
Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Cantilene	Lynn Trapp
The Aeolian Sonata	Dan Locklair
II. Shalom (Peace)	

Introit :: “His Eye Is on the Sparrow” Charles H. Gabriel; arr. Hal H. Hopson

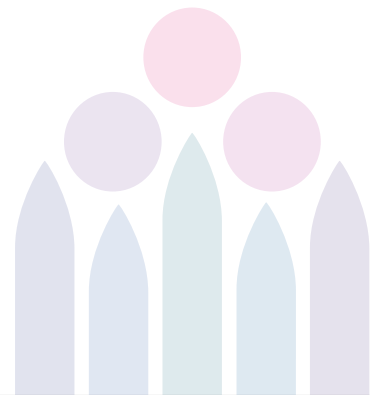
*Why should I feel discouraged, why should the shadows come,
why should my heart be lonely and long for heaven and home,
when Jesus is my portion? My constant friend is he;
his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.
I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free;
for his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.
“Let not your heart be troubled,” his tender word I hear,
and resting on his goodness, I lose my doubts and fears;
though by the path he leadeth, but one step I may see;
his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.
Whenever I am tempted, whenever clouds arise,
when song gives place to sighing, when hope within me dies,
I draw closer to him, from care he sets me free;
his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.
I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free;
for his eye is on the sparrow, and I know, O yes, I know he watches me.*

*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, Whose Giving Knows No Ending”

God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store,
nature’s wonder, Jesus’ wisdom, costly cross, grave’s shattered door:
gifted by you, we turn to you, offering up ourselves in praise;
thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.

Skills and time are ours for pressing toward the goals of Christ, your Son:
all at peace in health and freedom, races joined, the church made one.
Now direct our daily labor, lest we strive for self alone.
Born with talents, make us servants fit to answer at your throne.

Treasure, too, you have entrusted, gain through powers your grace conferred:
ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the gospel word.
Open wide our hands in sharing, as we heed Christ’s ageless call,
healing, teaching, and reclaiming, serving you by loving all.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Gracious God, we hear your calling.
You have shown us hope and offer us courage.
We come to you as people who long to walk your pathways of grace and love.
We want to be a demonstration of your beloved community.
But many times, God, we get discouraged by our living.
We are afraid of the difficult experiences.
We despair at challenges that are given to us.
We get weary in our faith and allow hopelessness to get the best of us.
Care for us on our journey, God.
Take our lives and transform us to be your new people. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

Leader: *Friends, believe the good news:*

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Solo :: “Agnus Dei” Laura Perkett

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter Psalm 99

The Lord is king; let the peoples tremble!
He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!
The Lord is great in Zion; he is exalted over all the peoples.
Let them praise your great and awesome name. Holy is he!
Mighty King, lover of justice, you have established equity;
 you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.
Extol the Lord our God; worship at his footstool. Holy is he!
Moses and Aaron were among his priests,
Samuel also was among those who called on his name.
They cried to the Lord, and he answered them.
He spoke to them in the pillar of cloud;
 they kept his decrees, and the statutes that he gave them.
O Lord our God, you answered them;
 you were a forgiving God to them, but an avenger of their wrongdoings.
Extol the Lord our God, and worship at his holy mountain;
 for the Lord our God is holy.

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 13:31–34

Sermon :: “To What End? Being Church in These Days” Shannon J. Kershner

Great End #6: The Exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the World

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

Responding to the Word

Celebration of Baptisms

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 ♯ “Mein gläubiges Herze, frohlocke” Johann Sebastian Bach

*My heart ever faithful, sing praises, be joyful, thy Jesus is near.
Away with complaining, faith ever maintaining, my Jesus is here.*

Bearing the Word into the World

Hymn “For the Life That You Have Given”

For the life that you have given,
for the love in Christ made known,
with these fruits of time and labor,
with these gifts that are your own:
here we offer, Lord, our praises;
heart and mind and strength we bring;
give us grace to love and serve you,
living what we pray and sing.

Charge and Benediction

Postlude ♯ Fanfare John Cook



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 conclude 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. You can find previous sermons in the series at fourthchurch.org/sermons * Next Sunday, October 25 is **Reformation Sunday**, the day when we recall the rich heritage of the Protestant tradition.

“Putting Our Faith into Action,” our **2021 stewardship campaign**, is underway! Each pledge makes a difference in the life-giving mission, ministry, and outreach efforts of Fourth Church and Chicago Lights. Details are online at www.fourthchurch.org; for more information, email Andrea Miller (amiller@fourthchurch.org). Please submit your pledge—which you can make online at www.bit.ly/fpcpledge—by **Commitment Sunday**, November 8, when we will celebrate all we are able to do together through our generous response to God’s blessings in our lives.

Those who are interested in **becoming a member of Fourth Church** are invited to join us online for a one-session Inquirers’ Class on Sunday, November 15 at 9:00 a.m. To register for this class (required for membership) and learn about Fourth Church congregational life, mission, and history as well as the Presbyterian Church (USA), **sign up at www.bit.ly/inquirer1120**

If you would like to connect with others for a time of fellowship 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 (Zoom details are 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#. * Another opportunity to connect with others is in our **small groups**, which meet via Zoom once a week for four to six weeks. To learn more or express interest in joining one of the groups forming in upcoming months, 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

Volunteers are needed to help cook our Fourth Church Meals Ministry **Sunday Night Supper** and to distribute the grab-to-go meal outdoors. You can **sign up online to cook** (app.vomo.org/project/cooking-for-sunday-night-supper) **or serve** (app.vomo.org/project/5da1181f63f6a) or email Robert Crouch, Director of Volunteer Ministry (rcrouch@fourthchurch.org) for details. * **Benevolent Guild**, which has been making face masks, meets via Zoom on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. **Knitting and Crocheting** will meet via Zoom on Tuesday, October 27 at 4:00 p.m. For details about either of these opportunities, email Anne Ellis (aellis@fourthchurch.org). * During October, which is **Domestic Violence Awareness Month**, purple bows on the tree trunks and fence along Michigan Avenue, outside the Manse, are our public witness to this issue and all those affected by it.

We are looking for Fourth Church members with **gifts for compassionate listening** to become Stephen Ministers and walk alongside individuals experiencing life challenges. The next fifty-hour **training course for new Stephen Ministers** will be offered in March 2021; for information about applying for the training, see www.fourthchurch.org/caring/stephen-ministers.html

As a connectional community committed to living out our care for one another, **we want to hear from you! 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 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, please call the Center at 312.787.2729, ext 2260.

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

Books by Women will meet via Zoom on Tuesday, November 10 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss **Giver of Stars by Jojo Moyes**. For details, email Anne Ellis (aellis@fourthchurch.org). * **The First Tuesday Book Club** continues on Tuesday, November 10 (*since the first Tuesday of the month is Election Day*) at 7:00 p.m. The Zoom discussion in both November and December will focus on the book **The Cross and the Lynching Tree by James Cone** and will be led by Nanette Sawyer. Register for Zoom details at www.bit.ly/firsttuesdaybooks

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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).

“Women in the Book of Judges” meets via Zoom on Sundays through November 8 at 9:30 a.m. For Zoom details, register at www.bit.ly/womeninjudges for this class taught by Dr. Steed Davidson of McCormick Theological Seminary. * **“Varying Voices of the Prophets: Cries for Justice, Lamentation, and Consolation”** is the current theme in our **“Foundations of Faith: An Hour a Week with the Bible”** class, which meets via Zoom on Sundays at 12:30 p.m. Jeff Doane is leading this exploration of texts in Amos, Jeremiah, and Isaiah. 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 details, email Anne Ellis (aellis@fourthchurch.org). * **“Civic Duty in Relationship to Our Faith”**—an **interfaith webinar** sponsored by the Muslim Community Center and Fourth Church on behalf of the Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago and the Chicago Presbytery Ecumenical and Interreligious Work Group—will be offered this Tuesday, October 20 at 7:00 p.m. Register for Zoom details at www.bit.ly/33TZf2x

Online Noonday Concerts are streamed on Fridays at 12:10 p.m. at www.bit.ly/fpcprograms; this week’s program will feature **violinist Heather Wittels**. * **Women at Fourth** will gather via Zoom on Thursday, October 22 at 6:00 p.m. to reflect on cherished activities as we each consider **mapping our future and moving forward**. For Zoom details, email Anne Ellis (aellis@fourthchurch.org). * A new **Men’s Faith Discussion Group** will also be meeting via Zoom beginning October 26. Six to eight men will share life stories and discuss the Gospel of Luke on Monday mornings from 7:00 to 8:30 a.m. for three months. To express interest in taking part in this group, email David Handley (dhandley@fourthchurch.org). * **Cornerstones**, a fellowship opportunity for those 50 and older, will gather via Zoom on Friday, November 6 at 5:30 p.m. for a program by Paul Hamann, President and CEO of the **Night Ministry**, which works with those struggling with poverty or homelessness. Register by Thursday, November 5 at www.bit.ly/cornerstones1120 to receive Zoom details.

Watch our **website** (www.fourthchurch.org) for other resources and additional ways to connect. Upcoming online events are posted on the church calendar at www.fourthchurch.org/calendar We also encourage you to follow us on **Facebook** (www.facebook.com/fourthchurch) and **Instagram** (www.instagram.com/fourthchurch) for updates.

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Worship Leaders

Lucy Forster-Smith, Clyde Yancy, Matt Helms, Shannon J. Kershner

The Music Today

Laura Perkett, Oboist and Soloist

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

Worship Notes

TODAY WE CELEBRATE THE BAPTISM of Catalina Bibiana Nuñez, child of Raul and Raiti Nuñez, baptized on September 20, 2020; Reese Vivian Pettit, child of Noah Pettit and Ashley Walter, baptized on October 4, 2020; Mackenzie Weston Thut, child of Ryan Thut and Meredith Martindale, baptized on October 11, 2020.

THE SOLO “AGNUS DEI” was composed in 2018 by Laura Perkett, a member of the Fourth Church Morning Choir for ten years and an active professional musician.

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

Joseph L. Morrow Minister for Evangelism and
Community Engagement (*Associate Pastor-Elect*)

Nanette Sawyer Discipleship and Small Group Ministry

Rocky Supinger Youth Ministry

David Handley Interim Minister for Pastoral Care

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

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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; 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.