

WORSHIP LEADERS

John H. Boyle Parish Associate
Allyson Rich Liturgist
John W. W. Sherer Organist
The Vespers Choir

A prayer service in the style of Taizé is held the fourth Friday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in Blair Chapel. The next service is Friday, September 28.

Daily devotions written by Fourth Church staff are available in the literature racks and by e-mail (send addresses to 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, October 1 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.; Saturday, October 20, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon; or Sunday, October 28 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

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

Fourth Presbyterian Church
Sunday, September 23, 2007
6:30 p.m.

vespers

PRELUDE Prelude

John Knowles Paine

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Bless the Lord and do not forget God's blessings.

People: **We remember and give thanks.**

Leader: The God who blesses us calls us to be a blessing.

People: **In our worship and in our lives,
let us praise God by blessing others.**

INVOCATION

*HYMN 356 "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" *Tune: MARYTON*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(unison)

**Holy and merciful God, from whom all blessings flow,
you call us to be a blessing to others.
We confess that we often curse others
rather than bless them. Out of our prejudice
we demean others by our name-calling.
Out of our anger we violate others in order to get even.
Forgive us, we pray, and teach us to honor all people
by seeking their welfare. May our gratitude for
your blessing of unconditional love and forgiving grace
prompt us to bless you by blessing others. Amen.**

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Leader: God's mercy is everlasting and boundless.

People: **God's grace is greater than our sin.**

Leader: Friends, believe the good news.

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

**Stand as you are able.*

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

PSALTER Psalm 34:1–10 (*responsively*) (page 480, O.T.)

ANTHEM “Sing Praise to God” *Swedish hymn*
arr. Leland B Sateren

SCRIPTURE LESSON
I Timothy 1:12–17 (page 196, N.T.)

COMMUNION MEDITATION

by John H. Boyle
THE POWER TO BLESS

*HYMN 413 “All Who Love and Serve Your City” *Tune: CHARLESTON*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

(*unison*) 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 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.
(United Church of Canada)

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM “We Wait for Thy Loving-Kindness, O God”
William McKie

*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

(*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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

(*unison*) Blessed Lord, we give thanks for the gift of this sacrament
by which we are blessed once more with your love and
forgiving grace. As best we know how, we commit ourselves
to bless others, to encourage the faint-hearted, befriend
the lonely, lift up the fallen, comfort the sorrowing,
and protect the helpless. We do so out of gratitude
for the blessing of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

*HYMN 263 “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise” *Tune: ST. DENIO*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Toccata in D Minor *Gordon Balch Nevin*