



Care of Creation Sunday

We Approach God

Gathering Music "Peace" Horace Silver
"O, Give Thanks unto the Lord" Judith Christie McCallister

Greeting

*Joining Our Voices
(The congregational responses are in boldface type)

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.
God saw that it was good!
God created the sun, moon, and stars and separated the waters from the dry land.
God saw that it was good!
God created vegetation, the plants, and fruit trees of all kinds.
God saw that it was good!
God created fish and birds and every living creature of every kind.
God saw that it was good!
God created humankind in God's own image and blessed them.
God gave every plant and every fruit for food.
God saw everything that God had made and, indeed,
God saw that it was very good!

* Stand as you are able

Inspired by the radical hospitality of Jesus Christ, Fourth Church welcomes all of God's children into the life of the church regardless of sex, gender, sexual orientation, age, race, ethnicity, physical or mental ability, mental health, educational background, economic situation, religious background, or documentation status.

***Opening Song** “All Things Bright and Beautiful”

Please note

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We Tell the Truth about Ourselves

Prayer of Confession *(unison)*

Forgive us, O God, when we are unkind to people,
when we are careless with animals,
when we choose the cheapest or easiest,
when we don't care about the consequences of our choices,
when we waste energy and water,
when we lack respect for the earth,
when we are complacent and overcome by apathy.
Forgive us, O God, and reconcile us to yourself,
to one another, and to the creation. Amen.

(Please hold silence.)

God Forgives and Blesses Us

Christ is risen! Rise up and rejoice; be witnesses to the good news!

In Jesus Christ, we also are raised to new life.

Turn your hearts toward Christ and receive this good news.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven, blessed, and sent into the world! Alleluia! Amen!

*Passing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

All are invited to stand and share the peace of Christ with one another.

*Song "Reach Out Your Hand in Peace" *Lucy Smith*

Welcome

We Proclaim the Story

Psalter Psalm 104:1, 10–24 (*the congregation sings the antiphon*)

Leader: Bless God, O my soul; O God, my God, how excellent is your greatness!
You are clothed with majesty and splendor.
You send the springs into the valleys; they flow between the mountains.
All the beasts of the field drink from them, the wild asses quench their thirst.
Beside them the birds of the air make their nests and sing among the branches.
You water the mountains from your dwelling on high;
the earth is fully satisfied by the fruit of your works.

ANTIPHON (*unison*) **Praise the Lord, whose love is eternal! Praise the Lord, whose love is eternal!**

Leader: You make grass grow for flocks and herds and plants to serve humanity
that they may bring forth food from the earth, and wine to gladden our hearts,
oil to make a cheerful countenance, and bread to strengthen the heart.
The trees of God are full of sap, the cedars of Lebanon which he planted,
in which the birds build their nests, and in whose tops the stork makes his dwelling.
The high hills are a refuge for the mountain goats, and the stony cliffs for the rock badgers.

ANTIPHON (*unison*) **Praise the Lord, whose love is eternal! Praise the Lord, whose love is eternal!**

Leader: You appointed the moon to mark the seasons, and the sun knows the time of its setting.
You make darkness that it may be night, in which all the beasts of the forest prowl.
The lions roar after their prey and seek their food from God.
The sun rises, and they slip away and lay themselves down in their dens.
People go forth to work and labor until the evening.
O God, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

ANTIPHON (*unison*) **Praise the Lord, whose love is eternal! Praise the Lord, whose love is eternal!**

Scripture Reading

Luke 12:22–31 (*New Testament, page 70*)

Sermon “Creation Cares” *Lucy Forster-Smith*

We Offer Ourselves

Musical Reflection

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.**

Sharing of Gifts (*Please place gifts, pledges, and prayer cards in the plate as it is passed.*)

Offertory Music "I Just Want to Praise You" *Maurette Brown Clark*

***Doxology** "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" *Words by Brian Wren*

We Feast Together

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

The Great Thanksgiving

(The congregational responses are in boldface type)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise!

Sanctus *Lucy Smith*

The Communion

Communion Music "Someday We'll All Be Free" *Donny Hathaway*

We Go Out with Gratitude

Prayer of Thanksgiving *(unison)*

For all that you have created, for all that you have given us,

O God, we thank you.

For the whole earth and for our little part of it, we thank you.

**Blessed by this Table, send us forth into the world
that we may bring life and grace to every place of need. Amen.**

***Closing Song** “Halle, Halle, Hallelujah”

***Benediction**
Sending Music

Worship Leaders

Lucy Forster-Smith	Senior Associate Pastor
Abbi Heimach-Snipes	Pastoral Resident
Joy Anderson	Lay Liturgist
Musicians	Leslie Beukelman, vocals Marcus Evans, drums Amr Fahmy, piano Patrick Mulcahy, bass

A note on inclusive language

Incorporating ancient and contemporary traditions in this service, God is named corporately in a variety of ways that are gender neutral. This allows for your personal expressions as you are led to name the Holy in ways meaningful to you.

Acknowledgments

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FOURTH
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
A Light in the City

PASTORAL STAFF

Shannon J. Kershner, Pastor
Lucy Forster-Smith, Senior Associate Pastor
Victoria G. Curtiss, Associate Pastor for Mission
Matt Helms, Associate Pastor for Children and Family Ministry
Nanette Sawyer, Associate Pastor for Discipleship and Small Group Ministry
Rocky Supinger, Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry
Judith L. Watt, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care
Jeffrey Doane, Parish Associate for Older Adults
Abbi Heimach-Snipes, Pastoral Resident
John Buchanan, Pastor Emeritus

News and Opportunities

News and Resources

Today is Care of Creation Sunday, a day when we hold in prayer God's amazing creation and recommit ourselves to the good stewardship of that life-giving gift.

Next Sunday, April 29, Nanette Sawyer will be installed as Associate Pastor for Discipleship and Small Group Ministry during the 4:00 p.m. service. A reception will follow in Borwell Dining Room.

Joe Morrow will be joining us on May 1 for a two-year appointment as Minister for Evangelism and as the primary pastoral presence at the Jazz at Four service.

A congregational meeting has been called by Session for Sunday, May 6 at 12:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The purpose of the meeting will be to vote on the recommendation from Session and the Board of Trustees that Fourth Church acquire a new manse for the use of our current and future senior pastors. Detailed information has been mailed to all member homes, and a synopsis is posted online at www.bit.ly/fpcmanse

If you are a Fourth Church member and did not receive the email about the housing proposal, be sure to subscribe to our email news list to see future updates: www.bit.ly/fourthchurchnews

Individuals experiencing life challenges can benefit from being paired with a Stephen Minister, who walks alongside them as a listening presence. See www.fourthchurch.org/caring for information.

Worship

This Friday a candlelit Taizé service—a time of meditative song, contemplative prayer, and silent reflection—will take place at 7:30 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel. A hosted labyrinth walk will be offered beforehand, between 6:00 and 7:30 p.m. in Anderson Hall. The walk takes approximately twenty minutes.

Sacred Pause meditation, a time of silent reflection hosted by the Replogle Center and the Spiritual Formation Council, is held Tuesdays at 7:45 a.m. in Stone Chapel.

Morning Prayer is held on Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. in Buchanan Chapel as a time to join staff in prayer for Fourth Church members as well as for those who are in need.

Music and the Arts

Organist John Sherer will present this week's free Friday Noonday concert in the Sanctuary.

The Fourth Church Choral Society will present their spring concert on Friday, May 18 at 7:30 p.m.

The Chicago Ensemble will be in concert this Tuesday, April 24 at 7:30 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel. Tickets are available at www.thechicagoensemble.org

Bella Voce will present a concert this Saturday, April 28 at 7:30 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel. Tickets are available at www.bellavoce.org

Needed: 10,000 snack items by Mother's Day!

We need your help in collecting 10,000 snack items—a two-month supply of single servings of granola bars, chips, pretzels, and fruit cups—that Fourth Church Meals Ministry will pack in the sack lunches that are distributed, as part of the Bag Lunch program in Anderson Hall, on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays to our neighbors in need.



Children, Youth, and Family

A Family Communion Service will be held next Sunday, April 29 at 12:15 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel and offers opportunity for families to learn about and participate in Communion together.

Family Camp will be held the weekend of Friday, May 18–Sunday, May 20 in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. For information, contact Briana Belding-Peck at bbelding-peck@fourthchurch.org; you can register online at www.bit.ly/fpcfamilycamp18

The Fourth Church Day School is accepting applications for its 2018–19 early childhood programs, including a tot-and-parent class, a three-morning preschool class, and an extended-day option. Space is also available for June 5–8 and June 11–14 summer programs. For details, contact Kathy Hager (312.640.2579; khager@fourthchurch.org).

Sunday School meets at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. on the fourth floor of the Gratz Center.

Youth meet for fellowship on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. in the Bumpus Room. At 11:00 a.m. Junior Highs meet in Room 4G; Confirmation in Room 5A; and Senior Highs in the Bumpus Room.

Tunes for Tots, for parents and children up to two years old, is held on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. in Day School Classroom B.

Choirs for children and youth rehearse Sundays in Room 4F: Cherub (age 3–grade 1) at 9:00 a.m.; Youth (grades 6–12) at 10:00 a.m.; and Children's (grades 2–5) at 10:30 a.m.

Fellowship

Men's Book Club will discuss *Sapiens* by Yuval Harari this Monday, April 23 at 7:30 a.m. in the Parish House Dining Room.

Women at Fourth will discuss prayer with Shannon Kershner this Thursday, April 26 at 5:30 p.m. in the Bumpus Room. All women are invited.

The Young Adults group will be gone on a retreat April 27–29. Please keep them in your prayers as they journey together in fellowship, prayer, and discernment.

Men's Bible Study next meets Tuesday morning, May 1 in the Loop at 7:30 a.m. To RSVP (*required*), contact Anne Ellis (312.573.3369; aellis@fourthchurch.org).

A new men's discussion group, "How to Hear God Speaking Personally through the Gospels," will meet for three months on Wednesdays from 7:00 to 8:30 a.m. beginning in May. Come learn more about this opportunity on Tuesday, May 1 at 6:00 p.m. or Sunday, May 6 at 10:30 a.m.

Cornerstones—a group for people fifty and older—will meet on Friday, May 4 at 6:00 p.m. in Borwell Dining Room for dinner and a program on "The Rise and Fall of Cabrini-Green" presented by Bradford Hunt of the Newberry Library. Register (*required*) at www.bit.ly/cfpc0518 or with Anne Ellis (312.573.3369) by Wednesday, May 2.

Books by Women will discuss *The South Side: A Portrait of Chicago and American Segregation* by Natalie Y. Moore on Tuesday, May 8 at 6:00 p.m. in the Bumpus Room.

Fourth for Bridge will gather to play bridge on Saturday evening, May 5 at 7:30 p.m. at a member's home. For details, call Anne Ellis (312.573.3369).

Enrichment

“Religion within the Bounds of Mere Reason,”

a class led by Clare Pearson and using Immanuel Kant’s 1793 work *Religion within the Limits of Reason Alone*, meets on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in Room 5D.

“Church and Empire: New Testament Responses to the Roman Empire,” taught by Walter Hansen, meets on Sundays at 11:00 a.m. in Room 5D.

Daily devotions written by Fourth Church members and staff are available daily via email (sign up at www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions); at facebook.com/fourthchurch, Twitter (@FourthChicago), as well as www.fourthchurch.org; and in booklets in the literature racks.

Inquirers’ Class, a one-session class that provides opportunity to learn about Fourth Church as well as Presbyterian history and beliefs and is a prerequisite for membership, will be offered on Sunday, May 13 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the Page Smith Room.

Volunteers/Donations Needed

Volunteers to untie the blue bows on the trees; Friday morning, April 27 at 9:00 a.m.

Greeters for the 4:00 Jazz Worship Service.

Coffee Hour Hospitality Team members one Sunday morning a month

Shower Ministry greeters (*men*) for rotating Tuesday schedule (1:15–4:00 p.m.)

Men’s clothing (*all sizes*) for guests of the Chicago Lights Elam Davies Social Service Center Share Shop

Donations can be left at the reception desk. To sign up—or for additional volunteer opportunities—contact Robert Crouch, Director of Volunteer Ministry, at 312.981.3382 (rcrouch@fourthchurch.org).

Mission and Outreach

Cuba mission trip participants leave for Havana this Monday to spend a week with our sister congregation, the First Presbyterian Church of Havana. Please keep these eight travelers and First Church in your prayers in the days ahead.

Knitting and Crocheting meets this Tuesday, April 24 between 4:00 and 6:00 p.m. in Room 4F for a time of fellowship, to drop off items made for those in need, and to pick up materials.

The Benevolent Guild meets Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. in Room 5B to create taggies and stuffed animals for hospitalized children. (*No sewing experience necessary.*)

“Analyzing and Understanding Systemic Racism” training will be offered May 24–26 here at the church. To register, contact Vicky Curtiss (vcurtiss@fourthchurch.org). Early-bird rates are available through this Thursday, April 26.

The Gospel Run 5K/10K (and a half-mile walk for children) on Saturday, June 2 will provide opportunity to walk, run, or pledge to raise funds in support of anti-racism training programs at Fourth Church through the Interfaith Council Against Racism. To register or pledge, sign up at www.raceroster.com/16612 by May 15.

With the blue bows tied to the trees outside the Fourth Church Manse during Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month we remember all those affected by child abuse.

Chicago Shares voucher booklets—which offer a way to give to those in need on the streets while knowing that the \$1 gift will be redeemed at a grocery store or restaurant—are available by emailing Nancy Davis (ndavis@fourthchurch.org).

During Today's Worship

All are encouraged to use the prayer card, found in this worship bulletin, to offer joys and/or concerns. The cards will be collected during the Sharing of Gifts (simply place the card in the offering plate as it is passed). The prayer requests will be read by the pastoral staff during the week.

All, including children, are invited to the Lord's Table to receive Communion, which is served by intinction. The congregation will come forward by the center aisle to receive the bread (gluten-free bread is available in the paper "cup" within the basket of bread), which they will then dip into the chalice of nonalcoholic grape juice. Worshipers will return to their pews by the side aisles.

Worship also can be heard through the "T" or "T-coil" setting of hearing aids.

Please silence all electronic devices when in the Sanctuary.

If your infant or small child needs care during the worship service, you may leave the Sanctuary and return as you wish. There is also an area in the left-side aisle where your child can play quietly.

Worship folders, containing quiet activities, are available from a greeter.

Printed copies of sermons recently preached at Fourth Church are available in the literature racks. They are also available at www.fourthchurch.org/sermons/index.html.

To notify pastoral staff of personal concerns, illnesses, hospitalizations, or deaths; to pass along a prayer request; or to arrange homebound Communion with a Deacon, contact Judy Watt, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care, at 312.573.3360 (jwatt@fourthchurch.org).

If You Are New to Fourth Church

Inquirers' Class explores Presbyterian history and beliefs. This one-session class is also a prerequisite for membership. Attend Sundays, May 13, June 10, or July 8 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon in the Page Smith Room. We invite you to worship with us at 8:00 a.m. or 4:00 p.m. the day you attend the class. For details or membership information, contact Nancy Davis (ndavis@fourthchurch.org; 312.274.3815) or go to www.fourthchurch.org.

Information about opportunities and resources available to you here at Fourth Church is available in the literature racks as you're leaving the church. You can also find information on our website (www.fourthchurch.org), our page on Facebook (facebook.com/fourthchurch), and in our weekly email newsletter (send addresses to news@fourthchurch.org).

If you are interested in considering baptism or membership at the 4:00 p.m. service at Fourth Church, please contact Nancy Davis (ndavis@fourthchurch.org) or any pastor involved in the service. Information is available about the Baptism Seminar and Inquirers' Class, which are necessary for preparation. A monthly opportunity to be baptized or join the church at the 4:00 service is available on May 27 or June 24.

Sunday parking is available at 900 North Michigan (access from Rush or Walton Street) at the rate of \$8 between 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Validation tickets for the 900 garage must be picked up from the Chestnut Street reception desk.

The Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago

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