

Forgiveness is in our vocabulary: in the church we say it quite a bit. Our frequent use of the vocabulary of forgiveness should not dull our conscience to the fact of its importance, its absolute irreplaceable importance to all of us. We cannot have friends without forgiveness, we cannot have family without forgiveness, we cannot have lasting marriages without forgiveness. But it is difficult, very difficult. It is very difficult to turn loose pain, especially if the pain has become the new center of my identity: the new definition of who I am—the wronged, hurt person. Only the person that hurts, only the one who has been hurt can forgive. The rest of us are just advisors and commentators.

Fred Craddock
Why Is Forgiveness So Difficult?

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

We are grateful for your presence and invite you to participate in the worship, program, and service life of Fourth Church.

During Today's Worship

Large-print bulletins, Bibles, and hymnals and individual listening devices for improved sound are available in the back of the sanctuary. Worship also can be heard through the "T" setting of hearing aids.

If your infant or small child needs care during the worship service, you may leave the sanctuary and return as you wish. The worship service audio can be heard in Stone Chapel, where you and your child are also welcome. Child care for infants and toddlers is provided in Westminster 14, through the south transept doors and to the right. See an usher for directions.

Worship bags, containing quiet activities and a bulletin designed for children, are available outside the south transept doors, between the sanctuary and Anderson Hall. Children who are attending worship in the sanctuary are invited to borrow one of these bags.

During the Concerns of the Church, please pass the pew information pads, so that all worshipers have an opportunity to provide updated information and to greet one another by name following the service.

Please turn off all cell phones when in the sanctuary.

If You Are New to Fourth Church

Please wear a lapel pin, found in the pew racks, so we might greet you after worship.

We invite you to stop by Coffee Hour after worship for fellowship, conversation, and information about church programs and volunteer opportunities.

Parking is available Sundays at the John Hancock Center, 875 North Michigan Avenue (access Chestnut Street), at the rate of \$7.00 until 2:00 p.m. and at 900 North Michigan (access from Rush or Walton Street) at the rate of \$7.75 to 4:00 p.m. and \$6.00 after 5:00 p.m. Validation tickets must be picked up during Coffee Hour or from the Chestnut Street reception desk.

Inquirers' Class offers an opportunity to explore Presbyterian history and beliefs. This one-session class is also a prerequisite for membership. Attend today, from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.; Monday, April 2 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.; or Saturday, April 21 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. For information about membership, contact Calum MacLeod, Associate Pastor, at the church at 312.981.4025 (cmacleod@fourthchurch.org).

Fourth Church Cares

For pastoral care; to notify the church of illnesses, hospitalizations, or deaths; to pass along a prayer request to be remembered in Morning Prayer; or to arrange homebound Communion, contact Ali Trowbridge, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care, at 312.573.3360 (atrowbridge@fourthchurch.org).

The Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago

John M. Buchanan, Pastor

Church office: 126 E. Chestnut Street, Chicago, IL 60611.2014; www.fourthchurch.org
312.787.4570; Staff extensions: 312.787.2729; Fax: 312.787.4584

MORNING WORSHIP

8:00, 9:30, and 11:00

*The beginning of the prelude is a call to silent,
personal preparation for the worship of God.*

PRELUDE (8:00) Prayer for Peace *Richard Purvis*

PRELUDE (9:30 and 11:00) Prayer for Peace *Richard Purvis*
Litany *Joel Martinson*
Elegy *George Thalben-Ball*

INTROIT “To Thee, O Lord, Do I Lift up My Soul”
Sergei Rachmaninoff

***DOXOLOGY AND INVOCATION** (The Hymnal, 592)

***HYMN 303** “Jesus, Lover of My Soul” *Tune: ABERYSTWYTH*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION
(*unison*)

**God of mercy, you sent Jesus Christ to seek and
save the lost. We confess that we have strayed from you
and turned aside from your way.
We are misled by pride, for we see ourselves pure
when we are stained and great when we are small.
We have failed in love, neglected justice,
and ignored your truth.
Have mercy, O God, and forgive our sin.
Return us to paths of righteousness
through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Minister: Friends, believe the good news.

People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

PSALTER Psalm 130 (page 542, O.T.)

***GLORIA PATRI** (The Hymnal, 579)

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 18:21–35 (page 19, N.T.)

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**Stand as you are able.*

SERMON

by John M. Buchanan

THE HARDEST THING OF ALL

“If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand?
But there is forgiveness with you.”

Psalm 130:3, 4 (NRSV)

*HYMN 280

“Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”

Tune: AMAZING GRACE

*APOSTLES CREED

(unison)

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

OFFERING

OFFERTORY SOLO
(8:00)

“Pieta, Signore”

Alessandro Stradella

OFFERTORY ANTHEM
(9:30 and 11:00)

“Lord, Remember Not”

Felix Mendelssohn

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

For the life that you have giv - en, for the love in Christ made known,
with these fruits of time and la - bor, with these gifts that are your own:
here we of - fer, Lord, our prai - ses; heart and mind and strength we bring.
Give us grace to love and serve you, liv - ing what we pray and sing.

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THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

PRAYER

Minister: It is truly right and our greatest joy . .

. . . who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Ho- ly, ho- ly, ho- ly Lord, God of po- wer and might,
hea- ven and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho- san- na in the high- est. Bles- sed is the
One who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho- san- na in the high- est.

Music: John W.W. Sherer; © 1997. Used by permission.

Minister: You are holy, O God of majesty . . .

. . . dedicated to your service.

Minister: Great is the mystery of faith:

People: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Minister: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit . . .

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 “Jesu, Word of God Incarnate” *David H. Williams*
(8:00)

COMMUNION ANTHEM “Sing Me to Heaven” *Daniel E. Gawthrop*
(9:30 and 11:00)

PSALM 23 *(recited in unison after all have received the cup)*
The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures, he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul; he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name’s sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies; thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION
(unison) **O God, you have greatly loved us,
long sought us, and mercifully redeemed us.
Give us grace
that in everything we may yield ourselves,
our wills and our works,
a continual thank-offering to you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

***HYMN 76** “My Song Is Love Unknown” *Tune: LOVE UNKNOWN*

BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

POSTLUDE The Lord My Shepherd Is *Andreas Armsdorff*
(8:00)

POSTLUDE Voluntary *Clarence Eddy*
(9:30 and 11:00)

THE LORD'S SUPPER AT FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

"Do this in remembrance of me." Luke 14:19 (NRSV)

The Lord's Supper is the sign and seal of eating and drinking in communion with the crucified and risen Lord. In this act, we remember that during his earthly ministry, Jesus shared meals with his followers and sat at dinner tables as a sign of acceptance of the sinner and the outcast. In the last meal before his death, Jesus took and shared with his disciples bread and wine, speaking of these elements as his body and blood, symbols of the new relationship with God brought about by his impending death. On the day of his resurrection, the risen Jesus made himself known to his followers in the breaking of bread.

In the act of remembering that is the Lord's Supper, we receive and trust the love of Christ present to us and to the world. Through it, we are renewed and empowered to be the church, the body of Christ, in the world.

The invitation to the Lord's Supper is not just for Presbyterians or "members of the church." All who confess Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord are invited to partake of the Lord's Supper. Access to the Table is not a right conferred upon the

worthy but a privilege given to the undeserving who come in faith, repentance, and love. Even one who doubts or whose trust is wavering may receive the bread and grape juice (in place of wine) in order to be assured of God's love and grace in Jesus Christ.

At our morning communion services, the congregation is served in the pews by elders and deacons in an act symbolizing their role as servant leaders in the church. The congregation also takes on the role of serving: worshipers first take the bread and grape juice from the plate held by their neighbor and then they take the plate and serve the neighbor on their other side. Empty glasses are placed in the ringed holes in the pew racks.

Fourth Presbyterian Church celebrates the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper each Sunday at evening worship and at morning worship six Sundays a year.

*"I am the bread of life."
John 6:35 (NRSV)*

Portions of the text adapted from
The Book of Order

Worship Leaders

8:00 a.m.	Calum I. MacLeod, Dana Ferguson, John M. Buchanan
9:30 a.m.	Dana Ferguson, Thomas C. Rook, John M. Buchanan
11:00 a.m.	Calum I. MacLeod, Alice M. Trowbridge, John M. Buchanan

The Music Today

8:00 a.m.	The Chancel Choir; Dala Aavik, soprano soloist; Mark Eldred, tenor soloist
9:30 a.m.	The Morning Choir; Carla Janzen, soprano soloist
11:00 a.m.	The Morning Choir; Carla Janzen, soprano soloist

John W. W. Sherer, Organist and Director of Music
Thomas Gouwens, Associate Organist

Worship Notes

The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering is being received throughout Lent. Gifts to this offering support the work of the Presbyterian Self-Development of People Program, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and the Interfaith Homes Initiative as well as the Chicago Lights Partners in Education program and the Elam Davies Social Service Center. To make a “One Great Hour of Sharing” gift, use the envelopes in the pew racks or write “Lenten Offering” on the memo line of a check made payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church.

The unfolding flower growing out of a crown of thorns, shown on this week’s bulletin cover, provides an apt metaphor for the new life arising from Christ’s death and resurrection. It is carved into the underside of the octagonal sounding board over the Fourth Church pulpit.

Pastoral Staff

John M. Buchanan, Pastor
Dana Ferguson, Executive Associate Pastor
Elizabeth B. Andrews, Parish Associate
John H. Boyle, Parish Associate
Patrick Daymond, Pastoral Resident
Adam Fronczek, Associate Pastor for Adult Education and Worship
Donna Gray, Minister for Children and Families
Keith C. Harris, Associate Pastor for Community Ministry
Hardy Kim, Pastoral Resident
Martha Langford, Pastoral Resident
Calum I. MacLeod, Associate Pastor for New Members and Young Adult Ministry
Thomas C. Rook, Parish Associate
Joyce Shin, Minister for Congregational Activities
Alice M. Trowbridge, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care
John W. Vest, Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry
David A. Donovan, Associate Pastor Emeritus