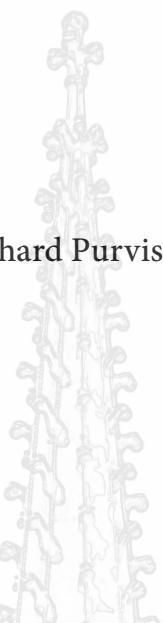




Fourth Presbyterian Church

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.[†] Amen.

*Opening Sentences and Prayer

**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

Listening for the Word

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:[†]
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

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)** 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.

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

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. Bunker
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 Ellene 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
Helmut 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 Replogle
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 (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. 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 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.

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

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 (ggleming@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).

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 (ggleming@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), and Instagram (/fourthchurch) and to bookmark our calendar: 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 for those that might match your interests, or contact Robert Crouch (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



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

Rocky Supinger, Margaret Laing, Nanette Sawyer

The Music Today

Paul Christian, Violinist

Carol Carpenter, Soloist

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

SOURCES AND CREDITS: Music: OneLicense.net. License A-712340. All rights reserved. Used by permission. The liturgy is adapted from A Sanctified Art LLC, sanctifiedart.org

THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO
Church office: 126 E. Chestnut Street, Chicago, IL 60611.2014
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 Day 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.