



# Fourth Presbyterian Church

*Christmas Day*

December 25, 2025 • 10:00 a.m.



## **Prelude**

What Child Is This? . . . . . Richard Purvis

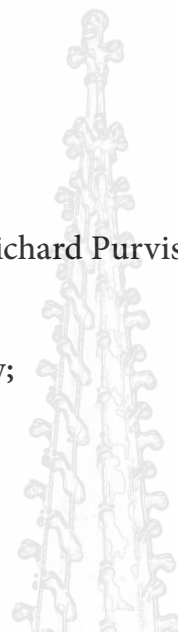
## **\*Doxology**

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

## **\*Opening Sentences and Prayer**

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*\*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**

“Sweet Holy Child” . . . . . Mary Caldwell

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**Listening for the Word**

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**Prayer for Illumination**

**First Scripture Reading** . . . . . Luke 2:8–20

One: *The Word of the Lord.*

All: Thanks be to God.

**\*Gloria Patri**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:<sup>†</sup>

as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

**Second Scripture Reading** . . . . . Titus 3:4–7

**Sermon** . . . . . Rocky Supinger

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## Responding to the Word

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**\*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*) . . . . . United Church of Canada

We are not alone, we live in God’s world.

We believe in God: who has created and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,  
to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God’s presence,  
to live with respect in creation,  
to love and serve others,  
to seek justice and resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

## 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

"Christmas Fantasy for Violin and Organ". . . . . Sigurd Ogard

**\*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

Gracious and loving God, we thank you for all your many blessings  
    and for your magnificent gift of the Christ child.  
May this offering carry the good news of great joy  
    to all those with whom it is shared,  
    and may our lives be gifts of praise to you always. Amen.

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## Bearing the Word into the World

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**\*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**

In Dulci Jubilo . . . . . Dieterich Buxtehude

***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  
Chet Currier  
Jeanne Periolat Czula  
Cloyd and Una DeFreitas  
Shirley Gleason Dillon  
Katy Donovan  
Lou and Bud Dust  
Lynn Erickson  
Stanley and Joanne Erjavac  
Helen and Elliott Faulk  
Peggy Faulkner  
Ernesta Feliciano

Sue Starkey Felty  
Robert D. Ferguson  
April Fleming  
Mildred Fleming  
Wilbert Fleming  
Lavan and Louise Flessner  
June and Jack Fletcher  
Edward C. and Mary M. Fordney  
David B. and Timothy Forsythe  
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  
Paul and Eillene Hawk  
Dorothy Roberts Head  
Oscar Huey Head  
Stacy Hedges Champagne  
Wesley and Sally Hedges  
Eugene W. Helmuth  
Sarah Rebecca Head Hicks  
Larry and Julia Hipp  
Francis and Elaine Hoeltgen  
Charles "Tim" Hopkins  
George H. Horsman  
Drs. Peyton and Betty Hutchison  
Peyton Hutchison Jr.  
Jerry D. Johnson  
Julia Periolat Jones  
Chris Joseph  
Dorothy and Richard Kerch  
Blythe and Peter Kieffer  
Helmut Knapp  
John and Kathy Knutson  
Helmuth and Tallie Kohler  
Jeanine Marie Kumar  
Larry George and Mary June  
Kurtze  
Lucille Lacy  
Shirley Lacy  
Larry Ladendorf  
Wendel LaFortune  
Patricia J. Lamps

Carolyn L. Lane  
Dannen, Clifford, and Betty  
Latherow  
Tom Leahy  
Martha Hopkins Lehnis  
Milton Lehnis  
Irene and Robert Lindau  
Cooper Link  
H. H. (Scot) MacPherson  
Barb Maggio  
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  
Bjarne and Margaret Rasmussen  
Don and Christena Rath  
Beth Repke  
Lorene and Luther Repogle  
Dorothy Ritchie  
Jason Michael Ritchie  
William and Eva Roberts  
Claud and Marcella Ruch  
Fred and Emily Schwartz  
Joseph and Barbara Shanahan  
Joseph and Catherine Shanahan  
Swadeshi and Nand Sharma  
Morgan F. Simmons  
David Lamar Singleton  
John and Maude Singleton  
Samuel Myrus Singleton  
Daniel and Janis Smyth  
Don and Waunita Snyder

Hyman and Aurelia Spann  
Robin Marie Steinbach  
The Stevenson Family  
Sue Stealey  
Jane Ann Stewart  
Hazel and Douglas Storer  
Michael Sturrus  
Vilda Sutherlin  
Jill Swart  
Cecy R. Szuba  
Helen Szuba  
Margaret H. Thomas  
Karen Trabert  
Jerry Tunney  
Judy Lynn Whitehead  
Francis Williamson  
Gary D. Wilson  
Roy and Rosemary Winkler  
Edward V. and Anna S. Wosylus  
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 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**

### **Children in worship**

Children are always welcome in worship! Today there is no nursery care.

### **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.)

### **“Rhythm and Word” Christmas video**

When you are looking for a brief moment of reflection later today, we invite you to view our Christmas “Rhythm and Word” video (also available as a podcast), offering scripture and a Christmas Day reflection by Pastor Nanette Sawyer.

## **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.

## **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.

## **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](https://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](https://bit.ly/fpcdevotions)), read them online ([fourthchurch.org/devotions](https://fourthchurch.org/devotions)), or share them via Facebook ([facebook.com/fourthchurch](https://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. We released a Christmas Day video this morning on YouTube.

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

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

These midweek reflections are also available via podcast at [fourthchurch.org](https://fourthchurch.org) and multiple podcast platforms.

## Worship Podcasts and Sermon Texts

### Podcasts

Podcasts from Fourth Church—available on multiple platforms and at [fourthchurch.org/podcasts](https://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](https://fourthchurch.org/sermons) or to receive them by email, subscribe at [bit.ly/fpcsermon](https://bit.ly/fpcsermon)

## 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., although 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 are unable to join us in person, on Sundays December 28 and January 4 we will be streaming the 10:00 a.m. service.

When our regular Sunday schedule resumes 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.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:nbenson-nicol@fourthchurch.org)).

## 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](mailto: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 ([gfleming@fourthchurch.org](mailto:gfleming@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](https://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](https://bit.ly/newsfromfpc)** and visit our news archive at **[fourthchurch.org/news](https://fourthchurch.org/news)**

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

## Opportunities to Connect through Serving

If you are looking for ways to connect with others while making a difference in 2026, we invite you to explore our varied opportunities for sharing your gifts and talents. Perhaps it is serving meals, mentoring youth, or ushering. We invite you to browse those and many more volunteer opportunities at [bit.ly/fpcvolunteers](https://bit.ly/fpcvolunteers) for those that might match your interests, or contact Robert Crouch ([rcrouch@fourthchurch.org](mailto:rcrouch@fourthchurch.org)), Director of Volunteer Ministry.

## 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](https://fourthchurch.org/online/connections.html)



***Want to enjoy more of Christmas with Fourth Church?***

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.

And next Wednesday evening 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

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Rocky Supinger, Margaret Laing, Nanette Sawyer

## The Music Today

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Paul Christian, Violinist

Carol Carpenter, Soloist

Doug Cleveland, Interim Organist and Director of Music

## Make a Gift to Light Up a Life This Season

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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](http://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**

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

[www.fourthchurch.org](http://www.fourthchurch.org) • [www.facebook.com/fourthchurch](https://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 Day when using either the Metropolis Parking app (*iPhone*) or [metropolis.io/join](http://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.