



December 17, 2023

# The Gathering

## Communion at 2:00

**We Gather.**

### **Prelude**

#### **Song** "O Come, All Ye Faithful" (Hymnal 133)

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!

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*\*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** "Angels We Have Heard on High" (Hymnal 113)

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!

**\*Song** "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" (Hymnal 119)

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!"

**\*Peace**

*The peace of Christ be with you.*  
And also with you.

## We Hear.

### **The Christmas Story** Annette Mileski

## We Respond.

### **Offering** "In the Bleak Midwinter"

*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](http://www.fourthchurch.org/give)*

### **Song** (remain seated) "In the Bleak Midwinter" (Hymnal 144, verses 1 and 4)

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan;  
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

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.

### **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 "Blessed Be" (Raffi Cavoukian)

We Go.

### \*Song "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" (Hymnal 136)

#### *Refrain:*

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;  
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. (*Refrain*)

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. (*Refrain*)

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,  
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. (*Refrain*)

### \*Blessing

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## Worship Leaders

Rocky Supinger, Nancy Benson-Nicol, Annette Mileski

## The Music Today

Beena David, vocals; Bryan Doherty, bass; Amr Fahmy, piano; Neal Wehman, drums

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**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 17–23, 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](http://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](http://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 typically gather at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. However, please note that we will have **only one morning service on Sundays, December 24 and 31, and it will be at 10:00 a.m.** (and also livestreamed). After today, **the Gathering will take a break, resuming on Sunday, January 7.** ✨ 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](http://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](http://fourthchurch.org/sermons)) **by email** by subscribing at [www.bit.ly/fpcsermons](http://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](mailto:nbenson-nicol@fourthchurch.org)). (*On Wednesday, December 27 we will have Morning Prayer via Zoom only.*) ✨ Buchanan Chapel is open for **opportunity to walk the labyrinth** between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. this Wednesday and Thursday. ✨ A **Sacred Pause time of meditation** is offered virtually by our Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being at [facebook.com/reploglecenterforcounselingandwellbeing](https://facebook.com/reploglecenterforcounselingandwellbeing) on Tuesdays (7:45 a.m.) and Saturdays (8:30 a.m.).

## Advent reflections

**Daily Advent and Christmas devotions, based on favorite hymn texts of the season**, are available as a **resource for personal meditation and prayer**. We invite you to read them online ([www.fourthchurch.org/devotions](http://www.fourthchurch.org/devotions)), receive them in your inbox (*subscribe at* [www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions](http://www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions)), or share them via Facebook ([facebook.com/fourthchurch](https://facebook.com/fourthchurch)). ✨ Our **Advent and Christmas “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/rhythmwordemail](http://www.bit.ly/rhythmwordemail); you can also subscribe to our YouTube channel ([www.bit.ly/fpcvideos](http://www.bit.ly/fpcvideos))

## Exploring the Bible

**Men's Bible Study** meets via Zoom on Tuesday mornings at 7:30 a.m. For Zoom details, email Simon Crow ([scrow@fourthchurch.org](mailto:scrow@fourthchurch.org)). ✨ Matt Helms and Rocky Supinger invite you to tune in to their **“Bible Top Ten” podcast** ([www.fourthchurch.org/podcasts](http://www.fourthchurch.org/podcasts)). This lively, informative, and often amusing podcast explores the Bible through a rotating series of top ten lists.

## “Longest Night” Service

For those for whom Christmas celebrations are made difficult by loss, grief, or loneliness, this Wednesday, December 20, a **“Longest Night” Service** will be held at 6:30 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel, preceded by a **labyrinth walk** in Anderson Hall between 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. ✿ **Feelings of grief** over losses can be heightened at this time of year. **Expectations for the holidays** can be different from the realities. Such experiences need not be dealt with alone. Fourth Church’s **Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being** offers various resources and a supportive environment for reflecting on, exploring, and coping with such experiences. To learn how the Replogle Center can help, call the Center at 312.787.8425 or visit [www.reploglecenter.org](http://www.reploglecenter.org)

## Christmas Eve

On the **morning of Sunday, December 24 we will have just one worship service: at 10:00 a.m.** That service will also be livestreamed. ✿ That afternoon and evening we will gather for **four candlelight Christmas Eve services**: 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. ✿ For services on Christmas Eve, entry will be through the glass Loggia doors next to the courtyard on Michigan Avenue. **Seating will begin** at 3:15 p.m. for the Pageant; seating for the other three services will begin forty-five to thirty minutes prior to the start of the service. ✿ **Discounted parking** on the evening of Christmas Eve will be available at the 900 N. Michigan garage only, at the rate of \$9 for 6 hours (*and \$18 for up to 12 hours*).

## Christmas Day

On **Christmas morning** we will gather again at 10:00 a.m. (*in person only*). ✿ For those looking for an online option on Christmas Day, we invite you to view the Christmas Eve service from the evening before or any of our past offerings available on YouTube ([www.bit.ly/fpcvideos](http://www.bit.ly/fpcvideos)). We will also be sharing there a brief **Christmas “Rhythm and Word” video** time of scripture, music, and reflection that morning. ✿ **Christmas Day parking** validations for the 900 N. Michigan garage (*only*) will be available for \$20 and can be purchased in the Commons that morning prior to returning to the garage.

## New Year’s Eve

On **Sunday, December 31**, we will have **just one morning worship service, at 10:00 a.m.** (*also livestreamed*). We will then gather in our Sanctuary with neighbors and our friends from Holy Name Cathedral at 6:30 p.m. for a candlelit **New Year’s Eve Taizé service** (*in person only*). (*The 2:00 p.m. service will not be held on New Year’s Eve or Christmas Eve but will resume on January 7. Our schedule of two morning worship services will resume on January 7 as well.*)

## Open Sanctuary

Beginning this Monday, **the Fourth Church Sanctuary will be open on weekdays from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.** on those days when the church office is open. We look forward to welcoming to our space our guests, neighbors, visitors, tourists, and any who seek a midday place of rest, prayer, and beauty.



## Sharing Christmas joy

Our annual “**Light Up a Life**” provides 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 at [fourthchurch.org/give](http://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.

## Stay connected

For **ways to connect** with one another and this congregation as well as for **resources and opportunities**, watch **our website: [fourthchurch.org](http://fourthchurch.org)** ☼ To see all that is going on at Fourth Church, be sure to bookmark our **church calendar**, which is accessible from at **[fourthchurch.org/calendar](http://fourthchurch.org/calendar)** and from our website’s home page. ☼ We also invite you to **follow us** on YouTube ([www.bit.ly/fpcvideos](http://www.bit.ly/fpcvideos)), Facebook ([facebook.com/fourthchurch](http://facebook.com/fourthchurch)), and Instagram ([instagram.com/fourthchurch](http://instagram.com/fourthchurch)). ☼ For **snapshots of life at Fourth Church**, news, and updates, subscribe to our weekly newsletter at [ww.bit.ly/newsfromfpc](http://ww.bit.ly/newsfromfpc)

## Pastoral care and a listening presence and witness

To **talk to a pastor** or **notify pastoral staff** of personal concerns, illnesses, hospitalizations, or deaths, email [caringministries@fourthchurch.org](mailto:caringministries@fourthchurch.org); if the situation 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, email [caringministries@fourthchurch.org](mailto:caringministries@fourthchurch.org) ☼ **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.



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**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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