



Fourth Presbyterian Church

Christmas Day

December 25, 2024 • 10:00 a.m.



Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Swiss Noel with Variations Louis Daquin

***Doxology**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.† Amen.

***Opening Sentences and Prayer**

One: *Sing a new song to the Holy One! God is with us!*

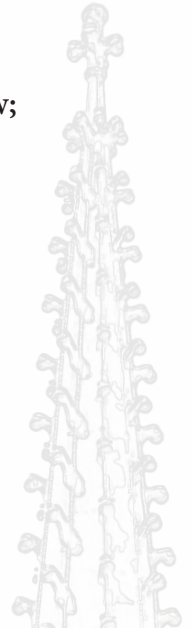
All: *Sing a new song all the earth!*

One: *For we delight in the mystery:*

All: *the Word has become flesh.*

One: *God's promise has been made real.*

All: *An eternal hope now burns bright.*



**Please rise in body or spirit. †Or "Father, Son, and Holy Ghost."*

***Hymn 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!

***Litany for Christmas**

One: *The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all.*

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

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 for us, a Son has been given to us.*

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

One: *He is Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

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

One: *To us is born in the city of David a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord.*

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

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

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

***Exchange of Peace**

Leader: *The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.*

People: And also with you.

We invite you to greet those around you, wishing them “peace” or “the peace of Christ.”

Welcome and Announcements

Solo

“To Bethlehem” David McK. Williams

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter Psalm 96:1–10

One: *The Word of God for the people of God.*

All: Thanks be to God.

***Gloria Patri**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:[†]
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

Scripture Lesson Isaiah 9:2–7

One: *The grass withers, and the flower fades,*

All: but the word of our God shall stand forever.

Sermon Joseph L. Morrow

[†]Or “to the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Ghost.”

Responding to the Word

***Hymn 132** “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven’s door, and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

***Affirmation of Faith** (*unison*) Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
 who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
 born of the Virgin Mary,
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
 and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church;
 the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
 the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (*unison*)

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.

Call to Offering

Offertory Solo

“A Child My Choice” Richard Dirksen

***Offertory Response** Hymn 144, v. 4

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.

***Prayer of Dedication**

Emmanuel, in gratitude for the gift of your presence with and among us,
 we present these offerings to you.
Accept and bless these gifts so that they might spread the joy of Christmas to others. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

***Hymn 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!”

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come 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 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
Stanley and Joanne Erjavac
Helen and Elliott Faulk
Peggy Faulkner
Bud Fennema
Robert D. Ferguson

William Fisher
April Fleming
Mildred Ann Fleming
Wilbert David Fleming
The Fontana Family
Edward C. and Mary M. Fordney
David B. and Timothy Forsythe
Jim and Eunice Gabelman
Kay and Frank Giuliano
Robert Greising and
Lynore Greising Peick
The Grimes Family
Cynthia Smith Grinnell
Gordon and Barbara Gubbins
Jeff Gubbins
Tim Gubbins
Vernon Guynn
Armon C. and Margaret Haagen
Otto and Myrtle Hannemann
Sue Hannemann
Naomi Hartley
Paul and Eillene Hawk
Wesley and Sally Hedges
Larry and Julia Hipp
Haldor J. and Laura A. Hofteig
Lauren Paul Hofteig
George H. Horsman
Barbara Horsman Mason
John Braden Hunter Jr.
Gregory P. Irwin
James Ethan Jacobs
Chris Joseph
George and Gertrude Jousma
Teiko Kasahara
Robert M. and Bertha M. Kearney
Robert S. and Joyce Kearney
Dorothy L. and Richard W. Kerch
Wendy Keys
Helmut Knapp
John and Kathy Knutson
Helmuth and Tallie Kohler
Joseph Kubik
Wendel LaFortune
Patricia Lamps
Carolyn L. Lane
Clifford, Betty, and
Dannen Latherow
Tom Leahy
Martha Hopkins Lehnis

Irene and Robert Lindau
H.H. (Scot) MacPherson
Barbara Maggio
Sebastian Maggio
Robert and Virginia Manon
Charles D. McAdams Jr.
Fern Fitzpatrick McCarty
Virginia Sanders McCarty
Lois and Roy McClayton
Jerry and Grace McFarlane
Michael McMurry
Ed and Julia Miller
Marcus J. and Betty Cole Miller
JoAnn Mosbaugh
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
John and Maude Singleton
Samuel Myrus Singleton
Daniel and Janis Smyth
Hyman and Aurelia Spann
Richard and Annis Squier
Moreland Grace (Gigi) Stenstrom
The Stevenson Family
Hazel and Doug Storer
Richard P. Strubel
Michael Sturrus
Karen Trabert
The Trinco Family
Drexel Turner
A. Robert Twardock
Kevin Weir
Bert Weller
Mary Wetzel
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 Day! As our Advent hymn of “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” has joyfully transitioned 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 Day with Fourth Church

As part of our Christmas Day observances, we are posting a **Christmas “Rhythm and Word” video** to our YouTube channel (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos) this morning. We invite you to take ten minutes later today—when you are looking for a moment to pause and reflect—to enjoy that Christmas-themed video of scripture, music, and prayer. If you know **friends or family who are unable to worship in person** today, we also encourage you to share that “Rhythm and Word” video with them and invite them to view our Christmas season worship **videos, from last night’s 8:00 Lessons and Carols** to services of past years, also available on YouTube. (*This morning’s service is not being livestreamed.*) ✨ Today **discounted parking** is available only at the 900 N. Michigan garage and costs \$20. Those parking validations can be purchased in the Fourth Church Commons following worship. ✨ There is **no nursery care** this morning. As on Sundays, children are invited to be with their parents in worship. ✨ In the Sanctuary **worship can be heard** through “T” or “T-coil” settings of hearing aids. ✨ During worship please silence **electronic devices**.

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.

Ensure you receive the latest updates from Fourth Church by adding your email address to our distribution list. Simply sign up at www.bit.ly/newsfromfpc

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. While we are releasing today’s video for **Christmas Day** at 9:00 a.m. on YouTube, on January 1 we will return to releasing the videos at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesdays. 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

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.

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.

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 above, 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)* **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.

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

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.

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 Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being at facebook.com/reploglecenterforcounselingandwellbeing on Tuesdays (7:45 a.m.) and Saturdays (8:30 a.m.).

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

Nancy Benson-Nicol, Margaret Laing, Joseph L. Morrow

The Music Today

Carol Carpenter, Soloist

Doug Cleveland, Interim Organist and Director of Music

Worship Notes

OUR ANNUAL “LIGHT UP A LIFE” OFFERING is being received throughout the Christmas season. Gifts designated to this offering provide 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

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THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO

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