



Prelude

- Two Carol Settings Keith Chapman
 - Infant Holy, Infant Lowly
 - Away in a Manger
- Noel in G Major Louis Daquin

***Opening Responses**

One: *Do not be afraid, for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy.*
All: **To us is born this day in the city of David a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord.**
One: *This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in cloth and lying in a manger.*
All: **Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace!**
One: *Let us go now to Bethlehem.*

**Please rise in body or spirit.*

***Carol 133.** “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

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!

Lighting of the Christ Candle

One: *The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.*

All: **Glory to God in the highest!**

One: *For a child has been born to us, a Son has been given to us.*

All: **Glory to God in the highest!**

—*The candle is lit*—

One: *And the Word became flesh and lived among us.*

All: **Glory to God in the highest!**

Anthem :: “In the Bleak Midwinter” Harold Darke

*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.
Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain; heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes
to reign: in the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed the Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ.
Angels and archangels may have gathered there; cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
but his mother only, in her maiden bliss, worshiped the beloved with a kiss.
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.*

A Time with Children Matt Helms

***Carol 113** “Angels We Have Heard on High”

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!

The Story of Jesus’ Birth Luke 2:1–20

***Carol 115** “Away in a Manger”

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.
The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky, and stay by my side until morning is nigh.
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.

Homily Tom Are Jr.

***Carol 119** “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

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!”

Prayer

Offering

Offertory Anthem :: “Candlelight Carol” John Rutter

How do you capture the wind on the water? How do you count all the stars in the sky? How can you measure the love of a mother? Or how can you write down a baby’s first cry? Candlelight, angel light, firelight and star-glow shine on his cradle ’til breaking of dawn. Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo! Angels are singing “The Christ child is born.” Shepherds and wise men will kneel and adore him. Seraphim ’round him, their vigil will keep. Nations proclaim him their Lord and their savior. But Mary will hold him and sing him to sleep. Find him in Bethlehem laid in a manger. Christ our redeemer, asleep in the hay. Godhead incarnate and hope of salvation: a child with his mother that first Christmas Day.

The Light Shines John 1:1-5

Spreading the Light “Silent Night”

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright 'round yon virgin mother and child!

Holy Infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace; sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight; glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'nly hosts sing “Alleluia: Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born!”

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth; Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light; with the angels let us sing
Alleluia to our King: Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born.

Sentences of Light

***Carol 134** “Joy to the World”

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.

***Benediction**

Postlude :: In Dulci Jubilo Johann Sebastian Bach

***Gifts supporting Christmastime Sanctuary adornments have
been made in memory and in honor of family, friends, and loved ones.***

In Memory of

Mary Shawn Addington
Norman K. Anderson
Bill and Ruth Andrews
Mr. and Mrs. O.E. Banker
Henry and Eleanore Bates
James P. Baughman
Richard Beilfus
Beloved Pets Blackberry
and Mistletoe
Vlasta Beranek
Jim L. Blanco
Catherine and William Boggs
Mary E. Bolton
Allan and Florence Book
John H. Boyle
Carl Bridges and
Lucille Stone Bridges
Eleanor T. and Colver R. Briggs
Rev. and Mathilda Broders
Carolyn Sue Buchanan
Robert E. and
Blanche M. Buchanan
Steve Bumpus
Marc and Frances Burr
Cedric Charles Carter
Chester and Lillie Stean Carter
Stacy Hedges Champagne
Zola Ruth Chieppa
Grady M. Chronister
Catherine and Hal Clark
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David and Patricia Clyde
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John Conlon
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Chet Currier
Marilyn and Roy D'Aleo
Marilyn Day
Cloyd and Una DeFreitas
Shirley Gleason Dillon
Kenneth and Marjorie Dusenberry
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Helmuth and Tallie Kohler
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Dannen Latherow
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Jerry and Grace McFarlane
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and Denis Rahilly
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The Ostfeld Family
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Hildur Satre Brees
Fred and Emily Schwartz
George J. Scoulas
Miriam Jane Sere
Joseph and Barbara Shanahan
Joseph Sr. and Catherine
Shanahan
NK and Swadesh Sharma

Joyce Sigmon
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Eric K. Wicks
Roy and Rosemary Winkler
Edward V. and Anna Wosylus
Stuart G. Wysham
and Joan B. Wysham
Frances M. Youngwirth
Janet Zaleski

In Honor of

Kristin and Erik Anderson
Katherine Bennett
Jay Brees
Ally Capone
Fourth Church Meals Ministry
Fourth Church Morning Choir
Fourth Church Stephen Ministers
Pete and Caroline Giers
Beth Hickman
Liam Haldor and
Brooks Prawer Hofteig
Clayton Robert Hofteig
Josephine Horsman
Dorothee Knapp
Lydia S. Olson
Owen, Anne, Livia Satre
John Sherer
Sue Thompson

Christmas blessings to you!



We are delighted to be celebrating with you this Christmas Eve! As our Advent hymn of *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* joyfully transitions to *“O Come, Let Us Adore Him,”* we embrace together the promise that has come to life: *God with us. Inspired by the radical hospitality of the one born in the manger, we welcome everyone, without exception, into the life of this congregation. We invite you to join us on the journey 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. This season and always may you know and rejoice in the abiding presence of God with you. Merry Christmas!*

Christmas Eve

This evening our candlelight Christmas Eve celebrations will continue with our **Lessons and Carols** services at 8:00 p.m. (*which will be livestreamed*) and at 10:00 p.m. ✨ **Discounted parking** tonight is only available at the 900 N. Michigan garage, at the rate of \$9 for 6 hours (*and \$18 for up to 12 hours*) for cars entering the garage after 5:00 p.m. and when using a green validation ticket picked up from one of the ushers when exiting the Sanctuary. ✨ There is **no nursery care** on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. As on Sundays, children are invited to be with their parents in worship.

Christmas Day

We invite you to join us again tomorrow when we gather on **Christmas morning** for a joy-filled service of worship at 10:00 a.m. ✨ Discounted **Christmas Day parking** will be available only at the 900 N. Michigan garage and will cost \$20. Those parking validations can be purchased (cash only) in the Fourth Church Commons tomorrow morning prior to returning to the garage after worship. ✨ While we will not be livestreaming the Christmas Day service, we encourage those looking for an **online option on Christmas Day** to view the Christmas Eve service from 8:00 tonight or any of our past seasonal offerings available on YouTube (bit.ly/fpcvideos). We will also be sharing there tomorrow morning a brief **Christmas “Rhythm and Word” video**, offering scripture, music, and a reflection for Christmas Day.

Sharing Christmas joy

Our annual **“Light Up a Life” offering** provides funds for **Fourth Church programs** that support our neighbors and congregation; for **Chicago Lights**, our nonprofit community outreach arm, as their Social Service Center, Tutoring, and Urban Farm programs build brighter futures for Chicago’s youth and adults through supportive relationships and life-changing programs; and for **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance**, as it cares for communities affected by crises and catastrophic events. You can make a gift to this offering by using the envelopes found in the pew racks; by indicating that designation when giving via Venmo or the church website at fourthchurch.org/give; or by writing “Light Up a Life” on the memo line of a check made payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church.

First Sunday of Christmas

We will gather again for worship this **Sunday, December 29 at 10:00 a.m.**, both in person and via livestream. *(There will be just one worship service that day.)* ✨ **Nursery care** will be available on Sunday, but **Sunday school** will be on break for the next two weekends, resuming on Sunday, January 12.

Christmas reflections

Daily Christmas devotions, written by Fourth Church members and staff, are available as a resource for **personal meditation and prayer**. We invite you to receive them in your inbox (*subscribe online at bit.ly/fpcdevotions*), read them online (*fourthchurch.org/devotions*), or share them via Facebook (*facebook.com/fourthchurch*) or Instagram (*instagram.com/fourthchurch*). ✨ Our **“Rhythm and Word” video series** offers ten minutes of midweek music, scripture, and prayer for viewing at home. The next video will be released on **Christmas Day** at 9:00 a.m. on YouTube. On January 1 we will return to releasing the videos on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. Sign up at bit.ly/rhythmandwordemail to receive them by email; you can also subscribe to our YouTube channel: bit.ly/fpcvideos ✨ Matt Helms and Rocky Supinger invite you to tune in to their **“Bible Top Ten” podcast** (*fourthchurch.org/podcasts*). This lively, informative, and often amusing podcast explores the Bible through a rotating series of top ten lists, with past topics including lesser-known figures of Advent and stories of waiting.

When the season isn't easy

Feelings of grief over losses can be heightened at this time of year. **Expectations for the holidays** can be different from the realities. The season can be lonely, and the turning of the year can be both challenging and an opportunity when we seek someone to walk alongside us in embracing change and opportunity. Fourth Church's **Reprogle 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 Reprogle Center can help, call the Center at 312.787.8425 or visit reproglecenter.org

Pastoral care and a listening presence and witness

To **talk to a pastor** or **notify pastoral staff** of personal concerns, illnesses, hospitalizations, or deaths, please email Gloria Fleming (gflaming@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. ✨ For **those facing life's challenges**, Stephen Ministers provide a 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.

New Year's Eve

At the turning of the year, on Tuesday, December 31, we will 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*). This Taizé service offers moving music, space for prayer, and meditative pause for reflecting on the year past and looking ahead to the year to come.

Worshipping with us in person

Worship can be heard through “T” or “T-coil” settings of hearing aids. ✨ During worship please silence **electronic devices**. ✨ If you like to join us for **in-person worship**, we typically gather at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m., although as noted on page 8, we will have just one service this Sunday, December 29, at 10:00 a.m.

Worshipping with 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, this coming **Sunday, December 29, we will be streaming the 10:00 a.m. service** on our YouTube channel (*bit.ly/fpcvideos*), where it can be viewed any time after the service begins. (*For tips on how to watch—from the beginning—a service that is already in progress, see fourthchurch.org/watch-from-the-beginning*) We will also be streaming our **8:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols service** tonight. **When our regular Sunday schedule resumes on January 5**, we will return to livestreaming our 9:30 a.m. service. ✨ **Those without Internet access** are invited to listen via phone by calling 888.916.9166 at the time of the livestreamed service.

Worship podcasts and sermon text

During the week the Sunday morning **service and sermon is 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*) **by email** by subscribing at bit.ly/fpcsermons.

Prayer and meditation

Our weekly **Morning Prayer via Zoom**, which will take a break on Christmas Day and New Year's Day, will resume on Wednesday, January 8 at 9:30 a.m., offering opportunity to pray for those in need as well as, over the course of the year, each Fourth Church member. For details, email Nancy Benson-Nicol (*nbenson-nicol@fourthchurch.org*). ✨ A **Sacred Pause time of meditation** is offered virtually by our Replegle Center for Counseling and Well-Being at facebook.com/repleglecenterforcounselingandwellbeing on Tuesdays (7:45 a.m.) and Saturdays (8:30 a.m.).

Music of the season

This Friday, December 27 our free **Friday Noonday Concert series** (*in the Sanctuary and livestreamed*) features a program of Christmas music presented by our **Interim Organist and Director of Music Doug Cleveland** and violinist **Paul Christian**. For a schedule of 2025 concerts, see fourthchurch.org/concerts

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, please email the PNC at pnc@fourthchurch.org

Joining together in service

Each of us has gifts and **talents to share** with our community. Perhaps it is lending a listening ear, serving meals, or tutoring a child. We invite you to explore **volunteer opportunities matching your interests** at bit.ly/fpcvolunteers or by contacting Robert Crouch (rcrouch@fourthchurch.org), Director of Volunteer Ministry.

Children and youth

Sunday School for children from three years old to fifth grade resumes on Sunday, January 12 at 9:30 a.m. ✨ **Youth groups** also resume their weekly gatherings that Sunday morning, January 12, with **Junior Highs** at 9:30 a.m. and **Senior Highs** at 11:00 a.m. ✨ To learn more about our weekday **Day School preschool**, contact Kathy Hager (khager@fourthchurch.org).

Stay connected!

We hope to stay connected with you in the seasons ahead and 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 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**



Want to enjoy more of Christmas with Fourth Church?

We will be gathering again in the Sanctuary at 8:00 and 10:00 p.m. tonight for our **Service of Lessons and Carols**; the 8:00 service will be livestreamed and available for later viewing should you want to enjoy it during Christmas week (or in any season).

Just click the link on our home page at fourthchurch.org

Then tomorrow morning we will come together at 10:00 a.m. for a festive **Christmas Day service**, with more of the seasonal music that everyone loves to sing.

And what could make a more meaningful start to the new year than joining us for our **First Sunday of Christmas** service at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday morning, December 29? There will be ample Christmas music and a refreshing spirit of rebirth and looking toward bright new horizons for 2025.

Finally, a week from tonight, we will gather for our **New Year's Eve Taizé Service** at 6:30 p.m., providing an opportunity to pause in a contemplative, prayerful setting at the end of a busy year. Candles; easy-to-learn songs from various countries, traditions, and languages; and a period of silence all contribute to a time to reflect and to open oneself to God.

Join us!



Worship Leaders

Matt Helms, Samuela Kosipa, Henry Turner, David Becker, Tom Are Jr.

The Music Tonight

Chancel Choir

Michael Rees, Associate Organist

Doug Cleveland, Interim Organist and Director of Music

OUR ANNUAL “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. You can make a gift to “Light Up a Life” by indicating that designation when giving via fourthchurch.org/give or on the memo line of a check payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church or by using the special offering envelopes found in the pew racks.

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



THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO

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