonight for our **Service of Lessons and Carols**; the 8:00 service will be livestreamed and available for later viewing should you want to enjoy it during Christmas week (or in any season).

Just click the link on our home page at [www.fourthchurch.org](http://www.fourthchurch.org)

Then tomorrow morning we will come together at 10:00 a.m. for a festive **Christmas Day service**, with more of the seasonal music that everyone loves to sing. (That service too will be livestreamed and available for later viewing as well.)

Next, a week from tonight, we will gather in Buchanan Chapel for our **New Year's Eve Taizé Service** at 7:30 p.m., providing an opportunity to pause in a contemplative, prayerful setting at the end of a busy year. Candles; easy-to-learn songs from various countries, traditions, and languages; and a period of silence all contribute to a time to reflect and to open oneself to God.

And what could make a more meaningful start to the new year than joining us for our **First Sunday of Christmas** service at 10:00 a.m. next Sunday morning, January 1? There will be ample Christmas music and a refreshing spirit of rebirth and looking toward bright new horizons for 2023.

Join us!

*For additional opportunities and resources available to you at Fourth Church, see [www.fourthchurch.org](http://www.fourthchurch.org)*





## Worship Leaders

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Rocky Supinger, Thomas Becker, Katie Reome, Anneke Stracks, Shannon J. Kershner

## The Music Tonight

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The Handbell Choir; Briana Belding-Peck, Director

Chancel Choir

Michael Rees, Organ Scholar

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

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### OUR ANNUAL “LIGHT UP A LIFE” OFFERING

is being received throughout the Christmas season. 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 using the special offering envelopes found in the pew racks or by noting “Light Up a Life” on the memo line of a check made payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church or in the comments section when giving online via Venmo or the Fourth Church website: [fourthchurch.org/give](https://fourthchurch.org/give)

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**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



**THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO**

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