

December 10, 2023



The Gathering

Communion at 2:00

We Gather.

Call to Worship "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (Hymnal 88)

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 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.

**Please rise in body or spirit.*



FOURTH
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
A Light in the City

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.

***Song** "Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us" (Hymnal 187)

Savior, like a shepherd lead us; much we need your tender care.
In your pleasant pastures feed us; for our use your fold prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us: we are yours.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us: we are yours.

We are yours: in love befriend us; be the guardian of our way.
Keep your flock: from sin defend us; seek us when we go astray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear your children when we pray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear your children when we pray.

You have promised to receive us, poor and sinful though we be;
you have mercy to relieve us, grace to cleanse, and power to free.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to you.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to you.

Early let us seek your favor; early let us do your will.
Blessed Lord and only Savior, with your love our spirits fill.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have loved us; love us still.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have loved us; love us still.

***Confession and Assurance** "Christ Be Our Light"



***Peace**

The Peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

We Hear.

Scripture 2 Peter 3:8–15a

Sermon Nancy Benson-Nicol

We Respond.

Offering

The gifts we share to support the ministry and mission of Fourth Church can be placed in the offering plate or, upon leaving today, in the offering boxes at the Sanctuary exits. Gifts also can be given via Venmo (@Fourth-Church) or online at www.fourthchurch.org/give

Song "Prepare the Way of the Lord"

Chords: * E^b A^b E^b * (chords continue)

Pre-prepare the way of the Lord. Pre-prepare the way of the Lord,
and all people will see the sal - va - tion of our God.

Communion

*Communion will be served by intinction (dipping the bread into the juice).
Gluten-free bread is available.*

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Communion Anthem "Wild and Lone/In the Air Tonight" (Joseph Parry/Phil Collins)

We Go.

***Song** "Amen"



*Blessing

Worship Leaders

Rocky Supinger, Nancy Benson-Nicol

The Music Today

Beena David, vocals; Bryan Doherty, bass; Amr Fahmy, piano; Pete Tashjian, drums

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.

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You are invited!

December 10–16, 2023



The following pages are our invitation to you—an invitation to explore the many opportunities for learning, serving, and community building at Fourth Church as well as an invitation to connect with one another, our staff, and the varied resources available to you here. We hope you will spend a few minutes looking over the opportunities and identifying those that interest you!

Welcome!

We are glad to be worshipping with you today and invite you to continue 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. ✨ Inspired by the radical hospitality of Jesus Christ, we welcome everyone, without exception, into the life of this congregation!

Joining us online

Each Sunday our worshipping body is a wonderful mix of those online, on the phone, and in the pews. For those who prefer to worship online or who are unable to join us in person, we **livestream our 9:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. services** on our YouTube channel (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos), where they can be viewed any time after the services begin. (For tips on how to watch—from the beginning—a service that is already in progress, see fourthchurch.org/watch-from-the-beginning) ✨ Those without Internet access are invited to listen via phone by calling 888.916.9166 at 9:30 a.m.

Joining us in person

If you like to join us for **in-person worship**, we gather at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. ✨ On Sundays the **doors open for worship** a half hour prior to each service. There are three fully accessible entrances, without steps, that lead to the Sanctuary: on Michigan Avenue (through the glass Loggia doors between the courtyard and the main Sanctuary doors); at 126 E. Chestnut; and at 115 E. Delaware. ✨ **Sunday parking** is available at 900 N. Michigan (access from Rush or Walton) at the rate of \$9 for 6 hours (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. ✨ **Worship can be heard** through "T" or "T-coil" settings of hearing aids. ✨ Please silence **electronic devices** during worship.

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

Let us know you're worshipping with us!

Please let us know you are here by filling out an **information form**. Those worshipping with us via livestream will find a **link to the online form**—which takes only 20 seconds to complete!—included in the descriptive text below the video (*after exiting full-screen view*); a QR code is also displayed during the “Welcome and Announcements” that can be scanned with a phone camera to take you to the form. Those worshipping with us in person are asked to use the **information pads in the pews**, passing them down the pew so worshipers have opportunity to greet one another by name following the service. ✨ For **additional ways to connect** with one another and this congregation, whether in person or online, as well as for various **resources and opportunities**, watch our website: **fourthchurch.org**

Worship podcasts and sermon text

During the week we make the Sunday morning **service and sermon available via podcast** on multiple podcast platforms and at **fourthchurch.org/podcasts** ✨ You can also receive the previous Sunday morning's **sermon text** (fourthchurch.org/sermons) **by email** by subscribing at www.bit.ly/fpcsermons.

Prayer and meditation

On Wednesdays we gather at 9:30 a.m. for **Morning Prayer via Zoom** and at 10:00 a.m. we come together for **in-person Morning Prayer** in Buchanan Chapel. For Zoom details, email Nancy Benson-Nicol (nbenson-nicol@fourthchurch.org). ✨ Buchanan Chapel is open for **opportunity to walk the labyrinth** between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. ✨ A **Sacred Pause time of meditation** is offered 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.).

Advent reflections

Daily Advent devotions, based on Advent hymn texts, are available as a **resource for personal meditation and prayer**. We invite you to read them online (www.fourthchurch.org/devotions), receive them in your inbox (*subscribe at* www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions), or share them via Facebook (facebook.com/fourthchurch). ✨ Our **Advent “Rhythm and Word” video series** offers **ten minutes of midweek music, scripture, and prayer** for viewing at home. A new video is released each Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. on YouTube. To receive the videos by email, sign up at www.bit.ly/rhythmmandwordemail; you can also subscribe to our YouTube channel (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos)

Exploring the Bible

Men's Bible Study meets via Zoom on Tuesday mornings at 7:30 a.m. **Horizons Women's Bible Study** meets via Zoom this Wednesday, December 13 at 12:00 and 6:30 p.m. For Zoom details for these studies, email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org). ✨ Matt Helms and Rocky Supinger invite you to tune in to their **“Bible Top Ten” podcast** (www.fourthchurch.org/podcasts). This lively, informative, and often amusing podcast explores the Bible through a rotating series of top ten lists.

Christmas flowers

Today is the last day to make Christmas flowers gifts to remember or honor loved ones. A list of those individuals remembered with a contribution toward the flowers, wreaths, and garlands decorating the Sanctuary and Gratz Center will be printed in the Christmas bulletin. **Contributions can be made online** at www.bit.ly/fpcgift and must be received by today (December 10) for names to appear in the bulletin. For more information, contact Gloria Vicente (312.252.3571; gvicente@fourthchurch.org).

Sharing Christmas joy

There is still time to **help fill Christmas Wishes for the nearly 200 students participating in Chicago Lights Tutoring.** Target, Amazon, Walmart, Starbucks, and McDonald's **gift cards**—in denominations of \$10, \$15, or \$25—can be dropped off at the church reception desk **through this Monday, December 11,** and **monetary contributions** toward book and gift card purchases can be made online or by check (*designated "Christmas Wishes"*) **through this Friday, December 15.** ✨ Our annual **"Light Up a Life"** offering is being received throughout the Advent and Christmas seasons. Gifts to this offering provide funds for **Fourth Church programs** that support our neighbors and congregation; for **Chicago Lights**, as it extends kindness and love to those who are most vulnerable; for **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance**; and for the **Presbyterian Church (USA) Joy Offering.** You can make a gift to "Light Up a Life" by indicating that designation (*when giving online via Venmo or the church website: www.fourthchurch.org/give*) or on the memo line of a check payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church. Those worshipping in the Sanctuary can also use the offering envelopes found in the pew racks.

Advent and Christmas worship

We have some special services on the calendar in the coming days that we hope you will put on yours! **This evening our Festival of Advent Lessons and Music service** will take place at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. ✨ Next Sunday morning, December 17 the **Cookies-and-Cocoa reception** will take place during Coffee Hour, and the **Christmas Cantata**, by Daniel Pinkham, will be part of the 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. services. ✨ For those for whom Christmas celebrations are made difficult by loss, grief, or loneliness, a **"Longest Night" Service** will be held on Wednesday, December 20 at 6:30 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel, preceded by a **labyrinth walk** in Anderson Hall. ✨ On the **morning of Sunday, December 24 we will have just one worship service: at 10:00 a.m. (which will also be livestreamed).** Then that afternoon and evening we will gather for the **Christmas Eve Children's Pageant** at 4:00 p.m.; **Family Service** at 6:00 p.m., and **Lessons and Carols** at 8:00 p.m. (*also livestreamed*) and 10:00 p.m. ✨ On **Christmas morning** we will gather again at 10:00 a.m. (*in person only*). ✨ On **Sunday, December 31**, we will worship at 10:00 a.m. in the morning (*also livestreamed*) and at 6:30 p.m. for a candlelit **New Year's Eve Taizé service (in person only).** ✨ We will gather next Sunday, December 17 for a seasonally festive The Gathering: Communion at 2:00 p.m. and then will take a brief pause for two weeks. **We will not worship at 2:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve or New Year's Eve** but will resume in the new year, on Sunday, January 7.

Get Connected

Books by Women will discuss *The Bandit Queens: A Novel* by Parini Shroff this Tuesday, December 12 at 6:00 p.m. in the Bumpus Room. ✨ **Benevolent Guild**, which creates sewn and crafted items for those in need, meets this Wednesday, December 13 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 5B. *No sewing experience is necessary.* ✨ The seasonal favorite, **A Tower Brass Christmas**, takes place this Saturday, December 16 at 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. No tickets are required, but a \$20 donation per person is suggested at the door. ✨ Next Sunday, December 17 at 11:00 a.m. in Borwell Dining Room and via Zoom, Loyola Museum of Art (LUMA) museum manager and curator Kyle Mathers will present a **program on the history of the crèche** and the James and Emilia Govan collection at LUMA that contains more than 500 nativity scenes, representing more than 100 countries. For the Zoom link, register at www.bit.ly/aecreche1223 ✨ **Women at Fourth will gather for a holiday party** on Tuesday, December 19 at 5:30 p.m. in the Manse. Register at www.bit.ly/waf1223 ✨ For **additional ways to connect** with one another and this congregation, whether in person or online, as well as for various **resources and opportunities**, watch **our website: fourthchurch.org**

Pastoral care and a listening presence

To **talk to a pastor** or **notify pastoral staff** of personal concerns, illnesses, or deaths, please email caringministries@fourthchurch.org; if the situation requires immediate attention, call the church at 312.787.4570. ✨ To **submit a prayer request** to Prayer Ministries, email caringministries@fourthchurch.org ✨ Our **Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being** facilitates **grief groups**. Email Sharon Crawford-Tucker (stucker@fourthchurch.org) to learn more. ✨ To **explore options for teletherapy or in-person conversations with a counselor**, visit www.reploglecenter.org or call the Replogle Center at 312.787.2729, ext. 2260. ✨ **For those facing life's challenges**, Stephen Ministers provide a listening presence. To talk with a Stephen Minister, please leave a confidential message at 312.573.3365.



Tom Are Jr. Interim Pastor
Lucy Forster-Smith Senior Associate Pastor
Associate Pastors
Nancy Benson-Nicol Caring Ministries and Spiritual Formation
Matt Helms Children, Family, and Welcoming Ministries
Joseph L. Morrow Evangelism and Community Engagement
Nanette Sawyer Discipleship and Small Group Ministry
Rocky Supinger Youth Ministry and Worship
Amy Pagliarella Parish Associate for Caring Ministries
John Buchanan Pastor Emeritus

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