

December 22, 2024



The Gathering

Communion at 2:00

We Gather.

Gathering Music

Song "Away in a Manger" (Hymnal 115, vv. 1 and 3)

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

Psalter Psalm 91

**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** "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.

Song "What Child Is This?" (Hymnal 145, vv. 1 and 3)

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high. The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

We Respond.

Scripture Reading Luke 1:46–56

Sermon Rocky Supinger

We Hear.

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 “In the Bleak Midwinter” (Hymnal 144, vv. 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 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 “Blessed Be” (Raffi Cavoukian)

***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**

Worship Leader

Rocky Supinger

The Music Today

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.

Acknowledgments: "Go Tell It on the Mountain" music harm. © 1989 Melva Wilson Costen. 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

On Sundays we worship at 9:30 (also livestreamed at bit.ly/fpcvideos) and 11:00 a.m. (*Next Sunday, December 29 we will worship at 10:00 a.m. only; that service will be livestreamed as well.*)

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

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).

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).

"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.

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). For more information, contact Matt Helms (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). 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 typically gather for Morning Prayer via Zoom at 9:30 a.m. Email Nancy Benson-Nicol (nbenson-nicol@fourthchurch.org) for details.

This week and next, Morning Prayer will not be held—on either Christmas Day or New Year's Day—but will resume on Wednesday, January 8.

Stephen Ministry

For those facing life's challenges, Stephen Ministers provide a one-to-one listening presence. To learn more about this resource, contact Nancy Benson-Nicol (nbenson-nicol@fourthchurch.org) or leave a confidential message for a Stephen Minister 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 reploglecenter.org

Christmas with Fourth Church

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

Seating will begin at 3:00 p.m. for the Pageant; seating for the other three services will begin forty-five to thirty minutes prior to the start of each service.

There will not be nursery care on Christmas Eve or Day. As with our Sunday services, children are invited to be with their parents in worship.

Christmas Day worship

We invite you to join us in the Sanctuary on Christmas morning for a joy-filled service of worship at 10:00 a.m.

While we will not be livestreaming the Christmas Day service, we encourage those looking for an online option on Christmas Day to view the video of the Christmas Eve service from the night before or any of our past seasonal offerings available on YouTube (bit.ly/fpcvideos).

We will also be sharing there on Christmas morning a brief Christmas "Rhythm and Word" video, offering scripture, music, and reflection for the day.

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 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).

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, as it cares for communities affected by crises and catastrophic events. 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

Christmas reflections

Daily 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), read them online (fourthchurch.org/devotions), or share them via Facebook (facebook.com/fourthchurch) or Instagram (instagram.com/fourthchurch)

"Rhythm and Word" videos

On Wednesdays we release a brief video of music, scripture, and prayer for your reflection. 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 when we post the new videos.

One Service on 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

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.

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 for tickets and ways to contribute, or email Katy Frey Bever (kbever@fourthchurch.org) for more details.

Pastor Nominating Committee

The Pastor Nominating Committee is at work searching for a candidate for pastor to recommend to the congregation. To suggest possible candidates, share what you hope the PNC will consider in the search and discernment process, or ask questions, email pnc@fourthchurch.org

Staying Connected

Each of us has gifts and talents to share with our community. We invite you to explore volunteer opportunities matching your interests at bit.ly/fpcvolunteers or contact Robert Crouch (rcrouch@fourthchurch.org).

Staying Connected

We invite you to take advantage of the many opportunities for learning, serving, and community building at Fourth Church. You can find details about them and additional ways to connect with one another and this congregation, whether in person or online, on our website: fourthchurch.org, where you will also discover various resources. Please do take some time to explore any of the opportunities that interest you—or even just make you curious.

To see all that is going on at Fourth Church, we encourage you to bookmark our online church calendar, which is accessible from our website's home page and at fourthchurch.org/calendar

We also invite you to follow us on YouTube (bit.ly/fpcvideos), Facebook (facebook.com/fourthchurch), and Instagram (instagram.com/fourthchurch).

Look for information, updates, and snapshots of life at Fourth Church in our weekly email newsletter, to which you can subscribe at bit.ly/newsfromfpc



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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