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## Gathering around the Word

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### Prelude

Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness . . . . . Johann Sebastian Bach  
Phoenix Processional . . . . . Dan Locklair

Introit :: “I Choose Love” . . . . . Mark Miller

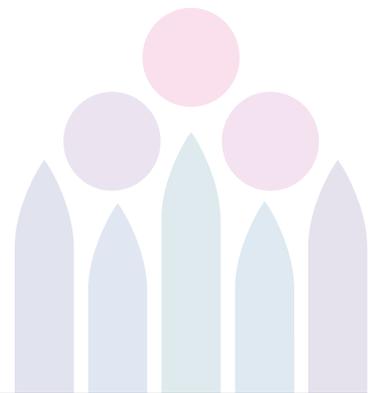
*In the midst of pain, I choose love.  
In the midst of pain, sorrow falling down like rain,  
I await the sun again; I choose love.  
In the midst of war, I choose peace.  
In the midst of war, hate and anger keeping score,  
I will seek the good once more; I choose peace.  
When my world falls down, I will rise.  
When my world falls down, explanations can't be found,  
I will climb to holy ground; I will rise.*

### \*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



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

Hymn . . . . . “The God of Abraham Praise”

The God of Abraham praise, who reigns enthroned above,  
the Ancient of Eternal Days, the God of love!

The Lord, the great I Am, by earth and heaven confessed,  
we bow before your holy name, forever blest.

Your spirit still flows free, high surging where it will.  
In prophet’s word you spoke of old and you speak still.  
Established is your law, and changeless it shall stand,  
deep writ upon the human heart by your strong hand.

Your goodly land we seek, with peace and plenty blest,  
a land of sacred liberty and Sabbath rest.

There milk and honey flow, and oil and wine abound,  
and trees of life forever grow with mercy crowned.

You have eternal life implanted in the soul;  
your love shall be our strength and stay, while ages roll.  
We praise you, living God! We praise your holy name:  
the first, the last, beyond all thought, and still the same!

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

If we have been the source of pain, O God,  
    either knowingly or unknowingly;  
if to those feeling weak we have refused our strength,  
    or when we feel weak we have refused the strength of another;  
if, in rebellion, we have strayed away;  
if, out of fear, we have locked the doors of our hearts—forgive us.  
Forgive us and set us free to be more fully who you have created us to be.  
Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

Leader: *Friends, believe the good news:*

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Solo :: “Bright Be the Place of Thy Soul” ..... Robert Owens

*Bright be the place of thy soul! No lovelier spirit than thine  
e'er burst from its mortal control in the orbs of the blessed to shine.  
On earth thou wert all but divine, as thy soul shall immortally be;  
and our sorrow may cease to repine when we know that thy God is with thee.  
Light be the turf of thy tomb! May its verdure like emeralds be:  
there should not be the shadow of gloom in aught that reminds us of thee.  
Young flowers and an evergreen tree may spring from the spot of thy rest,  
but nor cypress nor yew let us see; for why should we mourn for the blest?*

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## Listening for the Word

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Prayer for Illumination

Psalter ..... Psalm 26:1–8

Give judgment for me, O Lord,  
for I have lived with integrity;  
I have trusted in the Lord and have not faltered.  
Test me, O Lord, and try me;  
examine my heart and my mind.  
For your steadfast love is before my eyes;  
I have walked faithfully with you.  
I have not sat with the worthless,  
nor do I consort with the deceitful.  
I have hated the company of evildoers;  
I will not sit down with the wicked.  
I will wash my hands in innocence, O Lord,  
that I may go in procession round your altar,  
singing aloud a song of thanksgiving  
and recounting all your wonderful deeds.  
Lord, I love the house in which you dwell  
and the place where your glory abides.

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 . . . . . Exodus 3:1–15

Sermon . . . . . Shannon J. Kershner

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## Responding to the Word

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### 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 :: “Prayer” from *Nightsongs* . . . . . H. Leslie Adams

*I ask you this: which way to go? I ask you this: which sin to bear?  
Which crown to put upon my hair? I do not know, Lord God, I do not know.*

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

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## Bearing the Word into the World

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Hymn . . . . . “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land.  
I am weak, but thou art mighty. Hold me with thy powerful hand.  
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more;  
feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow.  
Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.  
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer, be thou still my strength and shield;  
be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside.  
Death of death, and hell’s destruction, land me safe on Canaan’s side.  
Songs of praises, songs of praises I will ever give to thee;  
I will ever give to thee.

### Charge and Benediction

Postlude ♯ Music for the Royal Fireworks . . . . . George Frideric Handel  
Finale



For the foreseeable future we are gathering online for **livestream-only worship**.

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)); you can also receive our sermons **by email** ([www.bit.ly/fpcsermons](http://www.bit.ly/fpcsermons)).

Do you miss connecting with people before and after worship? If so, plan to join us online today following the postlude for **virtual Coffee Hour via Zoom!** We will be gathering online at [www.bit.ly/fpcfellowship](http://www.bit.ly/fpcfellowship) (Zoom details are also posted at [www.fourthchurch.org](http://www.fourthchurch.org)). You can also connect with Coffee Hour **by phone**: dial (312) 626-6799 and enter meeting ID number 963 5583 1751#.

**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](http://www.bit.ly/nominating2020) by September 30.

As part of our commitment to caring for the most vulnerable, Fourth Church **Meals Ministry** provides—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)

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!** **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 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).

**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)

**Cornerstones**, a group of those fifty and over, will gather via Zoom for “**An Evening with Shannon Kershner**” on Friday, September 4 at 5:30 p.m. Zoom details will be sent to those who register by September 3 at [www.bit.ly/cpfc0920](http://www.bit.ly/cpfc0920) ✨ **TwentiesThirties** offers opportunities for young adults. For details, contact Joe Morrow ([jmorrow@fourthchurch.org](mailto:jmorrow@fourthchurch.org)). ✨ The book group **Books by Women** invites women to join them via Zoom on Tuesday, September 8 at 6:00 p.m. for discussion of *Becoming* by Michelle Obama. Zoom details are posted on the church calendar at [www.fourthchurch.org/calendar](http://www.fourthchurch.org/calendar), where you can find information about **other online opportunities**, including Bible studies and Benevolent Guild.

Those who are interested in **becoming a member of Fourth Church** are invited to join us online for an Inquirers’ Class on Sunday, September 23 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. To register for this one-session class (*required for membership*) and discover more about Fourth Church history, mission, and congregational life as well as the Presbyterian Church (USA), **sign up at [www.bit.ly/inquirer0920](http://www.bit.ly/inquirer0920)**

**Noonday Concerts** are streamed on Fridays at 12:10 p.m. at [www.bit.ly/fpcprograms](http://www.bit.ly/fpcprograms) (where they are available during the week). ✨ **The Center for Life and Learning** offers online exercise classes, lectures, and virtual tours for those sixty and over. For details, contact Susan Quaintance ([squaintance@fourthchurch.org](mailto:squaintance@fourthchurch.org)). ✨ Information about **youth group opportunities** is available from Katie Patterson ([kpatterson@fourthchurch.org](mailto:kpatterson@fourthchurch.org)).

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)). ✨ On Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. we gather online for **Morning Prayer via Zoom**. Email Carol Allerton ([callerton@fourthchurch.org](mailto:callerton@fourthchurch.org)) for the Zoom details.

Watch our **website** ([www.fourthchurch.org](http://www.fourthchurch.org)) for other 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.

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## Worship Leaders

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Lucy Forster-Smith, Kevin Harrison, Lois Snavelly, Shannon J. Kershner

## The Music Today

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Members of the Morning Choir

*Jeanne Bishop, Laura Bottei, Laura Kubelka, Craig Palmer, Leslie Ventsch*

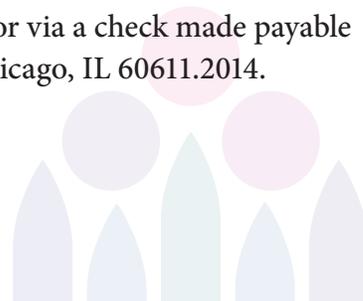
Phil Pierick, Soloist

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

## Worship Notes

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YOUR GIFTS TO FOURTH CHURCH are as critical to our mission and ministry as they have ever been, for it is through the generosity of each of us that we are able to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those God calls us to love and serve as a light in the city. You can **give online** at [fourthchurch.org/give-online](http://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.



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**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

SOURCES AND CREDITS: The Prayer of Confession is adapted from the hymn “Si Fui Motivo de Dolor,” written by Sara M. DeHall. “I, the Lord of Sea and Sky” words copyright © 1981, 2000 OCP; music harmony copyright © 2011 Alfred V. Fedak. All rights reserved. Used with permission. OneLicense.net. License A-712340.

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### THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO

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[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.