
Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Suite Eric DeLamarter

Flourish—Melody—Scherzo

Prelude on a Melody by Sowerby Morgan Simmons

Introit :: “Up, Up My Heart with Gladness” Johann Sebastian Bach

Up, up my heart with gladness, and learn what did befall

when, after days of sadness, the light was shed over all.

Three days within the tomb, Jesus lay in the gloom;

then conquering hell’s domain he rose in glory to reign.

Come, then your voices raising, and join the Easter throng

of saints and angels praising in one united song.

Jesus, the God of love, risen to reign above,

who after such fierce strife, has gained us endless life.

*Doxology (*sung*)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

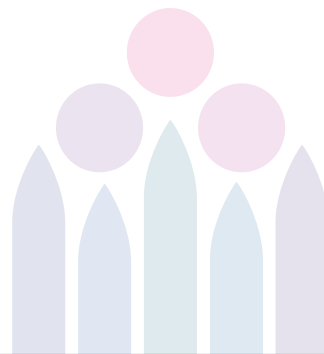
praise God, all creatures here below;

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 “Let the Whole Creation Cry”

Let the whole creation cry, “Glory to the Lord on high.”
Heaven and earth, awake and sing, “Praise to our almighty King.”
Praise God, angel hosts above, ever bright and fair in love;
sun and moon, uplift your voice; night and stars, in God rejoice!
Men and women, young and old, raise the anthem loud and bold;
join with children’s songs of praise; worship God through length of days.
From the north to southern pole let the mighty chorus roll:
“Holy, holy, holy One, glory be to God alone!”

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed;
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
In your mercy forgive what we have been.
Help us amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be,
so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways;
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

Leader: *Friends, believe the good news:*

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Anthem :: “Set Me as a Seal” Rene Clausen

*Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm; for love is strong as death.
Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it.*

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter Psalm 145:1–13

I will exalt you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever.
Every day will I bless you and praise your name forever and ever.
Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised! There is no end to your greatness.
One generation shall praise your works to another and shall declare your power.
I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty and all your marvelous works.
They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts, and I will recount your greatness.
They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness;
 they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.
The Lord is gracious and full of compassion,
 slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
Lord, you are good to all, and your compassion is over all your works.
All your works shall praise you, O Lord, and your faithful ones shall bless you.
They shall tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your power,
 that all people may know of your power and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.
Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures throughout all ages.
You, Lord, are faithful in all your words, and loving in all your works.

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 Selections from John 4

Sermon ≡ “To What End? Being Church in These Days” Shannon J. Kershner
Great End #3: The Maintenance of Divine Worship

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

Responding to the Word

Introduction of New Members: 2020 Confirmands

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 :: “Let the Bright Seraphim” George Frideric Handel

Let the bright seraphim in burning row their loud uplifted angel trumpets blow.

Let the cherubic host in tuneful choirs touch their immortal harps with golden wires.

Bearing the Word into the World

Hymn “Raise a Song of Gladness”

Raise a song of gladness,

peoples of the earth.

Christ has come, bringing peace,

joy to every heart.

Alleluia, alleluia, joy to every heart!

Alleluia, alleluia, joy to every heart!

Charge and Benediction

Postlude :: Gigue on the Tuba Stop Donald Stuart Wright

Confirmation

TODAY THE 2020 CLASS of eighth-grade confirmands is being recognized and welcomed into the wider life of the congregation. Please keep these youth in prayer as they continue with us on their faith journey.

Sam Beattie	Ruby Fairman	Delia Marianetti	Henry Turner
Allison Berger	Logan Gallenbeck	Hayley McAdams	Hollis VanDerMeid
Lilly Buchanan	Anne Hallinan	Sophie Nunziati	Luke Van Overmeiren
Trudy Comiskey	Katherine Hallinan	Alex Ruppel	Maggie Zeiger
Cate Cupps	Sydney Hatch	Camille Spalek	
Gavin Daniels	William Kozlowski	Kirsten Sprang	

Please also join us in giving thanks for the faith-filled dedication of the confirmation leaders, who accompanied the youth on their journey this past year: Luke Beasley, Carole Bekken, Jeff Gallenbeck, Ned Morley, Jill Prater, Karen Sabine.



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 (where the service is available throughout the week), we also make the service available via **Facebook Live** (www.facebook.com/fourthchurch) and **YouTube** (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos) at 11:00 a.m. on Sundays. Those without Internet access are invited to join the service by **listening to the service live via phone by calling 888.916.9166 (toll-free)** at the time of the service (the prelude typically begins around 10:45 a.m.). During the week we also make the service and sermon available via **podcast on iTunes and Spotify** (www.bit.ly/FPCpodcast); you can also receive our sermons **by email** (www.bit.ly/fpcsermons).

Today we continue our **sermon series “To What End? Being Church in These Days.”** This series explores the Six Great Ends of the Church, a series of statements crafted in the early twentieth century to define and guide the life and work of the Presbyterian church: who we are and what we are called to do. Last week we considered the second of the Great Ends: “The Shelter, Nurture, and Spiritual Fellowship of the Children of God.” Today we look at the third: “The Maintenance of Divine Worship.”

Next Sunday afternoon, October 4 we will hold our annual **Blessing of the Animals**. This year we will do so virtually, via Zoom, as we gather online with pets to thank God for the gift of special creatures in our lives. For the Zoom details, please register at www.bit.ly/animalblessing20

The Session of Fourth Church has called a **virtual congregational meeting** for today, Sunday, September 27 at 12:15 p.m. at www.bit.ly/fpcprograms (call in at 888.916.9166). During the meeting, the congregation will be asked to ratify the Session’s action in May to **dissolve the pastoral relationship between Fourth Church and Vicky Curtiss**, who retired on May 31. The congregation will also receive and **act on the recommendation to elect Joe Morrow as Associate Pastor for Evangelism and Community Engagement**.

If you would like to connect with others for a time of fellowship following the congregational meeting today, please join us online for **virtual Coffee Hour via Zoom!** We will be gathering online at www.bit.ly/fpcfellowship (Zoom details are also posted at 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#. * You can also connect with others through **small groups**, which meet via Zoom once a week for six weeks. To learn more or express interest in joining the new small groups that will be launching in October, email Anne Ellis (aellis@fourthchurch.org).

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

This Wednesday, September 30 is the deadline to submit to the **Officer Nominating Committee** 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 offer your leadership recommendations by completing the form at www.bit.ly/nominating2020

Sunday School and family activities are being held online. For details, contact Briana Belding-Peck (bbelding-peck@fourthchurch.org). For details about **youth groups and Confirmation**, contact Katie Patterson (kpatterson@fourthchurch.org). * **TwentiesThirties** offers online opportunities for young adults. For details, contact Joe Morrow (jmorrow@fourthchurch.org). * Details about the **Center for Life and Learning** courses, lectures, and exercise classes for adults sixty and over are posted at www.fourthchurch.org/cll; for more information, contact Susan Quaintance (squaintance@fourthchurch.org). * A new **Men's Faith Discussion Group** will also be meeting via Zoom beginning Monday, October 26 at 7:00 a.m. for three months. To express interest, email David Handley (dhandley@fourthchurch.org).

The Equitable Education Committee at Fourth Church is hosting a **Zoom panel discussion on the Illinois Graduated Tax Amendment**, which will be on the general election ballot in Illinois this November. For Zoom details for this forum moderated by David Greising on Tuesday, October 6 at 7:00 p.m., register at www.bit.ly/taxamendment * **"The Great Divide: A Look at Inequity within Chicago Public Schools"** meets via Zoom on Sundays through October 4 at 9:30 a.m. For the Zoom link, register at www.bit.ly/3bTHnZd * **"Foundations of Faith: An Hour a Week with the Bible,"** led by Fourth Church pastoral staff, meets via Zoom on Sundays at 12:30 p.m. For Zoom details, register at www.bit.ly/fpcff20 * **Men's Bible Study** meets weekly via Zoom on Tuesdays at 7:30 a.m. For Zoom details, email Anne Ellis (aellis@fourthchurch.org).

Cornerstones, a fellowship opportunity for those 50 and older, will gather via Zoom on Friday, October 2 at 5:30 p.m. for a program by two of Chicago's **gifted cabaret artists—Carla Gordon and Beckie Menzie**—performing "Songs of Protest and Patriotism." Register by this Wednesday, September 30 at www.bit.ly/cfpc1020 to receive Zoom details. * **Online Noonday Concerts** are streamed on Fridays at 12:10 p.m. at www.bit.ly/fpcprograms

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. * On Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. we gather online for **Morning Prayer via Zoom**. Email Carol Allerton (callerton@fourthchurch.org) for details. * **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**, please call the Replegle Center for Counseling and Well-Being at 312.787.2729, ext 2260.

Watch our **website** (www.fourthchurch.org), **Facebook** (www.facebook.com/fourthchurch), and **Instagram** (www.instagram.com/fourthchurch) for other resources and ways to connect. Upcoming online events are posted on the church calendar at www.fourthchurch.org/calendar.

Worship Leaders

Lucy Forster-Smith, Tom Groos, Nanette Sawyer, Shannon J. Kershner

The Music Today

Members of the Morning Choir

Beena David, Kimberly Gunderson, Brett Potts, and Todd DeStigter

Kacey Kurpinsky, Soloist

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

Worship Notes

THE PRELUDE “Prelude on a Melody by Sowerby” was composed by Morgan Simmons, who served as Organist and Choirmaster at Fourth Church from 1968 through 1996. He dedicated the piece to his wife, Mary Simmons, who was Associate Organist at Fourth Church. It is based on an anthem entitled “Eternal Light” composed by Leo Sowerby, who was also an Associate Organist at Fourth Church.

IT IS THROUGH THE GENEROSITY OF EACH OF US that Fourth Church is 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 (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

www.fourthchurch.org www.facebook.com/fourthchurch

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.