
Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Air Gerre Hancock
Fantasy on “Come, Holy Spirit” Plainsong; arr. Richard Proulx

Introit :: “Nada te turbe” John Warren

Let nothing disturb you, nothing affright you; all things are passing, God never changes. Patient endurance attains unto all things, who God possesses, in nothing is wanting. Alone God suffices.

*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

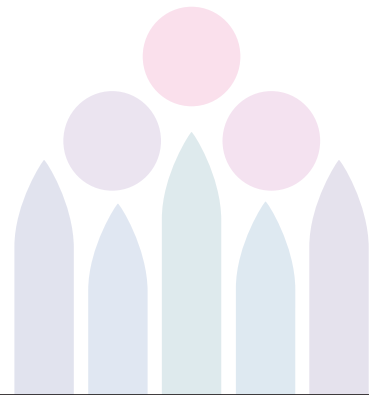
Hymn “Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers”

Rejoice! Rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear;
the evening is advancing and darker night is near.
The Bridegroom is arising and soon he will draw nigh.
Up, watch with expectation; at midnight comes the cry.

See that your lamps are burning; replenish them with oil;
look now for your salvation, the end of sin and toil.

The marriage feast is waiting; the gates wide open stand;
arise, O heirs of glory; the Bridegroom is at hand!

Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;
arise, thou Sun so longed for, above this shadowed sphere!
With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see
the day of earth’s redemption, and ever be with thee!



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

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Holy God, we come to you today in prayer, full of emotions.
Election seasons always seem to bring that out in us—
worry and hope, fear and frustration.
That list could keep going to include
anger and cynicism, apathy and divisiveness.
So today we bow our heads and ask
for both your forgiveness and your guidance.
Forgive us if, during this season, we have closed our ears to the groaning of creation.
Open them again.
Forgive us if we have closed our eyes to the needs of others.
Open them again.
Forgive us if we have closed our hearts and made no room for empathy.
Open them again.
Forgive us if we have closed our minds to navigating challenging conversations.
Open them again.
And when all else fails, bring us back to love.
Bring our hearts and our hands, our dreams and our hopes,
our anger and our frustration, our hurt and our fear, all back to love.
With hope we pray, with hope we are sustained. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

Leader: *Friends, believe the good news:*

All: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

Solo ♪ “A Prayer” Samuel Coleridge-Taylor

*O Lord, the hard-won miles have worn my stumbling feet;
O soothe me with thy smiles and make my life complete.
The thorns were thick and keen wherever I trembling trod;
the way was long between my wounded feet and God.*

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter Psalm 78:1–7

Hear my teaching, O my people;
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

I will open my mouth in a parable;
I will declare the mysteries of ancient times—
that which we have heard and known,
and what our forebears have told us,
we will not hide from their children.

We will recount to generations to come the praiseworthy deeds
and the power of the Lord,
and the wonderful works God has done.

The Lord gave a decree in Jacob and established a law in Israel,
commanding our ancestors to teach it to their children;
that the generations to come might know,
and the children yet unborn;
that they in their turn might tell it to their children;
so that they might put their trust in God,
and not forget the deeds of God, but keep God’s commandments.

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 25:1–13

Sermon Shannon J. Kershner

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

Responding to the Word

New Members

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.

Call for the Offering and Dedication of Our 2021 Pledges

Offertory Solo ♯ "Amazing Grace" H. Leslie Adams

Amazing grace, you fill my heart with song, a song of love that lasts the whole day long!

Amazing grace, surround me with the strength of your caress, renew my trust that I'm forever blest!

Amazing truth, speak to me with your voice, uniting all within that says, "Rejoice!"

Amazing truth, unfold the joy that only you can bring, the joy that comes when I begin to sing!

Abiding hope, abiding faith, abiding strength that comes to me. Abiding life, abiding love,

abiding song of eternity! Amazing grace, you fill my heart with song, a song of love that lasts

the whole day long; a song of peace that frees my heart and lifts me high above. Amazing grace, you fill me with love.

Bearing the Word into the World

Hymn "The Lord Is My Light"

The Lord is my light, my light and salvation: in God I trust; in God I trust.

The Lord is my light, my light and salvation: in God I trust; in God I trust.

Charge and Benediction

Postlude ♯ Postlude in F Charles Ives



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 is Commitment Sunday, the day when we lift up our pledges to “**Putting Our Faith into Action**,” our **2021 stewardship campaign for Fourth Church and Chicago Lights**. During worship today we will dedicate our pledges to the work of God’s kingdom, celebrating all that we are able to do together through our generous response to God’s blessings in our lives. **If you have not already made your pledge for 2021**, we encourage you to take this opportunity to do so online at www.bit.ly/fpcclpledge; additional details are posted at www.fourthchurch.org and are also available from Andrea Miller (amiller@fourthchurch.org).

Those who are interested in **becoming a member of Fourth Church** are invited to join us online for a one-session Inquirers’ Class next 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).

John Sherer will present an online organ recital celebrating Chicago composers on Friday, November 20 at 7:30 p.m. at www.bit.ly/fpcprograms to mark the **fifth anniversary of the dedication of our Andrew Pipe Organ**. * **Online Noonday Concerts** are streamed on Fridays at 12:10 p.m. at www.bit.ly/fpcprograms, where the performances can also be viewed later in the week. This week’s concert will feature David Griffin, horn, and Mio Nakamura, piano .

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

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

If you would like to have a **one-time phone conversation with a Stephen Minister or arrange for ongoing talks**, please leave a confidential message at 312.573.3365. * 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 talk to a pastor**, please call the church (312.787.4570). * **To explore options for teletherapy** with our Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being, 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)

Fourth Church is exploring the possibility of opening a “day shelter” in our Sanctuary space for a limited number of guests this winter: December–February, weekdays between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. One of the factors that will determine whether we are able to offer this is whether we can guarantee significant and ongoing volunteer help during those months. If you would be interested in making a **commitment to serve as a “day shelter” volunteer**, please let us know via www.bit.ly/daysheltermvolunteers or by contacting Robert Crouch, Director of Volunteer Ministry (rcrouch@fourthchurch.org). * Volunteers are also 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 for details. * Additionally volunteers are needed to serve as **adult leaders for the Senior High Youth Group**, which meets via Zoom on Sundays at 12:00 p.m. To learn more about this opportunity, email Katie Patterson (kpatterson@fourthchurch.org). * **Benevolent Guild**, which has been making face masks, meets via Zoom on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m.

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

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Sunday School and family activities are being held online. For details, email Briana Belding-Peck (bbelding-peck@fourthchurch.org). For details about **youth groups and Confirmation**, email Katie Patterson (kpatterson@fourthchurch.org). * **TwentiesThirties** offers online opportunities for young adults. For details, email Joe Morrow (jmorrow@fourthchurch.org). * For details about the **Center for Life and Learning** lectures and exercise classes for adults sixty and over, see www.fourthchurch.org/cll or email Susan Quaintance (squaintance@fourthchurch.org).

“Women in the Book of Judges,” which meets via Zoom, concludes this morning 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. * Matt Helms is leading us in an exploration of **“From Pentecost to Constantine: How the Early Church Grew,”** 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. For Zoom details, register at www.bit.ly/fpcff20 * Beginning next Sunday, November 15 at 9:30 a.m., David Handley will lead a Sunday morning class on **Harry Emerson Fosdick’s *The Meaning of Prayer***. For Zoom details, register at www.bit.ly/prayermeaning * **Men’s Bible Study** meets weekly via Zoom on Tuesdays at 7:30 a.m. and the **Horizons Bible Study for women** meets this Wednesday at 12:00 noon via Zoom. For details, email Anne Ellis (aellis@fourthchurch.org).

The First Tuesday Book Club continues this Tuesday, November 10 (*since the first Tuesday of the month was 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 * **Books by Women** will also meet via Zoom this Tuesday, November 10 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss ***Giver of Stars* by Jojo Moyes**. For details, email Anne Ellis (aellis@fourthchurch.org).

Women at Fourth will meet via Zoom on Thursday, November 19 at 6:00 p.m. for a presentation by Maggie Shreve on **Fourth Church’s Jail Ministry**. For Zoom details, email Anne Ellis (aellis@fourthchurch.org). * The Spiritual Formation Council is hosting a morning workshop on **“Rites of Passage: Creating Sacred Ritual in a Time of Pandemic”** via Zoom on Saturday, December 5 at 10:00 a.m. This **Advent exploration** of how to use ritual making as a way to reconnect us to ourselves, our faith, and our God **will be led by Lois Snavelly, a former seminary intern at Fourth Church. For Zoom details, contact Carol Allerton** (callerton@fourthchurch.org). * **Cornerstones**, a fellowship opportunity for those fifty and older, will next gather via Zoom on Friday, December 4 at 5:30 p.m. for a **Christmas concert by John Sherer and tenor Cole Seaton**. Register online by Thursday, December 3 at www.bit.ly/cornerstones1220 to receive Zoom details.

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Worship Leaders

David Handley, Melanie Oh Pierce, Rocky Supinger, Shannon J. Kershner

The Music Today

Members of the Morning Choir

Melissa Arning, Micah Dingler, Kacey Kurpinsky, Sean Stanton

Phil Pierick, Soloist and Saxophonist

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

Worship Notes

AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSICIAN H. Leslie Adams, who wrote today's Offertory Solo, has had a highly successful career as a composer, with his works being performed by the Cleveland Orchestra, Buffalo Philharmonic, Iceland Symphony, and Prague Radio Symphony. He is best known for writing music for voice, including choral music, solos, and musical dramas.

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 Caring Ministries

Jeffrey Doane Parish Associate for Older Adults

Maggie Shreve Parish Associate for Jail Ministry

John Buchanan Pastor Emeritus

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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.