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## Gathering around the Word

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Prelude ♫ There Is a Balm in Gilead . . . . . African American spiritual; arr. Phillip Keveren

### Welcome and Call to Worship

Leader: *Our times are in God's hands.*

*Let us praise God in confidence and truth.*

People: God awakens our ears and our hearts to hear and answer God's call.

Leader: *When distress and grief weigh us down, God's steadfast love is present with us.*

People: God comforts us in our sorrow and pain,  
bringing new strength and hope.

Leader: *When we are tempted to deny and betray, God does not forsake us.*

People: God is here, and we are drawn to worship.  
God is with us; we will not fear.

### Prayer of Praise

Hymn . . . . . "Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound"

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved.

How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!

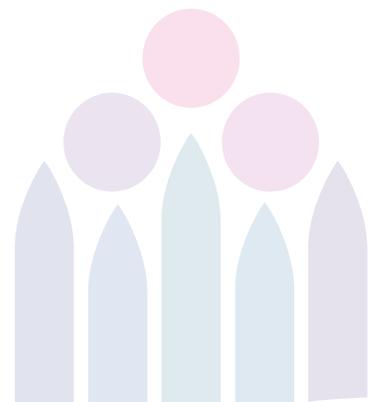
Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come.

'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me; his word my hope secures.

He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,  
we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.



### Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

We confess, God of mercy, that sometimes we are so focused on what we don't have and can't do that we block your working through us in surprisingly abundant ways. Feeling inadequate, we withhold ourselves. In fear and doubt, we limit what is possible. We shrink our perceptions of reality and miss how you are trying to expand our hearts and imaginations. Strengthen our hope and trust in you so we boldly risk pouring ourselves out in love. Amen.

### Declaration of Pardon

Leader: *Friends, believe the good news:*

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

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## Listening for the Word

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### Prayer for Illumination

Psalter (*responsively*) ..... Psalm 31:9–10, 14–16, 19, 24

Leader: *Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am in distress;*

*my eye wastes away from grief, my soul and body also.*

People: For my life is spent with sorrow, and my years with sighing;

my strength fails because of my misery, and my bones waste away.

Leader: *But I trust in you, O Lord; I say, "You are my God."*

People: My times are in your hand;

deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.

Leader: *Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.*

People: O how abundant is your goodness

that you have laid up for those who fear you

and accomplished for those who take refuge in you, in the sight of everyone!

Leader: *Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the Lord.*

Gloria Patri (*unison*)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:<sup>†</sup>  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen. Amen.

Scripture Lesson . . . . . Mark 14:1–9

Sermon :: “Trusting in Abundant Grace” . . . . . Victoria G. Curtiss

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## Responding to the Word

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Hymn . . . . . “A Prophet-Woman Broke a Jar”

A prophet-woman broke a jar, by Love’s divine appointing.  
With rare perfume she filled the room, presiding and anointing.  
A prophet-woman broke a jar, the sneers of scorn defying.  
With rare perfume she filled the room, preparing Christ for dying.

A faithful woman left a tomb by Love’s divine commission.  
She saw; she heard; she preached the Word, arising from submission.  
A faithful woman left a tomb, with resurrection gospel.  
She saw; she heard; she preached the Word, apostle to apostles.

Though woman-wisdom, woman-truth, for centuries were hidden,  
unsung, unwritten, and unheard, derided and forbidden,  
the Spirit’s breath, the Spirit’s fire, on free and slave descending,  
can tumble our dividing walls, our shame and sadness mending.

The Spirit knows; the Spirit calls, by Love’s divine ordaining,  
the friends we need, to serve and lead, their powers and gifts unchaining.  
The Spirit knows; the Spirit calls, from women, men, and children,  
the friends we need, to serve and lead. Rejoice, and make them welcome!

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<sup>†</sup>Or “to the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Ghost.”

## 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.

### Offering and Prayer of Dedication

Offertory Solo :: "I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes" . . . . . Leo Sowerby

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## Bearing the Word into the World

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### Charge and Benediction

Hymn . . . . . "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace"

Make me a channel of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me bring your love.  
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord, and where there's doubt, true faith in you.

Make me a channel of your peace. Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope.  
Where there is darkness, only light, and where there's sadness, ever joy.

O, Master, grant that I may never seek so much to be consoled as to console,  
to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace. It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
in giving of ourselves that we receive, and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

Postlude :: Improvisation on "Be Thou My Vision" . . . . . Irish ballad



In addition to livestreaming our 11:00 a.m. service at [www.bit.ly/FPCworship](http://www.bit.ly/FPCworship), where the service is available throughout the week, we make the service and sermon available via **podcast on iTunes and Spotify: [www.bit.ly/FPCpodcast](http://www.bit.ly/FPCpodcast)**; we also invite you to sign up to receive our sermons **by email: [www.bit.ly/fpcsermons](http://www.bit.ly/fpcsermons)**

As a connectional community committed to living out our care for one another and remaining together while apart, **we very much we want to hear from you!** Our pastors, Deacons, Stephen Ministers, and other volunteers are available to connect with you by phone and email. Please let us know by contacting our Pastoral Care Office ([callerton@fourthchurch.org](mailto:callerton@fourthchurch.org))—

- ▶ **if you are—or someone you know is—feeling isolated, lonely, anxious, or sick**
- ▶ **if you are a medical professional or are a provider of essential services**, as we want to care for you as well in what we know are difficult days for you and your colleagues
- ▶ **if you have a prayer request**; Dave Handley ([dhandley@fourthchurch.org](mailto:dhandley@fourthchurch.org)) is receiving these requests as part of our Morning Prayer and Deacon Prayer Ministries
- ▶ **if you would like to talk to a pastor**, please call the church (312.787.4570) and your request will be forwarded to someone on the pastoral staff.
- ▶ **if you would like to explore options for teletherapy** with our Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being, the Center invites you to call them at 312.787.2729, ext 2260.

Our daily devotions are available as a **resource for personal meditation and prayer**. You can receive them in your inbox (sign up at [www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions](http://www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions)) or read them online ([www.fourthchurch.org/devotions](http://www.fourthchurch.org/devotions)), via Facebook ([www.facebook.com/fourthchurch](http://www.facebook.com/fourthchurch)), or on Twitter ([www.twitter.com/fourthchicago](http://www.twitter.com/fourthchicago)).

We are grateful to all who have made **gifts in support of our mission and ministry**. Thank you! This monthly generosity report summarizes contributions to Fourth Church as of April 30, 2020.

<b>Fourth Presbyterian Church Generosity Report — Contributions as of April 30, 2020</b>				
<i>YTD = Year-to-Date</i>	<b>YTD Actual</b>	<b>YTD Budgeted</b>	<b>YTD Variance</b>	<b>2020 Budget</b>
Pledged contributions	\$1,262,601	\$1,190,999	\$71,603	\$3,111,000
General contributions	\$574,785	\$615,605	(\$40,821)	\$2,270,929
Restricted contributions	\$158,905	\$161,050	(\$2,146)	\$573,100
<b>Total contributions</b>	<b>\$1,996,290</b>	<b>\$1,967,654</b>	<b>\$28,636</b>	<b>\$5,955,029</b>

Today is **Vicky Curtiss's final Sunday leading worship** as our Associate Pastor for Mission, as she will be retiring June 1. We invite you to join us in thanking Vicky ([vcurtiss@fourthchurch.org](mailto:vcurtiss@fourthchurch.org)) for her ministry among us and in wishing her Godspeed in her retirement!

Next Sunday, May 31, we will receive a **special offering for Pentecost**. Gifts to this Presbyterian Church (USA) Pentecost Offering help the church encourage, develop, and support its young people and also address the needs of at-risk children. Of the special PCUSA Pentecost offering gifts given at Fourth Church, 40 percent will be used to make an impact in the lives of Chicago's young people through the work of Fourth Church's Action for Equitable Education mission group. The remaining 60 percent will be used to support children-at-risk, youth, and young adults through ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency. To make a gift to this special offering, note "Pentecost Offering" in the comments when making a gift online ([fourthchurch.org/give-online](http://fourthchurch.org/give-online)) or write "Pentecost Offering" on the memo line of a check payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church (mailed to 126 E. Chestnut St., Chicago, IL 60611.2014).

Also next Sunday, May 31 Jeff Doane will begin a three-week **online Academy for Faith and Life class** on **Jon Meacham's book *The Soul of America: The Battle of Our Better Angels***. For the Zoom details, register online at [www.bit.ly/soulamerica](http://www.bit.ly/soulamerica) \* This class is just one way we remain connected as community and church while we are apart. Adults sixty and over are invited to take part in online **Center for Life and Learning** courses and gatherings—ranging from exercise classes to lectures. Details are available from Susan Quaintance ([squaintance@fourthchurch.org](mailto:squaintance@fourthchurch.org)). \* Information about **online youth group** and **home-from-college gatherings** is listed at [fourthchurch.org/youth](http://fourthchurch.org/youth). \* **Noonday Concerts** are streamed on Fridays at 12:10 p.m. at [www.bit.ly/fpcprograms](http://www.bit.ly/fpcprograms), where they are also available later in the week.

**Those graduating** from eighth grade, high school, college, or a graduate or professional program in 2020 are asked to send their names to Katie Patterson ([kpatterson@fourthchurch.org](mailto:kpatterson@fourthchurch.org)) by Sunday, June 7 to be included in the June 21 worship bulletin for **Baccalaureate Sunday**.

As part of our commitment to caring for the most vulnerable, Fourth Church **Meals Ministry** is providing—via outdoor pickup—"to go" meals for Sunday and Monday Night Suppers and "to go" lunches for the Tuesday-through-Thursday Bag Lunch program. \* Tuesday through Friday mornings the Chicago Lights **Social Service Center** offers "curbside" pickup of emergency clothing; hygiene items; and pre-assembled bags for scheduled Food Pantry appointments. \* For ways to **order and ship items needed for these ministries** see [www.fourthchurch.org](http://www.fourthchurch.org)

Watch our **website** ([www.fourthchurch.org](http://www.fourthchurch.org)) for additional resources and ways to connect. We also encourage you to follow us on **Facebook** ([www.facebook.com/fourthchurch](http://www.facebook.com/fourthchurch)) and **Instagram** ([www.instagram.com/fourthchurch](http://www.instagram.com/fourthchurch)) for updates and glimpses of our life together while apart.

**Ensure you receive the latest updates** from Fourth Church by adding your email address to our distribution list. Simply sign up at [www.bit.ly/newsfromfpc](http://www.bit.ly/newsfromfpc)

## Worship Leaders

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Nanette Sawyer, Shannon J. Kershner, Victoria G. Curtiss

## The Music Today

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John W. W. Sherer, Organist and Director of Music

Carol Carpenter, Soloist

Fourth Church Jazz Quartet

*Leslie Beukelman, vocals*

*Bryan Doherty, bass*

*Marcus Evans, drums*

*Amr Fahmy, piano*

## Worship Notes

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YOUR GIFTS TO FOURTH CHURCH MATTER NOW MORE THAN EVER! When we do not pass a plate, it is easy for our offering to decrease. But our expenses continue as we remain committed to feeding our hungry neighbors and to paying our staff. Your generosity in this time makes a big difference! You can **give online** at [www.fourthchurch.org/give-online](http://www.fourthchurch.org/give-online) (or via the **“To Make a Gift”** button on our website: [www.fourthchurch.org](http://www.fourthchurch.org)); **via Venmo** (@Fourth-Church); or via a check made payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church and mailed to 126 E. Chestnut, Chicago, IL 60611.2014.

**Shannon J. Kershner** Pastor

**Lucy Forster-Smith** Senior Associate Pastor

Associate Pastors

**Victoria G. Curtiss** Mission

**Matt Helms** Children and Family Ministry

**Nanette Sawyer** Discipleship and Small Group Ministry

**Rocky Supinger** Youth Ministry

**David Handley** Interim Minister for Pastoral Care

**Joseph L. Morrow** Minister for Evangelism

**Jeffrey Doane** Parish Associate for Older Adults

**Maggie Shreve** Parish Associate for Jail Ministry

**John Buchanan** Pastor Emeritus

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### THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO

Church office: 126 E. Chestnut Street, Chicago, IL 60611.2014  
[www.fourthchurch.org](http://www.fourthchurch.org) [www.facebook.com/fourthchurch](https://www.facebook.com/fourthchurch)  
312.787.4570 Voicemail: 312.787.2729 Fax: 312.787.4584

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TO NOTIFY PASTORAL STAFF of personal concerns, illness, hospitalization, or deaths or to request prayer, contact David Handley ([dhandley@fourthchurch.org](mailto:dhandley@fourthchurch.org); 312.573.3360). (Please note: hospitals do not inform churches when a member is admitted.) Those experiencing difficult times are invited to consider meeting with a Stephen Minister: leave a confidential message at 312.573.3365.