
Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Aria Paul Manz
Meditation Paul Creston

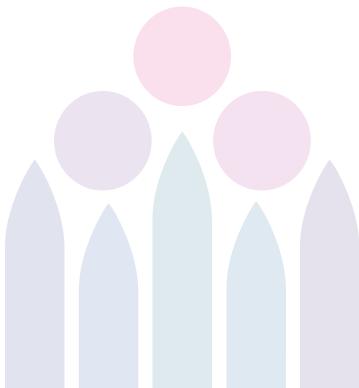
Introit :: “Come and Fill Our Hearts” Jacques Berthier
*Come and fill our hearts with your peace.
You alone, O Lord, are holy.
Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Alleluia.*

*Doxology (*sung*)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.[†] Amen.

Welcome and Call to Worship

Prayer of Praise



[†]Or “*praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*”

Hymn "We Praise You, O God"

We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.

We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name; glad praises we sing.

We worship you, God of our fathers and mothers;
through trial and tempest our guide you have been.
When perils o'er take us, you will not forsake us,
and with your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.

With voices united our praises we offer
and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
With you, Lord, beside us, your strong arm will guide us.
To you, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Again we must confess, Master of the Universe, our struggles to be faithful disciples.
Entrusted with all your gifts, we become fearful once again of misusing them,
missing the chance to be a blessing to others.

Invited to dance in the light of your love, we stand against the wall once again,
keeping company with our old friends, sin and complicity.

Called to be emptied for those who struggle in life,
we fill ourselves once again and turn our heads away.

Have mercy, Holy God, have mercy on us.

Once again, open our eyes to your reign in our midst,
so we might discover that your day of hope and grace has already come
in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

Leader: *Friends, believe the good news:*

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Solo :: “If with All Your Hearts” from *Elijah*. Felix Mendelssohn

“If with all your hearts ye truly seek me, ye shall ever surely find me.” This saith our God.

O that I knew where I might find him, that I might even come before his presence.

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter Psalm 123

To you I lift up my eyes,
to you enthroned in the heavens.

As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters,
and the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,
so our eyes look to you, O Lord our God,
until you show us your mercy.

Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy,
for we have had more than enough of contempt,
too much of the scorn of the indolent rich,
and of the derision of the proud.

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 25:14–30

Sermon Shannon J. Kershner

Responding to the Word

Sacrament of Baptism

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

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 ♫ “Then Shall the Righteous Shine Forth” from *Elijah* . . . Felix Mendelssohn

*Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in their heavenly Father’s realm.
Joy on their head shall be forever lasting, and all sorrow and mourning shall flee away forever.*

Bearing the Word into the World

Hymn “In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful” (*sung twice*)

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful; in the Lord I will rejoice!
Look to God; do not be afraid.
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near.
Lift up your voices; the Lord is near.

Charge and Benediction

Postlude ♫ Halle, Halle, Hallelujah Caribbean melody; arr. John A. Behnke



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).

Next Sunday morning we look forward to having our junior high and Confirmation students in worship leadership roles for our **youth-led worship service** at 11:00 a.m. ★ On Thanksgiving, Thursday, November 26, at 11:00 a.m. we will stream a **Thanksgiving Day worship service** at www.bit.ly/FPCworship as well as via Facebook Live and YouTube. Those without Internet access are invited to join that service by listening to the service live via phone by calling 888.916.9166 (*toll-free*) at the time of the service

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).

This Friday, November 20 at 7:30 p.m. **John Sherer will present an online organ recital** celebrating Chicago composers to mark the **fifth anniversary of the dedication of our Andrew Pipe Organ**. The concert can be viewed at www.bit.ly/fpcprograms ★ **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 baritone Michael Cavalieri and tenor John Concepcion.

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.

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

Women at Fourth will meet via Zoom this 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 Snavely, 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.

Matt Helms leading us today 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. Beginning next Sunday, Joe Morrow will lead us in looking at "Scriptural Journeys: The Enduring Power of Migrations in the Bible." For Zoom details, register at www.bit.ly/fpcff20 * Beginning today at 9:30 a.m., David Handley is leading a weekly 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 on second and fourth Wednesdays at 12:00 noon via Zoom. For details, email Anne Ellis (aellis@fourthchurch.org).

The First Tuesday Book Club next meets on Tuesday, December 1 at 7:00 p.m. The Zoom discussion will again 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 meet via Zoom on Tuesday, December 8 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss **An Invisible Thread by Laura Schoff**. For details, email Anne Ellis (aellis@fourthchurch.org).

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)

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

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Again this holiday season we have a variety of opportunities to share love and light. You can **honor a loved one with a contribution toward the Christmas flowers and garlands** that will decorate the Sanctuary for our online worship services. A list of those remembered will be printed in the Christmas bulletin. Contributions can be made online at www.bit.ly/FPCgifts; contributions must be received by Friday, December 11 for names to appear in the bulletin. * Gifts to the **Light Up a Life offering** will help us continue to **serve our Meals Ministry and Chicago Lights guests** throughout the winter. Gifts can be made at www.fourthchurch.org/give-online (write "Light Up a Life" in the comments). For more information about gifts toward Christmas flowers or our Light Up a Life offering, contact Andrea Miller (amiller@fourthchurch.org). * **Christmas gift bags** are being prepared by Meals Ministry staff and volunteers for guests of Sunday and Monday Night Suppers. Donations toward purchasing the items for the bags—which will include a food gift card, gloves, hygiene items, and a mask—can be made at www.bit.ly/mmchristmasbags20 * **Fulfilling Christmas wishes for our Chicago Lights Tutoring students** continues this year, with each student receiving a gift card, a book, and a mask. The selected books can be ordered online at www.bit.ly/christmaswishes20; contributions toward gift cards can be made online at www.fourthchurch.org/give-online (choose "Congregational Life" as your designation, and write "Christmas Wishes" in the comments).

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).

Benevolent Guild, which has been making face masks, meets via Zoom on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m., and **Knitting and Crocheting** will meet via Zoom on Tuesday, November 24 at 4:00 p.m. For Zoom details for either of these gatherings, email Anne Ellis (aellis@fourthchurch.org).

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.

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Worship Leaders

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

The Music Today

Joshua Graham, Marimbaist

Marshall Rollings, Soloist

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

Worship Notes

THE CLOSING HYMN, "IN THE LORD I'LL BE EVER THANKFUL," was composed by Jacques Berthier in 1986. He wrote it, along with many other short pieces, for the ecumenical monastic community in Taizé, France. The simple melody and message is meant to be repeated until it becomes a mantra, filling the heart, mind, and soul. The Fourth Church Morning Choir visited and sang at this monastery in 2002.

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

SOURCES AND CREDITS: The Prayer of Confession is adapted from a prayer by Thom Shuman (lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com). "In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful" words and music copyright © 1991 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.). All rights reserved. Used with permission. OneLicense.net. License A-712340.

THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO

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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.