
Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Prelude Modal Jean Langlais
Choral Dorien Jehan Alain
Apparition of the Eternal Church Olivier Messiaen

Introit ☩ “Urlicht” Gustav Mahler

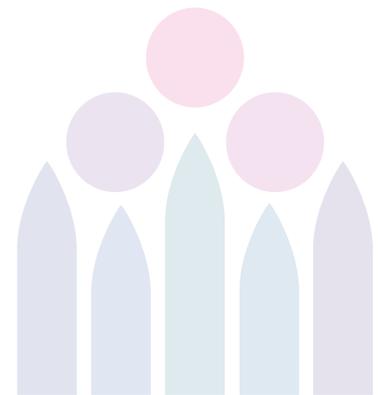
*O little red rose! Humankind lies in greatest need;
humankind lies in greatest pain. How I would rather be in heaven.
There came I upon a broad path when a little angel came and wanted to turn me away.
Ah, no! I would not let myself be turned away. I am from God and shall return to God!
The loving God will grant me a little light, which will light me into that eternal blissful life!*

*Doxology (*sung*)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.† Amen.

Welcome and Call to Worship

Prayer of Praise



†Or “Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.”

Hymn “God of the Fertile Fields”

God of the fertile fields, shaper of earth that yields our daily bread:
forth from your bounteous hand come gifts your love has planned,
that all in every land be clothed and fed.

We would be stewards true, holding in trust from you all that you give;
help us in love to share, teach us like you to care
for people everywhere, that all may live.

As grows the hidden seed to fruit that serves our need, so your reign grows.
Let all our toil be used, no gift of yours abused,
no humble task refused your love bestows.

God of the countryside, dear to the Christ who died to make us one:
we pledge our lives anew in faithful love to you.
Guide all we say and do. Your will be done.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Gracious One, in this space of honesty
we confess that we can turn against you, God of truth.
When we follow those desires that exert control over us;
when we live only for ourselves and shut off the gifts of those around us;
when we think we do not need to share your love, hope, peace with others,
we demonstrate how easy it is for us to ignore your way of life.
And yet, regardless of all the ways in which we fall short,
you have chosen to adopt us as your children.
You are our God who stands with us,
forgiving us and making us inheritors with Jesus of your grace and joy.
So lead us by the Spirit, that we might follow Jesus Christ, our brother and Savior,
into this creation that you both made and claim,
a created order that groans for love and healing. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

Leader: *Friends, believe the good news:*

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Anthem :: “Know That God Loves You” Carson P. Cooman
*Know that God loves you. God’s command is this: “Love one another as I have loved you.”
For neither death, nor life, nor present, nor future shall separate us from the love of God.*

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter Psalm 139:1–12, 23–24

Lord, you have searched me out; O Lord, you have known me.
You know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts from afar.
You trace my journeys and my resting places and are acquainted with all my ways.
Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, but you, O Lord, know it altogether.
You encompass me, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain to it.
Where can I go then from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?
If I climb up to heaven, you are there; if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.
If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
 even there your hand will lead me and your right hand hold me fast.
If I say, “Surely the darkness will cover me, and the light around me turn to night,”
darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day;
 darkness and light to you are both alike.
Search me out, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my restless thoughts.
Look well whether there be any wickedness in me,
 and lead me in the way that is everlasting.

Gloria Patri (*unison*)

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

Scripture Lesson Matthew 13:24–30

Sermon Shannon J. Kershner

†Or “to the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Ghost.”

Responding to the Word

Hymn “You Are Before Me, Lord”

You are before me, Lord, you are behind,
and over me you have spread out your hand;
such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
too high to grasp, too great to understand.

Then from your Spirit where, Lord, shall I go;
and from your presence where, Lord, shall I fly?
If I ascend to heaven you are there,
and still are with me if in hell I lie.

If I should take my flight into the dawn,
if I should dwell on ocean’s farthest shore,
your mighty hand will rest upon me still,
and your right hand will guard me evermore.

If I should say, “Let darkness cover me,
and I shall hide within the veil of night,”
surely the darkness is not dark to you:
the night is as the day, the darkness light.

Search me, O God; search me and know my heart;
try me, O God; my mind and spirit try;
keep me from any path that gives you pain,
and lead me in the everlasting way.

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 ♯ “The Bird’s Song” Ralph Vaughan Williams

*The Lord is my shepherd, therefore can I lack nothing.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures;
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.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*

Bearing the Word into the World

Hymn “O God, Show Us Your Mercy”

O God, show mercy to us, and bless us with your grace;
and cause to shine upon us the brightness of your face,
so that your way most holy on earth may soon be known,
and unto every people your saving grace be shown.
Let all the peoples praise you; let all the nations sing;
in every land let praises and songs of gladness ring.

For you will judge the peoples in truth and righteousness,
and on the earth all nations will your just rule confess.
Let all the peoples praise you; let all the nations sing.
Then earth in rich abundance to us its fruit will bring.
The Lord our God will bless us; our God will blessing send,
and all the earth will worship to its remotest end.

Charge and Benediction

Postlude ♯ Sortie Cesar Franck



We continue to gather online for **livestream-only worship**. In addition to livestreaming our 11:00 a.m. service at 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); we also invite you to sign up to receive our sermons **by email** (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)—

- ▶ **if you are a medical professional or are a provider of essential services**
- ▶ **if you are—or someone you know is—feeling isolated, lonely, anxious, or sick**
- ▶ **if you want to talk about the grief, anger, and frustration you are feeling**
- ▶ **if you have a prayer request;** Dave Handley (dhandley@fourthchurch.org) is receiving these requests as part of our Morning Prayer and Deacon Prayer Ministries
- ▶ **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.
- ▶ **If you would like to have a phone conversation with a Stephen Minister,** please leave a confidential message at 312.573.3365.
- ▶ **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.

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) or read them online (www.fourthchurch.org/devotions), via Facebook (www.facebook.com/fourthchurch), or on Twitter (www.twitter.com/fourthchicago). * On Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. we gather online for **Morning Prayer via Zoom**. Email Carol Allerton (callerton@fourthchurch.org) for details. * A virtual **Sacred Pause time of meditation** is hosted by our Replogle Center on Saturdays (8:30 a.m.) and Tuesdays (7:45 a.m.) at facebook.com/reploglecenterforcounselingandwellbeing

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

The Officer Nominating Committee is gathering recommendations of individuals to serve in the offices of Elder, Deacon, Trustee, or Chicago Lights Board for terms beginning in 2021. If you know any Fourth Church members—including yourself!—who have demonstrated gifts for leadership and ministry, please take a moment to offer your leadership recommendations by completing the online form at www.bit.ly/nominating2020

New virtual small groups (of six to eight members) are being formed for August. If you are interested in joining others via Zoom for a book discussion, conversation about race, or reflections on faith journeys, please email Anne Ellis (aellis@fourthchurch.org).

For details about **online programming for children, parents, and families**, including Sunday School and, in August, online VBS, contact Briana Belding-Peck (bbelding-peck@fourthchurch.org).

* Information about **online youth group gatherings** is listed at fourthchurch.org/youth. *

TwentiesThirties offers opportunities for young adults, including a weekly Zoom Coffee Hour following worship and a book study. Details are available from Joe Morrow (jmorrow@fourthchurch.org).

* **Adults sixty and over** are invited to take part in online **Center for Life and Learning** summer exercise classes, virtual tours, and more. Details are available from Susan Quaintance (squaintance@fourthchurch.org).

* The World Mission and Social Justice Committee is gathering names of those who might be interested in participating in a **future mission trip to India**. To express interest, please contact Parish Associate Maggie Shreve (jailministry@fourthchurch.org).

* **Noonday Concerts** are streamed on Fridays at 12:10 p.m. at www.bit.ly/fpcprograms, where they are also available later in the week. This week's concert features guitarist Andy Brown; the July 31 concert will be presented by vocalist Wydetta Carter.

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

To purchase fresh produce and support the community, stop by the **Farmstand at the Chicago Lights Urban Farm** on Fridays between 1:00 and 5:00 p.m. Guests are required to wear a face covering and practice social distancing while at the Farm (*444 W. Chicago Ave.*).

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

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Worship Leaders

Joseph L. Morrow, Walter Robinson, Lucy Forster-Smith, Shannon J. Kershner

The Music Today

Members of the Morning Choir:

Sarah van der Ploeg, Gretchen Adams, Phil Pierick, and Bob Doak

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

Beena David, Soloist

Worship Notes

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 even while our expenses continue. Your generosity in this time makes a big difference! You can **give online** at fourthchurch.org/give-online (or via the **“To Make a Gift”** button on our website: 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

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

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312.787.4570 Voicemail: 312.787.2729 Fax: 312.787.4584

TO NOTIFY PASTORAL STAFF of personal concerns, illness, hospitalization, or deaths or to request prayer, contact David Handley (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.