

December 15, 2024



# The Gathering

Communion at 2:00

**We Gather.**

## Gathering Music

**Song** "The First Noel" (Hymnal 147, vv. 1 and 6)

The first Nowell the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,  
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

*Refrain:*  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
born is the King of Israel.

Then let us all with one accord  
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,  
and with his blood our life hath bought. (*Refrain*)

**Psalter** . . . . . Psalm 118:1–9, 14

*\*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!

**\*Peace**

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

**Song** "Still, Still, Still"

Still, still, still One can hear the fall - ing snow. For  
Dream, dream, dream of the joy - ous day to come. While

all is hushed the world is sleep - ing, Ho - ly star its vi - gil keep - ing;  
guard - ian an - gels with - out num - ber watch you as you sweet - ly slum - ber

Still, still, still One can hear the fall - ing snow.  
Dream, dream, dream of the joy - ous day to come.

**We Hear.**

**Scripture Reading** . . . . . Luke 1:39-45

**Sermon** . . . . . Matt Helms

## 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](http://fourthchurch.org/give) or via Venmo (@Fourth-Church)*

## Song "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen"

God rest ye merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay.  
Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas Day  
to save us all from Satan's pow'r when we were gone astray.

*Refrain:*

O tidings of comfort and joy,  
comfort and joy.  
O tidings of comfort and joy.

Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place,  
and with true love and brotherhood each other now embrace;  
this holy tide of Christmas all other doth deface. *[Refrain]*

## 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 "Hail, O Queen" (as sung by Damascus Worship)

**\*Song** "Joy to the World" (Hymnal 266)

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;  
let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.

**\*Blessing**

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**Worship Leader**

Matt Helms

**The Music Today**

Ensemble: 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.

**Acknowledgments:** "Angels We Have Heard on High" music © 1937, ren. 1965 H. Augustine Smith Jr. (admin. Fleming H. Revell Company, a div. of Baker Publishing Group). 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. and livestream the 9:30 a.m. service at [bit.ly/fpcvideos](https://bit.ly/fpcvideos) (*On Sunday, December 29 we will worship at 10:00 a.m. only.*)

### 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](https://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

### 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](mailto:scrow@fourthchurch.org)).

### Women's Horizons Bible Study

Women's *Horizons* Bible Study, which gathers via Zoom at 12:00 and 6:30 p.m., will next meet on Wednesday, January 8. The theme this year is "Let Justice Roll Down: God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation." For details, email Simon Crow ([scrow@fourthchurch.org](mailto: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](http://fourthchurch.org/podcasts) and on multiple podcast platforms as they explore the Bible through a rotating series of top ten lists.

## 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](https://bit.ly/inquirers12025)) or in person on Sunday, February 2 at 12:15 p.m. (register at [bit.ly/inquirers22025](https://bit.ly/inquirers22025)). For more information, contact Matt Helms ([mhelms@fourthchurch.org](mailto:mhelms@fourthchurch.org)).

## 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 ([gfleming@fourthchurch.org](mailto:gfleming@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](mailto:nbenson-nicol@fourthchurch.org)) for details. (Morning Prayer will not be held on Christmas Day or New Year's Day.)

### 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

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)

## 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.

## Advent and Christmas

### “Longest Night” service

Our “Longest Night” service—also known as a “Blue Christmas” service—provides a worship opportunity for those for whom Christmas celebrations are made difficult by loss, grief, or loneliness.

The service, which will take place this Friday, December 20 at 6:30 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel (in person only)—will be preceded by a time of fellowship at 5:30 p.m. in the Manse.

### 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](http://fourthchurch.org/concerts)

### Christmas Cantata: Bach’s *Magnificat*

Next Sunday morning, December 22 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 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. worship.

### Christmas carols and their origins

Join Kat Evans next Sunday, December 22 for a Christmas carol sing-along at 11:00 a.m. in Borwell Dining Room as she shares with us the history and origins of our favorite carols.

### Christmas Eve worship

On Tuesday, December 24, we will gather for four candlelight Christmas Eve services:

4:00 p.m. Children’s Pageant

6:00 p.m. Family Service

8:00 p.m. Lessons and Carols (also livestreamed)

10:00 p.m. Lessons and Carols

### Christmas Day worship

On Wednesday, December 25, we will gather at 10:00 a.m. (in person only) for Christmas worship.

### Parking on Christmas Eve and Day

Christmas Pageant and Christmas Day parking validations for the 900 N. Michigan garage will be available for \$20 (cash only) outside Borwell Dining Room immediately before or after those two services. Apps such as [parking.com](http://parking.com) and [spothero](http://spothero.com) may have less expensive options in the neighborhood available for advance reservation.

Vehicles entering the 900 N. Michigan garage after 5:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve will be able to park (with a free validation ticket from the church) at the rate of \$9 for 6 hours (\$18 for up to 12 hours).

### 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.

### Advent and Christmas reflections

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

We invite you to receive them in your inbox (subscribe at [bit.ly/fpcdevotions](http://bit.ly/fpcdevotions)), read them online ([fourthchurch.org/devotions](http://fourthchurch.org/devotions)), or share them via Facebook ([facebook.com/fourthchurch](http://facebook.com/fourthchurch)) or Instagram ([instagram.com/fourthchurch](http://instagram.com/fourthchurch))

### Advent “Rhythm and Word” videos

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



## Sharing Christmas Joy

### Books for Christmas Wishes

We still need monetary contributions toward the purchase of books for our “Christmas Wishes” gifts for Chicago Lights Tutoring students. To give, please note “Christmas Wishes” in the designation when giving at [fourthchurch.org/give](http://fourthchurch.org/give) or in the memo line of a check payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church.

### 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](http://fourthchurch.org/give)

## Visit Cuba with Us

This Friday, December 20 is the last day to sign up to join us in traveling to Cuba in March 2025. We will be visiting the First Presbyterian Church of Havana on March 10–17 as we continue our twenty-four-year partnership with our sister church. Register at [bit.ly/cubatrip2025](http://bit.ly/cubatrip2025); for details, email Joe Morrow ([jmorrow@fourthchurch.org](mailto:jmorrow@fourthchurch.org)).

## Gala of Hope 2025

The 2025 Chicago Lights Gala of Hope will be held on Friday, March 7 at the Old Post Office. See [chicagolights.org/events](http://chicagolights.org/events) for tickets and ways to contribute, or email Katy Frey Bever ([kbever@fourthchurch.org](mailto:kbever@fourthchurch.org)) for more details.



**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

**Fourth Presbyterian Church** • 126 E. Chestnut Street, Chicago, IL 60611.2014 • 312.787.4570 • [www.fourthchurch.org](http://www.fourthchurch.org)

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