



Prelude

- Noel Jean-Jacques Beauvarlet-Charpentier
- Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine Hieronymous Praetorius/arr. Erich Peterson
- Carillon on a Ukrainian Carol. Mykola Leontovych/arr. Gerald Near
- From Heaven Above to Earth I Come Johann Pachelbel/arr. Christine Janicki
- What Child Is This English ballad/arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams
- Jesus, Direct My Beginning. Johann Sebastian Bach/arr. John Mindeman
- Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming. Michael Praetorius/arr. Erich Peterson
- He Is Born, the Divine Christ Child French carol/arr. Morgan Simmons
- O Holy Night Adolphe Adam/arr. Aaron David Miller

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 Sentences

Carol 140. “Once in Royal David’s City”
(*stanza one sung by soloist; congregation stands to sing remaining stanzas*)

Once in royal David’s city stood a lowly cattle shed,
 where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:
 Mary was that mother mild; Jesus Christ, her little child.
He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
 and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;
 with the poor and meek and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.
Jesus is our childhood’s pattern; day by day like us he grew;
 he was little, weak, and helpless; tears and smiles like us he knew;
 and he feels for all our sadness, and he shares in all our gladness.
And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;
 for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above;
 and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

Prayer for Christmas Eve (*unison*)

Great God, as you came at night when all was still,
 so enter our lives this night.
Illumine our paths with the light of Christ’s presence,
 that we may clearly see the way before us,
 the truth to speak, and the life to live for him, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

First Lesson Isaiah 9:2–7

Anthem :: “Gaudete” Steven Sametz

Rejoice! Christ is born of the virgin Mary; rejoice! The time of grace has come for which we have prayed; let us devoutly sing songs of joy. God is made man, while nature wonders; the world is renewed by Christ the King. The closed gate of Ezekiel has been passed through; from where the light has risen and salvation found. Therefore, let our assembly sing praises now at this time of purification; let it bless the Lord; greetings to our King.

Second Lesson. Isaiah 11:1–4, 6–9

***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!

Third Lesson Luke 1:26–35, 38

Anthem :: “A Maiden Most Gentle” French carol/arr. Andrew Carter

A maiden most gentle and tender we sing; of Mary the mother of Jesus our King. Ave Maria.

How blessed is the birth of her heavenly child, who came to redeem us in Mary so mild. Ave Maria.

The archangel Gabriel foretold by his call the Lord of creation and Savior of all. Ave Maria.

Three kings came to worship with gifts rich and rare and marveled in awe at the babe in her care.

*Ave Maria. Rejoice and be glad at this Christmas we pray; sing praise to our Savior, sing endless
“Ave.” Ave Maria.*

Fourth Lesson Luke 2:1–7

***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!

Fifth Lesson Luke 2:8–20

Homily Shannon J. Kershner

***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!

Sixth Lesson Matthew 2:1–12

Prayer

Offering

Offertory Anthem :: “I Will Light Candles This Christmas” Kim André Arnesen

I will light candles this Christmas; candles of joy despite all sadness, candles of hope where despair keeps watch, candles of courage for fears ever present, candles of peace for tempest-tossed days, candles of grace to ease heavy burdens, candles of love to inspire all my living, candles that will burn all year long. When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone, when the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with their flock, the work of Christmas begins: to find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry, to release the prisoner, to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among others, to make music in the heart.

Seventh Lesson 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**

***Choral Response** :: “Beside Thy Cradle, Here I Stand” Johann Sebastian Bach

*Beside thy cradle here I stand, O thou that ever livest;
and bring thee with a willing hand the very gifts thou givest.
Accept me; 'tis my mind and heart, my soul, my strength, my every part,
that thou from me requirest.*

***Postlude**

Gloria in Excelsis from *Gloria* Antonio Vivaldi/arr. Charles Schuchat



***We are delighted to be worshipping with you this evening
and invite you to join us throughout the Christmas season!***

Christmas Day
Sunday, December 25 at 10:00 a.m. *(in person and livestreamed)*

New Year's Eve Taizé Service
Saturday, December 31 at 7:30 p.m. *(in Buchanan Chapel)*

First Sunday of Christmas
Sunday, January 1 at 10:00 a.m. *(in person and livestreamed)*

For additional opportunities and resources available
to you at Fourth Church, see **www.fourthchurch.org**
(where you will also find convenient links to our livestreams)

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

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Albert C. Allen
Dorothy (Nickel) Allen
Norman K. Anderson
Roy and Evelyn Anderson
Ruth and Willis Andrews
Michael Assaf
Magdalena Bacas
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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

Worship Leaders

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

Liturgists

Regan Burke (8:00)

Clark Costen (10:00)

The Music Tonight

Tower Brass; Charles Schuchat, Artistic Director

The Morning Choir; Laura Perkett, Soloist

Michael Rees, Organ Scholar

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

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is being received throughout the 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*) 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.

Credits and sources: The Offertory Anthem is based on words by Howard Thurman (1899–1981).

THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO

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