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## Gathering around the Word

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### Prelude

Three Liturgical Improvisations . . . . . George Oldroyd

1. My soul hath a desire and longing to enter the courts of the Lord.
2. Whoso dwelleth under the defense of the Most High,  
shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.
3. Pour light upon us from above.

Introit :: “Words for a Spiritual” . . . . . Florence Price

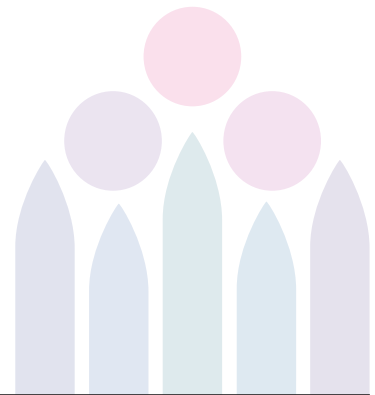
*Slow me down, Lord, I'm going too fast; I can't see my brother when he's walking past.  
I miss a lot of good things day by day; I don't know a blessing when it comes my way.  
Slow me down, Lord, I want to see more of the things that's good for me.  
A little less of me and a little more of you; I want the heavenly atmosphere to trickle through.  
Let me help a brother when the going's rough, when folks work together it ain't so tough.  
Slow me down, Lord, so I can talk with some of your angels.  
Slow me down to a walk. Slow me down.*

\*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 ..... “O Sing to the Lord”

O sing to the Lord; O sing God a new song. *(Sung three times)*

O sing to our God; O sing to our God.

For God is the Lord, and God has done wonders. *(Sung three times)*

O sing to our God; O sing to our God.

So dance for our God and blow all the trumpets. *(Sung three times)*

O sing to our God; O sing to our God.

O shout to our God, who gave us the Spirit. *(Sung three times)*

O sing to our God; O sing to our God.

For Jesus is Lord! Amen! Alleluia! *(Sung three times)*

O sing to our God; O sing to our God.

Prayer of Confession *(unison)*

Holy God, we are here on this Sunday of new beginnings, of new times,  
and we know that our times are in your hands.

But we confess that we count our times for us.

We count our days and fill them with us.

We count our weeks and fill them with our busyness.

We count our years and fill them with our fears.

And then we wonder why we feel empty, or worn out, or far from your hands.

Gracious God, take our times, times of love and times of weariness.

Take them all, bless them, and break them.

And then give them to us again, so that we might give ourselves to you.

Occupy our calendars. Occupy our lives.

We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

Leader: *Friends, believe the good news:*

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Solo # “Be Still, My Soul” . . . . . Jean Sibelius; arr. Stephen Paulus

*Be still, my soul, the Lord is on thy side; bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.  
Leave to thy God to order and provide; in every change, God faithful will remain.  
Be still, my soul: thy best, thy heavenly friend through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.  
Be still, my soul: thy God doth undertake to guide the future as he has the past.  
Thy hope, thy confidence let nothing shake; all now mysterious shall be bright at last.  
Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know the voice who ruled them while God dwelt below.*

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## Listening for the Word

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Prayer for Illumination

Psalter . . . . . Psalm 149

Hallelujah! Sing to the Lord a new song,  
God’s praise in the assembly of the faithful.  
Let Israel rejoice in their maker;  
    let the children of Zion be joyful in their ruler.  
Let them praise their maker’s name with dancing;  
    let them sing praise with tambourine and harp.  
For the Lord takes pleasure in the people  
    and adorns the poor with victory.  
Let the faithful rejoice in triumph;  
    let them sing for joy on their beds.  
Let the praises of God be in their throat  
    and a two-edged sword in their hand,  
to wreak vengeance on the nations  
    and punishment on the peoples,  
to bind their kings in chains  
    and their nobles with links of iron,  
to inflict on them the judgment decreed;  
    this is glory for all God’s faithful ones.  
Hallelujah!

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 12:1–14, 25–27

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 :: “The Lamb” ..... Theodore Chanler

*Little lamb, who made thee? Dost thou know who made thee?  
Gave thee life and bid thee feed, by the stream and o’er the mead,  
gave thee clothing of delight, softest clothing, woolly, bright,  
gave thee such a tender voice, making all the vales rejoice?  
Little lamb, who made thee? Dost thou know who made thee?  
Little lamb, I’ll tell thee: he is called by thy name, for he calls himself a lamb.  
He is meek, and he is mild; he became a little child.  
I, a child, and thou a lamb, we are called by his name. Little lamb, God bless thee!*

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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 ..... “Give Praise to the Lord”

Give praise to the Lord, and sing a new song;  
amid all the saints God’s praises prolong;  
a song to your Maker and Ruler now raise,  
all children of Zion: rejoice and give praise.

With timbrel and harp and joyful acclaim,  
with gladness, O God, we praise your great name;  
for now in your people good pleasure you seek;  
with robes of salvation you cover the meek.

In glory exult, all saints of the Lord;  
with song in the night high praises accord;  
go forth in God’s service and strong in God’s might  
to conquer all evil and stand for the right.

For this is God’s word: the saints shall not fail,  
but over the earth their power shall prevail;  
all kingdoms and nations shall yield to their sway.  
To God give the glory; sing praises for aye.

Charge and Benediction

Postlude # Festival Toccata ..... Percy Fletcher



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)).

If you would like to connect with others following worship today, please join us online 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 take part in Coffee Hour **by phone**: dial (312) 626-6799 and enter meeting ID number 963 5583 1751#. Next Sunday's virtual Coffee Hour on September 13 will be our "Get Connected" Coffee Hour, with opportunity to meet via Zoom various groups from around the church.

\* Another opportunity to connect with others is through our **small groups**, which meet once a week for four weeks. To learn more or express interest in joining the new small groups that will be forming this autumn, email Anne Ellis ([aellis@fourthchurch.org](mailto:aellis@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 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). \* 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)). \* 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 details.

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)**

**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)

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)

One month remains for the **Officer Nominating Committee** to receive 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 Wednesday, September 30.

**Online Noonday Concerts** are streamed on Fridays at 12:10 p.m. at [www.bit.ly/fpcprograms](http://www.bit.ly/fpcprograms) \* This Thursday, September 10 at 7:00 p.m. participants in our early-March 2020 visit to Havana will host a **virtual Music Mission Trip to Cuba** by sharing photos, videos, and stories from their experiences. For Zoom details, contact John Sherer ([jsherer@fourthchurch.org](mailto:jsherer@fourthchurch.org)).

**The Center for Life and Learning** offers kicks off a new program year on Monday, September 14 for adults sixty and over. Details about CLL’s online offerings of courses, lectures, and exercise classes as well as virtual tours are posted at [www.fourthchurch.org/cll](http://www.fourthchurch.org/cll); for more information, contact Susan Quaintance ([squaintance@fourthchurch.org](mailto:squaintance@fourthchurch.org)). \* **Books by Women** invites women to join them via Zoom this Tuesday, September 8 at 6:00 p.m. for discussion of *Becoming* by Michelle Obama. For Zoom details, email Anne Ellis ([aellis@fourthchurch.org](mailto:aellis@fourthchurch.org)). \* **TwentiesThirties** offers a variety of opportunities for young adults. For details, contact Joe Morrow ([jmorrow@fourthchurch.org](mailto:jmorrow@fourthchurch.org)). \* Our **LGBTQIA+ Widen Our Welcome** group will meet for an online cocktail hour this Tuesday, September 8 at 6:30 p.m. For Zoom details, email Anne Ellis ([aellis@fourthchurch.org](mailto:aellis@fourthchurch.org)). \* Upcoming online events, including Bible studies and Benevolent Guild, are posted on the church calendar at [www.fourthchurch.org/calendar](http://www.fourthchurch.org/calendar)

A new program year of online activities for **children, youth, and families** begins next Sunday, September 13. For information about Sunday School and family activities, contact Briana Belding-Peck ([bbelding-peck@fourthchurch.org](mailto:bbelding-peck@fourthchurch.org)). For details about youth groups and Confirmation, contact Katie Patterson ([kpatterson@fourthchurch.org](mailto:kpatterson@fourthchurch.org)).

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.

**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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Joseph L. Morrow, Roger Wilson, Lucy Forster-Smith, Shannon J. Kershner

## The Music Today

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Sarah van der Ploeg, 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 Walter Brueggemann, “Occupy our calendars,” *Awed to Heaven, Rooted to Earth*. “O Sing to the Lord” words and music copyright © Gerhard M. Cartford (admin. Augsburg Fortress). All rights reserved. Used with permission. OneLicense.net. License A-712340.

**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.