

December 1, 2024



The Gathering

Communion at 2:00

We Gather.

Gathering Music

Song "Prepare the Way of the Lord" (Hymnal 95)

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

Psalter Psalm 46

**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** "Soon and Very Soon" (Hymnal 384)

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 ...

No more dying there ...

Soon and very soon ...

***Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Song "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (Hymnal 88, vv. 1 and 7)

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, 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.

We Hear.

Scripture Reading Luke 1:5–19

Sermon Rocky Supinger

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 online at fourthchurch.org/give or via Venmo (@Fourth-Church)

Song “Emmanuel” (Norman Hutchins)

Communion

Communion is 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 Song “Be Not Afraid” (Bob Dufford)

***Song** "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"

I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus;
no turning back, no turning back.

Though none go with me, still I will follow ...
(no turning back, no turning back.)

The world behind me, the cross before me ...
(no turning back, no turning back.)

***Blessing**

Worship Leader

Rocky Supinger

The Music Today

Voices of Light; Cicely Perry, Director

Ensemble: Beena David, vocals; Bryan Doherty, bass; Amr Fahmy, piano; Neal Wehman, 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 belong here!

This may be your first time in worship at Fourth Presbyterian Church, or perhaps you worship here so often you call Fourth Church “home”; in either case, **we are grateful for your presence** today. Inspired by the radical hospitality of Jesus Christ, we welcome everyone—without exception—into the life of this congregation. No matter where you may be in your faith journey, no matter what questions or burdens you may bring to this place, we take seriously that God loves everyone, so you belong here.

Every Sunday we read the old biblical stories and sing hymns (some of which our grandparents sang), while also engaging the world we live in this minute through liturgy, prayers, and sermons. **By connecting the story of our lives to the story of Christ’s life**, we discover hope and even joy, and are inspired to reflect the light of Christ to the city.

If you are new to us, take a moment to speak to one of our pastors.

We have many programs to expand your spirit and enrich your life. We would love to tell you more. **Give us a try; soon you too might be calling Fourth Church “home.”**

Worshipping with Fourth Church

Each Sunday we gather to worship in person at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

We also livestream the 9:30 a.m. service, which can be viewed at bit.ly/fpcvideos

Entering the building

A half hour prior to each service the doors open for worship, with 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*) as well as at 126 E. Chestnut—where the reception desk is located—and at 115 E. Delaware.

Sound

- Worship can be heard through “T” or “T-coil” settings of hearing aids.
- Please silence electronic devices during worship.

Parking

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*) for \$10 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Validation tickets for the garages must be picked up from ushers.

Ensure you receive the latest updates, stories, and snapshots 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 Here

We are grateful to be worshiping with you today and would welcome knowing you are here. Please take a moment to add your name to the pads in the pews, passing the pads to the center of the row and then back again so worshipers have opportunity to greet one another by name following worship. Please also indicate if your contact information has changed.

Bible Study

Women's Horizons Bible Study

Women's *Horizons* Bible Study, which gathers via Zoom twice a month at 12:00 and 6:30 p.m., will gather on Wednesday, December 11. For details, email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org).

Men's Bible Study

Men's Bible Study, which focuses on scripture readings from either the past week's worship service or the upcoming Sunday, meets weekly on Tuesdays at 7:30 a.m. via Zoom. For details, email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org).

"Bible Top Ten" podcast

Matt Helms and Rocky Supinger invite you to tune in to their "Bible Top Ten" podcast at fourthchurch.org/podcasts and on multiple podcast platforms as they explore the Bible through a rotating series of top ten lists.

Men's Clothing Needed

The Chicago Lights Social Service Center is in need of new or gently used men's clothing, of all types and sizes, as well as men's shoes. Items can be dropped off at the church reception desk (enter at 126 E. Chestnut) between 8:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

Caring for One Another

Prayer requests and pastoral care

If you would like to talk to a pastor or notify pastoral staff of personal concerns, illnesses, hospitalizations, or deaths, please email Gloria Fleming (gffleming@fourthchurch.org). If the situation requires immediate attention, please call the church at 312.787.4570 to be connected to the Minister on Call.

Also email Gloria if you would like to submit a prayer request to our Deacon and Morning Prayer Ministries.

Stephen Ministry

For those facing life's challenges, Stephen Ministers provide a listening presence. To talk with a Stephen Minister, leave a confidential message at 312.573.3365.

Counseling, well-being, and grief groups

To explore options for counseling and well-being—and to learn more about four-week grief groups offered via Zoom—contact our Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being at 312.787.8425 or visit reploglecenter.org

Joining the Fourth Church Family

Are you interested in learning more about or becoming a member of Fourth Church? Please join us for a one-session Inquirers' Class via Zoom on Wednesday, January 8 at 6:30 p.m. (register at bit.ly/inquirers12025) or in person on Sunday, February 2 at 12:15 p.m. (register at bit.ly/inquirers22025). If you would like more information, please contact Matt Helms (mhelms@fourthchurch.org; 312.573.3362). He would welcome opportunity to get to know you!

Advent and Christmas

Advent Lessons and Music tonight!

As we begin the season of Advent today, we look forward to coming together this evening—Sunday, December 1 at 6:30 p.m.—for a favorite tradition of the season: the Festival of Advent Lessons and Music. Held in the Sanctuary, this special service will also be livestreamed.

Advent reflections

Daily Advent devotions written by Fourth Church members and staff are available for you as a resource for your personal meditation and prayer in this season.

We invite you to receive them in your inbox (subscribe at bit.ly/fpcdevotions if you don't already receive our devotions), read them online (fourthchurch.org/devotions), or share them via Facebook (facebook.com/fourthchurch) or Instagram (instagram.com/fourthchurch)

Christmas Wishes for Tutoring Students

As part of our Christmas Wishes project to provide gifts for Chicago Lights Tutoring students, we are in need of gift cards by this Wednesday, December 4.

We are collecting gift cards (up to \$25) to Target, Amazon, Walmart, Starbucks, and McDonald's. They can be dropped off at the church (attention: Simon Crow), with the amount designated on the card(s).

We are also collecting monetary contributions for the purchase of books. Please note "Christmas Wishes" in the designation of an online gift at fourthchurch.org/give or in the memo line of a check payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church.

Christmas Flowers

We invite you to remember or honor a loved one with a contribution toward this year's Christmas flowers, wreaths, and garlands that will decorate the Sanctuary. A list of those individuals remembered and honored will be printed in the Christmas bulletin. Contributions can be made at bit.ly/fpcgift and must be received by Sunday, December 8 for names to appear in the bulletin.

Advent "Rhythm and Word" videos

On Wednesdays in Advent we will release a brief video of music, scripture, and prayer for your reflection in this season. Sign up at bit.ly/rhythmandword to have them sent to your inbox or subscribe to our YouTube channel (bit.ly/fpcvideos) to receive notice of our new videos

Advent and Christmas worship

In addition to tonight's Festival of Advent Lessons and Music (*see left*), we have some special services we hope you will put on your calendar!

The "Longest Night" Service, for those for whom Christmas celebrations are made difficult by loss, grief, or loneliness, will be held on Friday, December 20 at 6:30 p.m. Buchanan Chapel.

This year's Christmas Cantata, Bach's *Magnificat*, presented by the Morning Choir and orchestra members, will be part of the Sunday morning services on December 22.

On Tuesday, December 24, we will gather for four candlelight Christmas Eve services: the 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 Wednesday, December 25, we will gather at 10:00 a.m. (in person only) for Christmas worship.

Christmas with Tower Brass

Join us Saturday, December 21 at 5:00 p.m. for a Christmas with Tower Brass concert! For a list of holiday concerts taking place at Fourth Church this season, see fourthchurch.org/concerts

Light Up a Life

Our "Light Up a Life" offering 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; and for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Gifts can be made using the envelopes in the pew racks or by indicating "Light Up a Life" when giving online at fourthchurch.org/give

Fellowship Opportunities

Knitting and Crocheting

Knitting and Crocheting, which supplies partners in the city with handcrafted items for warmth and comfort, meets in person on Tuesday, December 3 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 5B.

Benevolent Guild

Benevolent Guild meets Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. in Room 5B to create sewn and crafted items for those in need. Sewing experience is not necessary.

Faces at the Manger

Next Sunday, December 8, at 11:00 a.m. in Borwell Dining Room and via Zoom, members of the Adult Education Council will read passages from the book *Faces at the Manger* by J. Barrie Shepherd, portraying characters present at Jesus' birth. We are delighted that poet, author, and pastor J. Barrie Shepherd will be joining us via Zoom! Register at bit.ly/faces122024

Books by Women

The Books by Women book group will discuss *Almond* by Won-Pyung Sohn on Tuesday, December 10 at 6:00 p.m. in the Bumpus Room.

Women at Fourth holiday celebration

"La La Ladies: A Women at Fourth Holiday Celebration" will be held in the Manse on Thursday, December 12 at 5:30 p.m. For details and to RSVP, register at bit.ly/waf122024

Cookies-and-Cocoa Volunteers Needed

On Sunday morning, December 15 a favorite annual tradition hosted by Women at Fourth, "Cookies and Cocoa," will be part of our Coffee Hour. In preparation, bakers are needed to make a minimum of two dozen holiday cookies each. Volunteers to set up and serve that day are also needed. If you can help with baking, setting up, or serving or would like to learn more, contact Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org).

Visiting Cuba

Join us in traveling to Cuba in March 2025, when we will visit the First Presbyterian Church of Havana. The deadline for registering for this March 10–17 trip is Sunday, December 8. Register at bit.ly/cubatrip2025; for details, contact Joe Morrow (jmorrow@fourthchurch.org).



Tom Are Jr. Interim Pastor
Rocky Supinger 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
Amy Pagliarella Parish Associate for Caring Ministries
John Buchanan Pastor Emeritus

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