



Baptism of the Lord

January 10, 2021

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Christ, Our Lord, Came to the Jordan River Johann Sebastian Bach
Baptized and Set Free Aaron David Miller
Beside the Still Waters Gwyneth Walker

Introit :: “At the River” Robert Lowry; arr. Aaron Copland

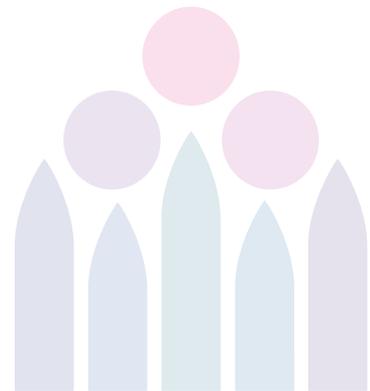
*Shall we gather by the river, where bright angels feet have trod,
with its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God.
Yes, we’ll gather by the river, the beautiful river,
gather with the saints by the river that flows by the throne of God.
Soon we’ll reach the shining river, soon our pilgrimage will cease,
soon our happy hearts will quiver with the melody of peace.*

*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“Baptized in Water”

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, cleansed by the blood of Christ our King;
heirs of salvation, trusting the promise, faithfully now God’s praises we sing.

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, dead in the tomb with Christ our King;
one with his rising, freed and forgiven, thankfully now God’s praises we sing.

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, marked with the sign of Christ our King;
born of the Spirit, we are God’s children; joyfully now God’s praises we sing.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Timeless God, you cast Light into sin’s dark places and call us your beloved.

Forgive us: when we still linger in the shadows;

when we treat others in hurtful ways; when we speak ill of your friends.

As he knelt in the waters of Jordan, you proclaimed Jesus as your Son,

pointing to him as the way to you.

Forgive us: when we put ourselves ahead of him; when we think

he is no longer needed; when we fail to see him in the broken of our world.

Baptized and blessed in your living waters,

you would have us be your servants in our time.

Forgive us: when we fail to welcome the stranger;

when we refuse to forgive as we should;

when we believe we are too good to either give or receive help.

Forgive us, O God, and make us new again. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

Leader: *Friends, believe the good news:*

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Anthem :: “Down to the River to Pray” American folk hymn; arr. Robert Lee

*As I went down to the river to pray, studying about that good old way
and who shall wear the starry crown, good Lord, show me the way.*

O sisters, let’s go down, come on down, let’s go down to the river to pray.

O brothers, let’s go down, come on down, let’s go down to the river to pray.

O fathers, let’s go down, come on down, let’s go down to the river to pray.

O mothers, let’s go down, come on down, let’s go down to the river to pray.

O sinners, let’s go down, come on down, let’s go down to the river to pray.

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter Psalm 29

Ascribe to the Lord, you gods,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
Ascribe to the Lord the glory due God's name;
worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.
The voice of the Lord is upon the waters;
the God of glory thunders; the Lord is upon the mighty waters.
The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice;
the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor.
The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees;
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon; the Lord makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.
The voice of the Lord bursts forth in lightning flashes.
The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare.
And in the temple of the Lord all are crying, "Glory!"
The Lord sits enthroned above the flood;
the Lord sits enthroned as sovereign forevermore.
O Lord, give strength to your people;
give them, O Lord, the blessings of peace.

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 Mark 1:4–11

Sermon Shannon J. Kershner

†Or "to the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Ghost."

Responding to the Word

Hymn “Take Me to the Water”

Take me to the water. Take me to the water.

Take me to the water to be baptized.

I love Jesus. I love Jesus.

I love Jesus, yes, I do.

He’s my Savior. He’s my Savior.

He’s my Savior, yes, he is.

Glory hallelujah. Glory hallelujah.

Glory hallelujah to be baptized.

Sacrament of Baptism

Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows

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 :: “Deep River” African American spiritual; arr. Harry T. Burleigh

Deep river, my home is over Jordan; deep river, Lord, I want to cross over into campground.

O don’t you want to go to that gospel feast, that promised land where all is peace?

Bearing the Word into the World

Hymn “In Christ Called to Baptize”

In Christ called to baptize, we witness to grace
and gather a people from each land and race.
In deep, flowing waters, we share in Christ’s death,
then, rising to new life, give thanks with each breath.

In Christ called to banquet, one table we share,
a haven of welcome, a circle of care.
Although we are many, we share in one bread.
One cup of thanksgiving proclaims Christ, our head.

In Christ called to witness, by grace we will preach
the life-giving gospel; God’s love we will teach.
By grace may our living give proof to our praise
in costly compassion reflecting Christ’s ways.

Unite us, anoint us, O Spirit of love,
for you are within us, around us, above.
Equip us for service with gifts you bestow.
In Christ is our calling. In Christ may we grow.

Charge and Benediction

Postlude ♪ All Who Believe and Are Baptized Richard Proulx

Baptisms in Today’s Service

William James DuChateau, child of James and Genevieve DuChateau
Benjamin Scott Dunbar, child of Curtis and Jennifer Dunbar

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), the service is available via

Facebook Live (facebook.com/fourthchurch) and **YouTube** (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos) at 11:00 a.m.

on Sundays. * Those without Internet access are invited to **listen to the service live via phone by calling 888.916.9166 (toll-free)** at the time of the service (*the prelude begins around 10:45 a.m.*).

* During the week we 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).

Our Session has called an **online congregational meeting** for today, January 10, following 11:00 a.m. worship. The meeting will be online at www.bit.ly/fpcprograms (call in at 888.916.9166). The purpose of the meeting will be to elect an **Associate Pastor Nominating Committee** to identify and recommend a candidate to serve Fourth Presbyterian Church as **Associate Pastor for Caring Ministries and Spiritual Formation**.

If you would like to connect with others for a time of fellowship today, join us following the congregational meeting for **virtual Coffee Hour via Zoom 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#. * To express interest in connecting with others in a **small group**, which will meet via Zoom once a week for four to six weeks, email Anne Ellis (aellis@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, January 17 at 9:00 a.m. To register for this class (*required for membership*) and discover more about Fourth Church history, mission, and congregational life as well as the Presbyterian Church (USA), sign up to receive Zoom details at www.bit.ly/inquirer0121

On Wednesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. we gather for **Morning Prayer via Zoom**. Email Carol Allerton (callerton@fourthchurch.org) for the details. * **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. * 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.

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 Thursday, January 14 join us online for **“Faith in Uncertain Times: Reflecting on the Past and Envisioning the Future,”** a **Michigan Avenue Forum** that will take place at 7:00 p.m. at www.bit.ly/fpcprograms (call in at 888.916.9166). That evening Lucy Forster-Smith will moderate a panel discussion bringing together Shannon Kershner; Horace Smith, Pastor of Apostolic Faith Church; Otis Moss III, Senior Pastor of Trinity United Church of Christ; David Crawford, President of McCormick Theological Seminary; and Ozzie Smith Jr., Pastor Emeritus of Covenant United Church of Christ. * As a complement to this Michigan Avenue Forum, Lucy Forster-Smith and Jim Garner are leading a **two-week Sunday morning class on “Faith in Uncertain Times.”** This class meets on Sundays, January 10 and 17 at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom and will explore the ways recent history might put a strain on our faith. For Zoom details, register at www.bit.ly/faithuncertaintimes

This Saturday morning, January 16 explore **“Journal Writing as a Spiritual Formation”** in a Zoom workshop hosted by the Spiritual Formation Council. For details about this event led by the Reverend Christine Vogel, email Carol Allerton (callerton@fourthchurch.org). * Next Saturday, January 23 at 10:00 a.m., David Hogue, Professor Emeritus of Pastoral Theology and Counseling at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary will lead a workshop on **“Loving Our Neighbor in a Time of Social Distancing.”** For details, email Carol Allerton (callerton@fourthchurch.org).

Adults sixty and over are invited to take part in the winter term of the **Center for Life and Learning**, which offers online lectures and exercise classes; for details, email Susan Quaintance (squaintance@fourthchurch.org) or see www.fourthchurch.org/cfl * **Sunday School and family activities** also meet 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).

Books by Women will meet via Zoom this Tuesday evening, January 12 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss ***The Optimist’s Daughter* by Eudora Welty.** For Zoom details, email Anne Ellis (aellis@fourthchurch.org). * **The First Tuesday Book Club** hosted by the Adult Education Committee will next meet via Zoom on Tuesday, February 2 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss ***Jesus and John Wayne: How White Evangelicals Corrupted a Faith and Fractured a Nation* by Kristin Kobes De Mez.** For Zoom details for this conversation that will be led by Jim Garner, register online at www.bit.ly/firsttuesdaybooks * **Men’s Bible Study** meets via Zoom on Tuesdays at 7:30 a.m. and the **Horizons Bible Study for women** meets this Wednesday, January 13 at 12:00 p.m. For Zoom details for Bible studies, email Anne Ellis (aellis@fourthchurch.org).

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The **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, January 26 at 4:00 p.m. to share in fellowship while working on knitting and crocheting projects for the agencies we support. For Zoom details for either of these opportunities, email Anne Ellis (aellis@fourthchurch.org). * Our **Friday Noonday Concerts** take place at 12:10 p.m. each week at www.bit.ly/fpcprograms as well as on YouTube (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos) and via Facebook Live. * **The artist Gerald Griffin** will present the program at the February 5 Zoom gathering of **Cornerstones**, a fellowship group for adults fifty and over. For Zoom details, register by Thursday, February 4 at www.bit.ly/cornerstones0121

The **Chicago Lights Gala of Hope at Home** will be on Friday, March 5 at 7:00 p.m. This gala annually benefits the life-changing youth development and social service programs of Chicago Lights—the community outreach arm of Fourth Church—and the community support efforts of our Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being. For more information, email Laura Woods (lwoods@chicagolights.org).

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 are looking to add devotional meditations into your daily routine this year, we invite you to join the more than 4,000 people who use the daily devotions written by Fourth Church members and staff. These reflections are available by email (you can sign up online at www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions) or read them online (www.fourthchurch.org/devotions), via Facebook (www.facebook.com/fourthchurch), or Twitter (www.twitter.com/fourthchicago).

Watch our **website** (www.fourthchurch.org) for additional 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, sermon quotes, images from Fourth Church, and more.

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Worship Leaders

Joseph L. Morrow, Deborah Oberschelp, Matt Helms, Shannon J. Kershner

The Music Today

Sean Stanton, Soloist

Members of the Morning Choir: *Carol Carpenter, Daniel Henry, Carla Janzen, Cole Seaton*

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

Worship Notes

OFFERING GIFTS can be made 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.

TODAY’S OFFERTORY SOLO, “DEEP RIVER,” has been called “perhaps the best known and best loved spiritual.” It was first published in a collection called “The Story of the Jubilee Singers” by J. B. T. Marsh in 1876; the arrangement by Harry T. Burleigh heard in today’s service was published in 1917. In 1941 British composer Michael Tippett arranged it in his oratorio “A Child of Our Time.” However, for the slaves that sang it originally the song had a hidden meaning. For those held in captivity and yearning for freedom, the Jordan River was a code for the Ohio river—their home in freedom was over the Ohio River.

Shannon J. Kershner Pastor

Lucy Forster-Smith Senior Associate Pastor

Associate Pastors

Matt Helms Children and Family Ministry

Joseph L. Morrow Associate Pastor-Elect for Evangelism and Community Engagement

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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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.