



Prelude

- Sleepers, Awake! Johann Sebastian Bach
- Greensleeves Richard Purvis
- Gabriel’s Message Traditional/arr. Todd Marchand
- Infant Holy, Infant Lowly. Keith Chapman
- O Magnum Mysterium Giovanni Gabrieli/arr. Erich Peterson
- Good Christian Friends, Rejoice Dieterich Buxtehude
- In the Bleak Midwinter Gustav Holst/arr. Charlie Schuchat
- O Holy Night Adolphe Adam/arr. Aaron David Miller

Introit :: Today, a Savior Is Born for Us. Richard Proulx

Today, today a savior is born for us, Christ the Lord.

O come, let us adore him!

Opening Sentences

Carol 140 “Once in Royal David’s City”
(*stanza one sung by soloist; congregation stands to sing remaining stanzas*)

Once in royal David’s city stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild; Jesus Christ, her little child.
He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor and meek and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.
Jesus is our childhood’s pattern; day by day like us he grew;
he was little, weak, and helpless; tears and smiles like us he knew;
and he feels for all our sadness, and he shares in all our gladness.
And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;
for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

Prayer for Christmas Eve (*unison*)

Living God, you live beyond time and dwell beyond space.
You sent your only Son to know the weakness of human flesh
and yet to reign as Holy King.
Who are we that you should come to us?
Yet you have humbled yourself. You came down to breathe the same air we breathe,
to know what it is to be weary, or afraid, or to suffer a broken body and a broken heart.
You came to reveal a love the whole world has been waiting for.
In the name of the love that breathes us to life, we pray. Amen.

First Lesson Isaiah 9:2–7

Anthem :: “A Babe Is Born” William Matthias

*A babe is born all of a may, to bring salvation unto us. To him we sing both night and day,
Veni creator Spiritus. At Bethlehem, that blessed place, the child of bliss now born he was; and
him to serve God give us grace, O lux beata Trinitas. There came three kings out of the East, to
worship the King that is so free, with gold and myrrh and frankincense, A solis ortus cardine.
A fair song that night sung they in worship of that child: Gloria tibi Domine.
A babe is born all of a may, to bring salvation unto us. To him we sing both night and day,
Veni creator Spiritus. O lux beata Trinitas. A solis ortus cardine, Gloria tibi Domine. Noel!*

Second Lesson Isaiah 11:1–4, 6–9

***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!

Third Lesson Luke 1:26–35, 38

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.*

Fourth Lesson Luke 2:1–7

*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!

Fifth Lesson Luke 2:8–20

Homily Tom Are Jr.

***Carol 121** “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

Sixth Lesson Matthew 2:1–12

Prayer

Offering

Offertory Anthem :: “Ding Dong! Merrily on High”

Sixteenth-century French tune/arr. David Willcocks

*Ding dong, merrily on high! In heav'n the bells are ringing; ding dong, verily the sky is riv'n with
angel singing. Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis! Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!*

E'en so here below, below, let steeple bells be swungen, and io, io, io, by priest and people sungen.

Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis! Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

*Pray ye dutifully prime your matin chime, ye ringers; may ye beautifully rhyme your evetime song,
ye singers. Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis! Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!*

Seventh Lesson 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 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!”

***Benediction**

***Choral Response** :: “Beside Thy Cradle, Here I Stand” Johann Sebastian Bach

*Beside thy cradle here I stand, O thou that ever livest;
and bring thee with a willing hand the very gifts thou givest.
Accept me; ’tis my mind and heart, my soul, my strength, my every part,
that thou from me requirest.*

***Postlude**

Go, Tell It on the Mountain. African American spiritual/arr. A. D. Miller

***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 Beifus
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
Edythe and Henry Clum
David and Patricia Clyde
Hunter Q. Coe
John Conlon
Edwin and Barbara Cook
Robert and Arvilla Crouch
Chet Currier
Marilyn and Roy D'Aleo
Marilyn Day
Cloyd and Una DeFreitas
Shirley Gleason Dillon
Kenneth and Marjorie Dusenberry
Lynn and Todd Erickson
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Helmut Knapp
John and Kathy Knutson
Helmuth and Tallie Kohler
Joseph Kubik
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Dannen Latherow
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Matthew Mosbaugh
and Denis Rahilly
Betty Myers
Mark C. Neily
Ruth Nelson
Robert E. Olson
The Ortenzo Family
The Ostfeld Family
Robert and Gladys Ostman
Wayne and Gerry Peak
Don and Janet Peters
Bob Petkus
Helena Plante
Robert Plante
Sally Hoffmann Plante
William V. Porter
Kenneth F. Prawer
John Rasmussen
Don and Christena Rath
Beth Repke
Dorothy Ritchie
William and Eva Roberts
Alyson Robertson
John and Antoinette Rojc
Pam Habicht Rudy
Carol Rutledge
Thomas Satre
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
David Lamar Singleton
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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 we are livestreaming the 8:00 service. **If you are joining us online, please let us know you are here** by filling out an information form, which takes only 20 seconds to complete. The link appears in the text below the video (*after exiting full-screen view*); a QR code displayed during the service can be scanned with a phone camera to take you to the form. ✨ **Discounted parking** is only available at the 900 N. Michigan garage, at the rate of \$9 for 6 hours (*and \$18 for up to 12 hours*) when using a validation ticket picked up from one of the ushers when exiting the Sanctuary. ✨ On Christmas Eve and Christmas Day there is **no nursery care**. 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 any of our past seasonal offerings, including tonight’s service, 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.

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.

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**. You can make a gift to this special offering by using the envelopes found in the pew racks; by indicating that designation when giving via the church website at fourthchurch.org/give or via Venmo; or by writing “Light Up a Life” on the memo line of a check made payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church.

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.

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

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 (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. ✨ 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.

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.

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

Fourth Church in Florida

If you live in or travel to Florida, please let us know—at bit.ly/florida2025 or by contacting Shawn Fiedler (sfiedler@fourthchurch.org)—so we can keep you informed about in-person gatherings with Tom Are in February.

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 for details, email Katy Frey Bever (kbever@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**

Worship Leaders

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

Liturgists

Hope Daniels (8:00) and Clyde Yancy (10:00)

The Music Tonight

Tower Brass; Charles Schuchat, Artistic Director

Morning Choir; Amanda Kohl, Soloist

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.

THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO

Church office: 126 E. Chestnut Street, Chicago, IL 60611.2014 • 312.787.4570

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