

December 8, 2024



The Gathering

Communion at 2:00

We Gather.

Gathering Music

Song "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear" (Hymnal 123, vv. 1 and 4)

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all-gracious King":
the world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

And you, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,
look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing:
O, rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing.

Psalter Selections from Psalm 27

**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** "O Come, All Ye Faithful" (Hymnal 133, vv. 1, 3, and 4)

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!

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!

***Peace**

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

Song "Be Still My Soul" (Hymnal 819, vv. 1 and 3)

Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side.
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.
Leave to thy God to order and provide,
who through all changes faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul: thy best, thy heavenly Friend
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on
when we shall be forever with the Lord;
when disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

We Hear.

Scripture Reading Luke 1:26–38

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 “Take My Life and Let It Be” (Hymnal 697, vv 1, 3, and 6)

Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise; let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my voice and let me sing always, only, for my King;
take my lips and let them be
filled with messages from thee, filled with messages from thee.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself and I will be
ever, only, all for thee, ever, only, all for thee.

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 “O Holy Night” (Adolphe Adam)

***Song** “We Are Marching in the Light of God” (Hymnal 853)

We are marching in the light of God;
we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching in the light of God;
we are marching in the light of God.

We are dancing . . .

We are praying . . .

We are singing . . .

***Blessing**

Worship Leader

Rocky Supinger

The Music Today

Ensemble: Beena David, vocals; Tim Seisser, 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.

Acknowledgments: “Be Still My Soul” music arr. © 1933, ren. 1961 Presbyterian Board of Christian Education (admin. Westminster John Knox Press). “We Are Marching in the Light of God” English trans. © 1984 Utryck (admin. Walton Music Corp); music arr. © 1984 Utryck (admin. Walton Music Corp.). OneLicense.net. License A-712340. All rights reserved. Used by permission.



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 worshipping 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 this 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.

Wednesday Morning Prayer

On Wednesdays we gather for Morning Prayer via Zoom at 9:30 a.m. Email Nancy Benson-Nicol (nbenson-nicol@fourthchurch.org) for details.

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 and well-being

To explore options for counseling and well-being, contact our Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being (312.787.8425; visit reploglecenter.org).

Grief groups

Our Replogle Center also facilitates four-week grief groups via Zoom. To learn more, contact the group facilitator, Sharon Crawford-Tucker (stucker@fourthchurch.org; 312.787.8425)

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

Christmas Flowers deadline today

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 the end of today, Sunday, December 8 for names to appear in the bulletin.

Cookies-and-Cocoa volunteers needed

Next Sunday morning, December 15 Women at Fourth will host "Cookies and Cocoa" during 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).

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)

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

Christmas with Tower Brass

Join us Saturday, December 21 at 5:00 p.m. for the music of the season when our brass octet presents their festive "Christmas with Tower Brass" concert! For holiday concert details, see fourthchurch.org/concerts

Christmas Cantata: Bach's *Magnificat*

The magnificent strains of Bach's *Magnificat*—a musical setting of Mary's song, as recorded in Luke 1:46–55—will be presented by the Morning Choir and members of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago during worship on Sunday morning, December 22 at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Christmas worship

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. A time of fellowship and refreshments will take place beforehand, at 5:30 p.m. in the Manse.

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.

One service on Sunday, December 29

On the First Sunday of Christmas, December 29, we will gather for just one worship service: at 10:00 a.m. The service will also be livestreamed.

New Year's Eve Taizé service

On Tuesday, December 31 we invite you to join us, our neighbors, and our friends from Holy Name Cathedral at 6:30 p.m. in our Sanctuary for a candlelit New Year's Eve Taizé service (in person only), with music, prayer, and meditative pause for reflection on the turning of the year. 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

Fellowship Opportunities

Books by Women

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

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.

Women at Fourth holiday celebration

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

Seasonal Adult Education classes

Next Sunday, December 15 John Clum will lead us in a discussion of *A Christmas Carol* and its relationship to Dickens’ view of Christianity. We will meet at 11:00 a.m. in Borwell Dining Room and via Zoom (register at bit.ly/aedickens122024).

On Sunday, December 22 at 11:00 a.m. we will gather for a sing-along of Christmas carols as Kat Evans shares with us their origins. This class will meet in person only in Borwell Dining Room.

Chicago Exchange Japanese Fellowship

All are invited to a time of fellowship with Chicago’s Japanese community next Sunday, December 15 at 11:00 a.m. in the Manse.

Visit Cuba with Us

Join us in traveling to Cuba in March 2025, when we will visit the First Presbyterian Church of Havana, continuing our twenty-four-year partnership with our sister church. The deadline for registering for this March 10–17 trip has been extended to Friday, December 20. Register online at bit.ly/cubatrip2025; for details, contact Joe Morrow (jmorrow@fourthchurch.org).

Visit Cuba with Us

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



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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