



Prelude

Chorale Prelude on “In Dulci Jubilo” Johann Sebastian Bach

Noel in G Major Louis Daquin

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 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.*

***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 :: “Ding Dong! Merrily on High”. . . Sixteenth-century French/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!

E’en so here below, below, let steeple bells be swungen,

and io, io, io, by priest and people sungen.

Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

Pray you, dutifully prime your matin chime, ye ringers;

may you beautifully rime your eventime song, ye singers.

Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

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 Camille Cook Howe

***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 :: “What Is This Lovely Fragrance” Healey Willan

*What is this lovely fragrance wafting like to the scents of flow’rs in spring!
Shepherds, O tell us, whence such beauty; hear you not heav’nly caroling?
What is this lovely fragrance wafting like to the scents of flow’rs in spring.
What is this light so fair, so tender, breaking upon our wond’ring eyes?
Never the Morning Star so radiant followed his course o’er eastern skies.
What is this light so fair, so tender, breaking upon our wond’ring eyes?
Shepherds, O haste with eager footsteps, seek the Savior born today.
Low at his feet we lay our treasure; heart’s adoration, love for aye.
Shepherds, O haste with eager footsteps Seek the Savior, born today!*

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 :: Prelude on “God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen” John Rutter

***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
Rev. Carol J. Allen
Bea and Arlo Anderson
Jeanne Anderson
Norman Anderson
Edward J. Andrew
Bill and Ruth Andrews
James and Joan Bailey
Mr. and Mrs. O.E. Banker
Deborah Beiser Barber
Mr. and Mrs. Henry Beard
Richard Beilfuss
Donna Blomquist
Mary E. Bolton
Russell and Mary J. Bolton
Jack Bonino
Jim Bonnell
Allan and Florence Book
Sonja Bowen
John H. Boyle
Eleanor T. and Colver R. Briggs
Carl and Irma Broders
Rev. and Mathilda Broders
Carolyn Sue Kearney Buchanan
John McCormick Buchanan
Daniel Blaine Bumgardner
Steve Bumpus
Marc and Frances Burr
Michael Campanella
Charles C. Carson
Cedric Charles Carter
Chester and Lillie Stean Carter
Catherine and Hal Clark
Edythe and Henry Clum and
Jean Clum Wojtowicz
David and Patricia Clyde
Hunter Quigley Coe
Mike, Sally, John, and
Mary Alice Conlon
Edwin and Barbara Cook
Tom Costen
Karl Cremieux
Robert and Arvilla Crouch
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Jeanne Periolat Czula
Cloyd and Una DeFreitas
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Helen and Elliott Faulk
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Lavan and Louise Flessner
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Jim and Eunice Gabelman
Paul Gignilliat
Kay and Frank Giuliano
Tanya Gould
Jerald and Lauretta Graetz
Samuel Graunke
Robert Greising and Lynore
Greising Peick
Cynthia Smith Grinnell
Gordon and Barbara Gubbins
Jeffrey Gubbins
Timothy Gubbins
Armon C. and Margaret Haagen
Frank, Jeanne, and Pam Habicht
Hugh Fleece Halverstadt
Otto and Myrtle Hannemann
Sue Hannemann
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Stacy Hedges Champagne
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Cooper Link
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Sebastian Maggio
Martha Sutherlin Martin
Barbara Horsman Mason
Betty and Sandy Mauldin
Sanford L. (Sammy) Mauldin Jr.
Charles McAdams Jr.
Karen McCracken
James K. McDermott Jr.
Jerry and Grace McFarlane
John D. McGrae Jr.
Michael McMurry
Brian J. Meginnes
Lourdes and Hans Melion and
Harriette Helmer
Ellen Bierwagen Meyer
Ed and Julia Miller
Marcus J. and Betty Cole Miller
Susan Allison Moser
Dana Ferguson Myers
Robert E. Olson
Elizabeth B. and David Forbes
Orwig
Wayne and Gerry Peak
Don and Janet Peters
Bob Petkus
June and Clarence Pitts
William V. Porter
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Samuel Myrus Singleton
Daniel and Janis Smyth
Don and Waunita Snyder

Hyman and Aurelia Spann
Robin Marie Steinbach
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The Reverend Stuart G. Wysham
and Joan B. Wysham
Elizabeth Yelda
Frances M. Youngwirth
Janet Zaleski
Ruth, Eugene, and Gene Zeltmann

In Honor of

Edith G. Andrew
Kristin Anderson Schewe
Elsa's Son
Emma Cox
Scott Kohler and Sieu Duong
Gwynne Geuther
Linda Gibboney
Pete and Caroline Giers
Beth Hickman
Josephine Horsman
Dorothee Knapp
Penelope Dale Kurtze
Fourth Church Meals Ministry
Fourth Church Morning Choir
Fourth Church Stephen Ministers
Micah Marty
Lydia S. Olson
Lucy Emerson Periolat
Nancy Pitts
Ann Rehfeldt
Jennifer, Madison, and
Ayden Snedigar
Sue Thompson
Beverly Tunney
Jodi, Eliot, Mila, Zoe, and Noah
Wickersheimer

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

Christmas Eve services

This evening our candlelight Christmas Eve celebrations here in the Sanctuary will continue with our Lessons and Carols services at 8:00 p.m. (which will be livestreamed) and at 10:00 p.m.

Children in worship

Children are always welcome in worship! There is no nursery care on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.

Discounted parking

To receive discounted parking at the 900 N. Michigan garage today, use the QR code on the back cover of this bulletin, where you will also find information about using it. If you have not previously set up an online payment account with Metropolis Parking (through which the discounted rate is available), ushers have information cards to help. (Note: This code is different from the Sunday one.)

Sundays of Christmas

We will gather again for worship this Sunday, December 28 at 10:00 a.m. and again on Sunday, January 4 at 10:00 a.m., both in person and via livestream.

There will be just one worship service each on those Christmas Sundays.

Nursery care will be available on both Sundays, but Sunday school will be on break for the next two weekends, resuming on Sunday, January 11. Children are invited to be with their parents in worship on those days.

Christmas Day

Christmas Day worship

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. (in person only).

As with today, children are invited to be with us for the entire service, as there will be no nursery care, and discounted parking at the 900 N. Michigan garage will be available by using the QR code on the back cover of this bulletin or the Christmas Day bulletin.

Online resources

While we will not be livestreaming the Christmas Day service, we encourage those looking for an online option to view the Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols 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 (also available as a podcast), offering scripture and a reflection by Pastor Nanette Sawyer for Christmas Day.

New Year’s Eve Taizé Service

At the turning of the year, on Wednesday, 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.

A time of fellowship will follow the service.

Sharing Christmas Joy

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 and for Chicago Lights, as it extends kindness and love to those who are most vulnerable.

You can make a gift to “Light Up a Life” by selecting that designation from the drop-down menu when giving via fourthchurch.org/give (also accessible by using the QR code on the back page of this bulletin).

If giving by check, please make the check payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church and write “Light Up a Life” on the memo line. You can also use the offering envelopes from the pew racks.

Christmas Reflections

Daily Christmas devotions

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).

Weekly “Rhythm and Word” reflections

Our “Rhythm and Word” video series offers a brief midweek video of scripture and a pastoral reflection for viewing at home. The next video will be released on Christmas Day at 9:00 a.m. on YouTube.

On December 31 we will return to releasing the videos on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.

Sign up at bit.ly/fpcrandw to receive them by email; you can also subscribe to our YouTube channel (bit.ly/fpcvideos).

These midweek reflections are also available via podcast at fourthchurch.org and multiple podcast platforms.

Worshiping with Us in Person

If you like to join us for in-person worship, we typically gather at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. on Sundays, though as noted on page 8, we will have just one service each—at 10:00 a.m.—on both Sunday, December 28 and Sunday, January 4.

Sound

- Worship can be heard through “T” or “T-coil” settings of hearing aids.
- Please silence electronic devices during worship.

Worshiping with Us Online

Livestream

For those who prefer to worship online or who are unable to join us in person, we will be streaming our 8:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols service tonight on our YouTube channel (bit.ly/fpcvideos), where it can be viewed any time after the service begins.

On Sundays December 28 and January 4, we will be streaming the 10:00 a.m. service. When our regular Sunday schedule resumes on January 11, we will return to livestreaming our 9:30 a.m. service.

For those without Internet

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 Texts

Podcasts

Podcasts from Fourth Church—available on multiple platforms and at fourthchurch.org/podcasts—include the Sunday worship service; the Sunday sermon; weekly “Rhythm and Word” reflections; and “Bible Top Ten.”

Sermons

To read the text of the previous Sunday sermon (or past sermons in our archives), see fourthchurch.org/sermons or, to receive them by email, subscribe at bit.ly/fpcsermon

Pastoral Care and a Listening Presence

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 (gffleming@fourthchurch.org).

If the situation requires immediate attention, please call the church at 312.787.4570 to be connected to the Minister on Call.

Stephen Ministry

For a one-to-one listening presence through life challenges, consider being paired with a Stephen Minister. To learn more about this resource, leave a confidential message at 312.573.3365 or contact Pastor Nancy Benson-Nicol (nbenson-nicol@fourthchurch.org).

Children and Youth

Sunday School

Sunday School for children from three years old to fifth grade resumes on Sunday, January 11 at 9:30 a.m.

Youth Groups

Youth groups also resume their weekly gatherings that Sunday morning, January 11, with Junior Highs at 9:30 a.m. and Senior Highs at 11:00 a.m.

Day School Preschool

To learn more about our weekday Day School preschool, contact Kathy Hager (khager@fourthchurch.org).

Connecting Online

Whether you live out of state, are traveling, are unable to be with us in person, or find online opportunities to be a meaningful complement to your in-person experiences, we invite you to explore our online opportunities—from worship to Bible studies, Morning Prayer, classes, and concerts—for deepening your connections with your faith and with others: fourthchurch.org/online/connections.html

Prayer

Morning Prayer

Fourth Church maintains a practice of praying for each member's household throughout the year.

On Wednesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. you are invited to gather for Morning Prayer via Zoom to pray for members by name, all those who are in need, and mission partners around the world. For details, email Pastor Nancy Benson-Nicol (nbenson-nicol@fourthchurch.org). While Morning Prayer will take a one-week break this coming Wednesday, December 31, it will resume on Wednesday, January 7.)

Prayer requests

If you would like to submit a prayer request for our prayer ministries, please email Gloria Fleming (gffleming@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!

News, updates, and snapshots

Look for information, updates, and snapshots of life at Fourth Church—including our Christmas celebrations—in our weekly email newsletter, to which you can subscribe at **bit.ly/newsfromfpc** and visit our news archive at **fourthchurch.org/news**

We invite you to follow us on YouTube (bit.ly/fpcvideos), Facebook ([/fourthchurch](https://www.facebook.com/fourthchurch)), and Instagram ([/fourthchurch](https://www.instagram.com/fourthchurch)) and to bookmark our calendar: fourthchurch.org/calendar



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 28? There will be ample Christmas music and a refreshing spirit of rebirth and looking toward bright new horizons for 2026.

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

Nancy Benson-Nicol, Joseph L. Morrow, Matt Helms, Samuela Kosipa, Camille Cook Howe,
Rocky Supinger, Henry Bresnahan, Nanette Sawyer

The Music Today

The Chancel Choir
Doug Cleveland, Interim Organist and Director of Music

Make a Gift to Light Up a Life This Season



GIFTS TO OUR CHRISTMAS Light Up a Life Offering provide funds for Fourth Church programs that support our neighbors and congregation and for Chicago Lights, as it extends kindness and love to those who are most vulnerable. To make a gift to this offering, use the QR code at left (fourthchurch.org/give) or Venmo (@Fourth-Church) and designate it to Light Up a Life. Or use the envelopes in the pew racks and place those envelopes in the offering plates when they are passed or in an offering box at the Sanctuary exit.

Camille Cook Howe Pastor
Rocky Supinger Senior Associate Pastor
Nancy Benson-Nicol Associate Pastor
Matt Helms Associate Pastor
Joseph L. Morrow Associate Pastor
Nanette Sawyer Associate Pastor
Amy Pagliarella Parish Associate for Caring Ministries

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THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO
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www.fourthchurch.org • www.facebook.com/fourthchurch
312.787.4570 Voicemail: 312.787.2729

Those attending a Fourth Church worship service in person are entering an area where photography, video, and audio recording may occur on behalf of Fourth Church. By entering the worship service, you consent to the non-commercial use of the resulting visual and audio records; you waive all rights you may have to any claims of compensation for the use of these records; you release Fourth Church from any liability for the use of these records; and you waive the right to inspect or approve any of these records.



Discounted parking is available at 900 N. Michigan (access from Rush or Walton; online payment only) for \$9 on Christmas Eve when using either the Metropolis Parking app (iPhone) or metropolis.io/join (Android) to scan the discount QR code at left no more than 10 minutes before leaving the garage. The code is also available on cards from the ushers; the same rate will be available on Christmas Day by again using the QR code at left.