

A prayer service in the style of Taizé is held the fourth Friday of the month at 7:30 p.m. The next service is this Friday, May 23.

Daily devotions, written by Fourth Church staff, are available in the literature racks and by e-mail from devotions@fourthchurch.org.

Inquirers' Class offers an opportunity to explore Presbyterian history and beliefs. This one-session class is also a prerequisite for membership. Attend Monday, June 2 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.; Saturday, June 14 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon; or Sunday, June 22 from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. For information about membership, contact Calum MacLeod, Associate Pastor, at the church at 312.981.4025 (cmacleod@fourthchurch.org).

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 Lorene Replogle Counseling Center, a ministry of Fourth Church, offers support groups as well as individual, couples', and premarital counseling. Information about the Center is available in the literature racks or by calling 312.787.8425.

Parking is available Sundays at 900 North Michigan (access from Rush or Walton Street) at the rate of \$6.25 after 5:00 p.m.

The Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago

John M. Buchanan, Pastor

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312.787.4570; Staff extensions: 312.787.2729; Fax: 312.787.4584

vespers

6:30 p.m. Sunday May 18, 2008

A LIGHT IN THE CITY
FOURTH
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
www.fourthchurch.org

PRELUDE Fugue in E-flat Major ("St. Anne") *J. S. Bach*

CALL TO WORSHIP *(responsively)*

One: O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.

Many: **Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger.**

One: When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established;

Many: **what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?**

One: Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor.

Many: **You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet, all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.**

All: O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

INVOCATION

***HYMN 139** "Come, Thou Almighty King" *Tune: ITALIAN HYMN*

**Stand as you are able.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(unison)*

Creating, Redeeming, and Sustaining God, we give you thanks that though you are eternally and utterly beyond us, you continue to become present to us in new and wondrous ways.

You created this world for us to serve and keep. You redeemed your people Israel from captivity and included us all in the story of salvation through the ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus. You came to empower and renew your servants for ministry on the day of Pentecost and have continued to inspire your church through the ages.

We know that we should be humbled and awed by the ways in which you have made yourself known to people such as us. But we admit, O God, that we often prevent ourselves from seeing you as you are. We create images and boxes that we would have you fit into. We try and limit you, the one who was and is always before and beyond us, to make you something that will be only for and within us.

Forgive our lack of humility. Forgive us for worshiping our idolatrous images rather than you, the one true God. Open our hearts and minds again, that we might be open to receiving you, however you might come to us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Minister: Friends, believe the good news.

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

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

FIRST LESSON Job 38:1–11, 42:1–5 (page 458, O.T.)

ANTHEM “Trinitarian Blessings” *K. Lee Scott*

SECOND LESSON 2 Corinthians 13:11–13 (page 175, N.T.)

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

COMMUNION MEDITATION

by Hardy Kim

NOW MY EYES SEE YOU

***HYMN 263** “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

Tune: ST. DENIO

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *(unison)*

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Hardy Kim Pastoral Resident

Martha Langford Liturgist

Thomas Gouwens Associate Organist

Carol Carpenter Flutist

The Vespers Choir

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We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church.

In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth, praying, “Come, Lord Jesus!”

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

(A Brief Statement of Faith, PCUSA)

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM “Stay with Us” Walter L. Pelz

*DOXOLOGY (The Hymnal, 592)

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

INVITATION

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.**

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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

People: **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

THE LORD’S PRAYER (*traditional*) (The Hymnal, page 16)

THE COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

(*unison*) We give you thanks, merciful God, for the many ways in which you have made yourself known to us. We give you particular thanks for your gifts of bread and wine and for the gift of your Holy Spirit, which makes Christ known to us in the meal we have shared. Having been fed by you at this table and having met you in this place, give us the