

Fourth Presbyterian Church

Epiphany Sunday January 5, 2025 • 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright. Dieterich Buxtehude

Introit

*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.

*Call to Worship

One: O come, let us worship the Lord and consider what wondrous things God has done.

All: The peoples who live in the shadows see a glorious light!

One: O come, let us worship the Lord,

All: for God has done wondrous things!

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

O Morning Star, how fair and bright! You shine with God's own truth and light,

aglow with grace and mercy!

Of Jacob's line, King David's son, our Lord and Savior, you have won our hearts to serve you only!

Lowly, holy! Great and glorious, all victorious, rich in blessing! Rule and might o'er all possessing!

Lord, when you look on us in love, at once there falls from God above a ray of purest pleasure.

Your word and Spirit, flesh and blood refresh our souls with heavenly food.

You are our dearest treasure!

Let your mercy warm and cheer us! O draw near us! For you teach us God's own love through you has reached us.

What joy to know, when life is past, the Lord we love is first and last, the end and the beginning! He will one day, O glorious grace, transport us to that happy place beyond all tears and sinning!

Amen! Amen! Come, Lord Jesus! Crown of gladness! We are yearning for the day of your returning.

Prayer of Confession (unison)

God of love,

we confess we do not always follow your star of love; we turn aside; we weary of the journey.

We confess we sometimes cooperate with Herod;

we sometimes fail to give our gifts.

Forgive us; renew your Spirit in us.

Be our star and guide us, we pray.

Declaration of Pardon

One: *Friends, believe the good news.* All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

*Sharing the Peace of Christ

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," and encourage those online to text or email someone to let them know you are thinking of them.

Welcome and Announcements

Please take a moment to let us know you are with us today! There are information pads in the pews for those in the Sanctuary and a digital form (use the link or QR code on screen) for those online.

Anthem

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

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.

Second Lesson	ew 2:1-12				
One: The grass withers, and the flower fades,					
All: but the word of our God shall stand forever.					
Sermon					
Epiphanies and Ongoing Revelations	tt Helms				
Responding to the Word					
Hymn 377	ne Light"				
I want to walk as a child of the light.					
I want to follow Jesus.					
God set the stars to give light to the world.					
The star of my life is Jesus.					
Refrain:					
In him there is no darkness at all.					
The night and the day are both alike.					
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.					
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus. (Refrain)					
I want to see the brightness of God.					
I want to look at Jesus.					
Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path,					
and show me the way to the Father. (Refrain)					
I'm looking for the coming of Christ.					
I want to be with Jesus.					
When we have run with patience the race,					
we shall know the joy of Jesus. (Refrain)					

Offering

Offertory Anthem

In gratitude and humble trust we bring our best today,

to serve your cause and share your love with all along life's way.

O God who gave yourself to us in Jesus Christ your Son, help us to give ourselves each day until life's work is done.

Sealing the Word

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

Leader: *The Lord be with you*. **People: And also with you**. Leader: *Lift up your hearts*.

People: We will lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Prayer

Leader: It is right to give our thanks and praise We join with angels in singing your praise:

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.

The Communion

Communion Anthem

*Prayer after Communion (unison)

Holy God, we give thanks for your presence with us in this bread and cup, in human form and Holy Spirit.

Guide us always toward the star of wonder, and help us to be your presence in the world, even as we are redeemed and reclaimed by your great love. Amen.

Bearing the World into the World

As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold; as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright; so, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led to thee.

As with joyful steps they sped, Savior, to thy lowly bed, there to bend the knee before thee, whom heaven and earth adore; so may we with willing feet ever seek thy mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare at thy manger, rude and bare, so may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy, all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to thee, our heavenly king.

Holy Jesus, every day keep us in the narrow way; and when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glory hide.

*Charge and Benediction

*Choral Benediction

Postlude

You belong here!

This may be your first time in worship at Fourth Presbyterian Church, or perhaps you worship here so often you call Fourth Church "home"; in either case, we are grateful for your presence today. Inspired by the radical hospitality of Jesus Christ, we welcome everyone —without exception—into the life of this congregation. No matter where you may be in your faith journey, no matter what questions or burdens you may bring to this place, we take seriously that God loves everyone, so you belong here.

Every Sunday we read the old biblical stories and sing hymns (some of which our grandparents sang), while also engaging the world we live in this minute through liturgy, prayers, and sermons. **By connecting the story of our lives to the story of Christ's life,** we discover hope and even joy, and are inspired to reflect the light of Christ to the city.

If you are new to us, stick around after worship. Join us for Coffee Hour, or speak to one of our pastors. We have many programs to expand your spirit and enrich your life. We would love to tell you more. **Give us a try; soon you too might be calling Fourth Church "home."**

Worshiping in Person at Fourth Church

Each Sunday our worshiping body is a wonderful mix of those online, on the phone, and in the pews. If you like to worship with us in person, we gather weekly at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Entering the building

A half hour prior to each service the doors open for worship, with three fully accessible entrances, without steps, that lead to the Sanctuary: on Michigan Avenue, through the glass Loggia doors (between the courtyard and the main Sanctuary doors), as well as at 126 E. Chestnut—where the reception desk is located—and at 115 E. Delaware.

Sound

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

Parking

Sunday parking is available at 900 N. Michigan (access from Rush or Walton) at the rate of \$10 for 6 hours (and \$20 for up to 12 hours) and at the Hancock garage (875 N. Michigan, enter from Delaware or Chestnut) for \$10 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Validation tickets for the garages must be picked up from ushers.

Worshiping Online

We livestream the 9:30 a.m. service each Sunday on our YouTube channel: bit.ly/fpcvideos

Accessing the service

Worship can be viewed anytime 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

Online extras

Links to make an online offering gift, view or print the worship bulletin, and more can be found in the descriptive text below the worship video (after exiting full screen) as well as on our website.

For those without Internet

Those without Internet access are invited to listen via phone by calling 888.916.9166 at 9:30 a.m.

Let Us Know You're Here

We are grateful to be worshiping with you today and would welcome knowing you are here. Please take a moment to fill out an information form.

In person

Those worshiping with us in person are asked to add their names to the pads in the pews, passing the pads to the center of the row and then back again so worshipers have opportunity to greet one another by name following worship.

Online

Those worshiping via livestream will find a link to the online form in the text below the video (after exiting full-screen view); a QR code is also displayed during the "Welcome" that can be be scanned with a phone camera to take you to the form.

Sunday Opportunities

Sunday morning fellowship

If you are worshiping with us in person, we encourage you to stop by Anderson Hall after the services for Coffee Hour, an opportunity to greet each other and learn about ways to connect with one another and Fourth Church.

Praying with a Deacon

If you would like to offer individual prayers with a Deacon today, you are invited to do so in Stone Chapel (through the door to the right of the pulpit) following the services.

Organ tour

Following the 11:00 a.m. service, a tour of our pipe organ begins at the front of the Sanctuary.

"Christian Mysticism: Roots to Today"

"Christian Mysticism: Roots to Today" is the topic of a three-week adult education class that begins today at 11:00 a.m. in Borwell Dining Room and via Zoom. Vicky Curtiss, former Fourth Church Associate Pastor and current Program Director for Siena Retreat Center, will lead our exploration. For the Zoom link, register at bit.ly/mysticism202501

Joining the Fourth Church Family

If you are interested in becoming a member of Fourth Church, please join us for a one-session Inquirers' Class via Zoom Wednesday, January 8 at 6:30 p.m. (register at bit.ly/inquirers12025) or in person on Sunday, February 2 at 12:15 p.m. (register at bit.ly/inquirers22025). If you would like more information, please contact Matt Helms (mhelms@fourthchurch.org; 312.573.3362). He would welcome the opportunity to get to know you!

Children and Youth

Children are always welcome in worship! If you need to step out to comfort your child, the Hospitality Suite, on the second floor of the Gratz Center, is a quiet space for families where worship is livestreamed.

Also during morning worship, nursery care is available on the fourth floor of the Gratz Center for infants through two-year-olds.

Sunday school

Sunday school for three-year-olds through fifth graders takes place at 9:30 a.m. on the fourth floor of the Gratz Center. During the 11:00 a.m. hour, families are encouraged to bring their children to worship in the Sanctuary.

Youth gatherings

Youth groups meet on Sundays, with Junior Highs gathering at 9:30 a.m. and Senior Highs at 11:00 a.m., both in the Bumpus Room.

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, email pnc@fourthchurch.org

Joining the Fourth Church Family

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

Information Sessions with Tom Are

On Friday, December 27 Interim Pastor Tom Are emailed a video message to the congregation, sharing an update on 2025 ministry and budget. If you have not yet seen that video, you can find it on our website home page: fourthchurch.org

You are invited to join Tom for an information session expanding on that video message. The session will be offered twice: Monday, January 6 at 6:00 p.m. and Tuesday, January 7 at 6:00 p.m. Both sessions will take place in Anderson Hall and via Zoom. Please register, using the following links, for the session you plan to attend:

Monday, January 6: bit.ly/infomeetingjan6 Tuesday, January 7: bit.ly/infomeetingjan7

Congregational Meeting: January 12

As Tom Are shared in the congregational video message described above, several staff positions are being eliminated in 2025 as part of the reductions made by Session and Trustees to help Fourth Church move toward a balanced budget.

Among the positions being eliminated is the Associate Pastor for Discipleship and Small Group Ministry, which is currently filled by Nanette Sawyer.

Session has thus called a Congregational Meeting for next Sunday, January 12 at 12:00 p.m., at which time you will be asked to recommend that the Presbytery of Chicago dissolve Nanette's pastoral relationship with us.

There will also be opportunity that morning for us to express our deep gratitude to Nanette for sharing her many gifts with us over the past nine years and to wish her Godspeed in the unfolding future.

Caring for One Another

Prayer requests and 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 (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.

Stephen Ministry

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

Counseling, well-being, and grief groups

To explore options for counseling and well-being, including grief groups, contact our Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being at 312.787.8425 or visit reploglecenter.org

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 email Katy Frey Bever (kbever@fourthchurch.org) for more details.

Prayer, Reflection, and Meditation

Wednesday Morning Prayer

On Wednesdays we gather for Morning Prayer via Zoom at 9:30 a.m. Email Nancy Benson-Nicol (nbenson-nicol@fourthchurch.org) for details.

Daily devotions

We invite you to use our daily devotions for your personal reflection. To receive them by email, subscribe at bit.ly/fpcdevotions; you can also find them daily at fourthchurch.org/devotions and on Facebook and Instagram.

Weekly "Rhythm and Word" videos

On Wednesdays we release a brief video reflection, led this month by Matt Helms. Sign up at bit.ly/rhythmandword to have them sent to your inbox or subscribe to our YouTube channel (bit.ly/fpcvideos) to receive notice of new videos.

Meditation Opportunities

You are invited to a Sacred Pause time of meditation offered on Tuesdays (7:45 a.m.) and Saturdays (8:30 a.m.) at facebook.com/reploglecenterforcounseling andwellbeing

The labyrinth in Buchanan Chapel is open for walking between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.

Sermon podcast and text

During the week the Sunday morning service and sermon are made available via podcast on multiple platforms and at fourthchurch.org/podcasts. To receive the text of the previous Sunday's sermon via email, subscribe at bit.ly/fpcsermons or read it online at fourthchurch.org/sermons

News, Updates, and Snapshots

Look for information, updates, and snapshots of life at Fourth Church in our weekly email newsletter. Subscribe at **bit.ly/newsfromfpc** and visit our news archive at **fourthchurch.org/news**

Get Connected

Center for Life and Learning Winter Term

The winter term of fitness classes, lectures, and arts courses for adults sixty and over begins this Monday, January 6 at our Center for Life and Learning. See fourthchurch.org/cll for details and to register for CLL membership.

Men's Bible Study

Men's Bible Study, which focuses on scripture readings from the pulpit, with passages drawn from either the immediate past week's worship service or the upcoming Sunday, meets Tuesdays at 7:30 a.m. via Zoom. For details, email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org).

Knitting and Crocheting

Both a fellowship group and a ministry of caring, Knitting and Crocheting supplies partners around the city with handcrafted items for warmth and comfort. The group will next meet this Tuesday, January 7 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 5B.

Stay Connected

Calendar

Looking for a calendar of Fourth Church events?

- See pages 13–15 for this week's opportunities
- Scroll to the bottom of fourthchurch.org
- Tap on the website menu option for calendar: fourthchurch.org/calendar, where you can add events to your digital calendar

YouTube, Facebook, and Instagram

We invite you to follow us on various platforms.

- YouTube: bit.ly/fpcvideos
- Facebook: facebook.com/fourthchurch
- Instagram: instagram.com/fourthchurch

Website and enewsletter

For resources and information about connecting with one another and Fourth Church, see our website at fourthchurch.org and our weekly email newsletter. Subscribe at bit.ly/newsfromfpc and visit our news archive at fourthchurch.org/news

Concerts

Friday Noonday Concerts

This week's free Friday Noonday Concert, which takes place in the Sanctuary and is also livestreamed, features soprano Penelope Shumate singing "Bach to Broadway."

For a schedule of concerts at Fourth Church, see fourthchurch.org/concerts

Organ concert by Doug Cleveland

Mark your calendar for Friday, January 24, when our Interim Organist and Director of Music, Doug Cleveland, will present a delightful evening of organ music featuring our Andrew Pipe Organ.

St. Olaf College Choir in concert

The St. Olaf College Choir, hailed as one of the nation's premier *a cappella* ensembles, is returning to Fourth Church on Friday evening, January 31 at 7:00 p.m. as part of its 2025 Winter Tour. Tickets for this concert are available from St. Olaf at stolaf.edu/tickets/choir

Calendar for January 5–January 12, 2025

Sunday, Jan. 5	9:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m. 12:00 p.m. 12:00 p.m. 12:00 p.m. 12:15 p.m. 12:15 p.m. 12:30 p.m.	Worship
Monday, Jan. 6	10:30 a.m. 10:45 a.m. 11:30 a.m.	CLL: Advanced French Zoom CLL: Stronger Seniors Zoom CLL: Intermediate French Zoom CLL: Silver Taps Zoom CLL: Beginner French Zoom CLL: Art History Zoom CLL: Yoga
Tuesday, Jan. 7	7:45 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	Men's Bible StudyZoomSacred PauseOnlineDay School PreschoolClassroom BCLL: Stronger SeniorsZoomSSC: Drop-In ProgramMorse LoungeKnitting and CrochetingRoom 5BCLL: Stage and ScreenRoom 5G

Calendar for January 5-January 12, 2025

	11:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 1:00 p.m. 1:00 p.m. 1:00 p.m. 1:00 p.m. 1:00 p.m. 1:00 p.m. 1:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	CLL: Basic Spanish
Wednesday, Jan. 8	9:00 a.m.	Day School Parent Meeting Fourth-Floor Lounge Day School Preschool
	9:30 a.m.	Day School Twos Program Classroom A
	9:30 a.m.	Morning Prayer Zoom
	9:30 a.m.	SSC: Drop-In Program Morse Lounge
	9:30 a.m.	CLL: Tap Zoom
	10:30 a.m.	CLL: Men's "Great Ideas" Room 5A
	10:30 a.m.	CLL: Zing Zoom
	11:00 a.m.	CLL: Midweek Meditation Room 4D
	11:30 a.m.	Meals Ministry Bag Lunch Anderson Hall
	12:00 p.m.	CLL: Current Events Room 4G
	12:00 p.m.	Horizons Women's Bible Study Zoom
	1:00 p.m.	English as a Second Language Class Morse Conference
	1:00 p.m.	Labyrinth Available to Walk (until 3:00) Buchanan Chapel
	1:00 p.m.	SSC: Living Room Room 4G
	1:00 p.m.	CLL: Art Beat with Susan Musich Zoom
	2:00 p.m.	CLL: Film Series Room 4G
	3:00 p.m.	CLL: Drawing Zoom
	5:00 p.m.	Chicago Lights Fifth Floor
	5:30 p.m.	Gala of Hope Committee Room 4G
	6:30 p.m.	Horizons Women's Bible Study Zoom
	6:30 p.m.	Inquirers' Class Zoom

Calendar for January 5–January 12, 2025

Thursday, Jan. 9	9:00 a.m.	Meals Ministry Sandwich-Making Borwell Dining
	9:00 a.m.	Day School Preschool Classroom B
	9:30 a.m.	Day School Together We Play Classroom A
	9:30 a.m.	SSC: Drop-In Program Morse Lounge
	9:30 a.m.	CLL: Silver Barre Zoom
	10:00 a.m.	CLL: Memoir Writing Room 5A / Zoom
	10:30 a.m.	CLL: Golden Grooves Zoom
	11:30 a.m.	CLL: Matters of Health
	11:30 a.m.	Meals Ministry Bag Lunch Anderson Hall
	1:00 p.m.	CLL: Memoir Writing p.m Room 5A / Zoom
	1:00 p.m.	CLL: Music History Zoom
	1:00 p.m.	English as a Second Language Class Morse Conference
	1:00 p.m.	Labyrinth Available to Walk (until 3:00) Buchanan Chapel
	1:00 p.m.	SSC: Living Room Room 5G
	2:30 p.m.	CLL: Intermediate Tai Chi Anderson Hall / Zoom
	6:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal Sanctuary
	8:00 p.m.	Morning Choir Rehearsal Buchanan Chapel
Friday, Jan. 10	9:00 a.m.	Day School Preschool
	9:30 a.m.	SSC: Drop-In Program Morse Lounge
	10:30 a.m.	CLL: Nia Zoom
	11:30 a.m.	SSC: Living Room Room 4G
	12:10 p.m.	Noonday Concert Sanctuary / Online
	2:00 p.m.	CLL: Hooray for Hooks Fourth-Floor Lounge
Saturday, Jan. 11	8:30 a.m.	Sacred Pause Online
	(No other events are scheduled for Saturday)	

Preaching on Sunday, January 12: Tom Are Jr.

Worship Leaders

Nancy Benson-Nicol, Tom Groos (9:30), MeShellai McWilliams (11:00), Nanette Sawyer, Matt Helms

The Music Today

Morning Choir (9:30); Chancel Choir (11:00) Doug Cleveland, Interim Organist and Director of Music

Worship Notes

Our annual "Light Up a Life" offering is being received throughout the Christmas season and Epiphany Sunday. 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. Those worshiping in the Sanctuary can also use the special offering envelopes found in the pew racks.

Tom Are Jr. Interim Pastor **Rocky Supinger** Senior Associate Pastor

Associate Pastors

Nancy Benson-Nicol Connection and Belonging
Matt Helms Faith Formation
Joseph L. Morrow Mission and Community Engagement
Nanette Sawyer Discipleship and Small Group Ministry

Amy Pagliarella Parish Associate for Caring Ministries

John Buchanan Pastor Emeritus

Sources and Credits: The Call to Worship is from re-worship. blogspot.com/2011/12/call-to-worship-epiphany.html. "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright" text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship (admin. Augsburg Fortress). The Prayer of Confesion is from unfoldinglight.net/2022/09/12/epiphany-january-1-or-6-2023/. "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" text © 1970, 1975 CelebrationMusic © 1970, 1975 Celebration. OneLicense.net. License A-712340. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO

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