



Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

February 7, 2021

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Psalm and Dance David Evan Thomas

Prelude and Trumpetings Myron J. Roberts

Introit :: “This Is My Prayer” Gwyneth Walker

This is my prayer to thee, my Lord: Give me strength lightly to bear my joys and sorrows; give me the strength to make my love fruitful in service; give me the strength never to disown the poor or bend my knees before insolent might; give me the strength to raise my mind high above daily trifles; and give me the strength to surrender my strength to thy will with love.

*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

Hymn “Let Us Break Bread Together”

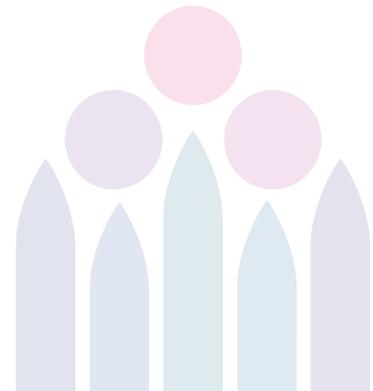
Let us break bread together on our knees; (on our knees)
let us break bread together on our knees.

Refrain

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me)

Let us drink wine together on our knees; (on our knees)
let us drink wine together on our knees. *Refrain*

Let us praise God together on our knees; (on our knees)
let us praise God together on our knees. *Refrain*



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

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

O mighty God, you have called us to live in faith and in freedom.
But we confess that so often we live with tightness in our chest.
You call us to move in a new direction,
 but we cling to the path we know.
You call us to listen for you,
 but we clutter our minds with every other voice but your voice.
You call us to reach outward in love,
 but we are too tired and worn down to care for anyone but ourselves.
Forgive us, Lord. Forgive us for our self-centeredness.
Forgive us for our stubbornness.
Forgive us for forgetting that you are our freedom.
Heal us and set us free, again and again.
We pray in Christ's name. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

Leader: *Friends, believe the good news:*
All: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson..... Isaiah 40:21–31

Have you not known? Have you not heard?
 Has it not been told you from the beginning?
 Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?
It is God who sits above the circle of the earth,
 and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,
 and spreads them like a tent to live in;
who brings princes to naught,
 and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,
when God blows upon them, and they wither,
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

“To whom then will you compare me,
or who is my equal?” says the Holy One.
Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these?
God who brings out their host and numbers them,
calling them all by name; because God is great in strength,
mighty in power, not one is missing.

Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel,
“My way is hidden from the Lord,
and my right is disregarded by my God”?
Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The Lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
God does not faint or grow weary;
God’s understanding is unsearchable.
God gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless.
Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted;
but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. (NRSV)

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.

Second Lesson Mark 1:29–39

Sermon Shannon J. Kershner

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

Responding to the Word

Hymn “We Come to You for Healing, Lord”

We come to you for healing, Lord, of body, mind, and soul,
and pray that by your Spirit’s touch we may again be whole.

As once you walked through ancient streets and reached toward those in pain,
we know you come among us still with power to heal again.

You touch us through physicians’ skills, through nurses’ gifts of care,
and through the love of faithful friends who lift our lives in prayer.

Through nights of pain and wakefulness, through days when strength runs low,
grant us your gift of patience, Lord, your calming peace to know.

We come to you, O loving Lord, in our distress and pain,
in trust that through our nights and days your grace will heal, sustain.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

Invitation

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We will lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise . . .

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.

The Communion

Communion Anthem :: “I Sought the Lord” Wilber Held

*I sought the Lord, and afterward I knew he moved my soul to seek him, seeking me.
It was not I that found, O Savior true; no, I was found of thee.
Thou didst reach forth thy hand and mine enfold; I walked and sank not on the storm-vexed sea.
'Twas not so much that I on thee took hold, as thou, dear Lord, on me.
I find, I walk, I love, but O, the whole of love is but my answer, Lord, to thee!
For thou wert long beforehand with my soul; always thou lovedst me.*

Psalm 23 (unison)

**The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; he leadeth me beside the still waters.
He restoreth my soul; he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies;
 thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life;
 and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

Offering and Prayer of Dedication

Offertory Solo :: “Peace on Earth” Errollyn Wallen

*And snow falls down on me. Peace on earth. The night is dark and soft. Peace on earth.
The lights that sparkle in the square, the smoke that lingers in the air. Peace on earth.
And grace falls down on me. Peace on earth. The dark will turn aside. Peace on earth.
The fires that burn in every hearth do sing our praise of Christmas past. Peace on earth.
Hear them singing. Peace on earth.*

Bearing the Word into the World

Hymn “For the Bread Which You Have Broken”

For the bread which you have broken,
for the wine which you have poured,
for the words which you have spoken,
now we give you thanks, O Lord.

By this promise that you love us,
by your gift of peace restored,
by your call to heaven above us,
hallow all our lives, O Lord.

With the saints who now adore you
seated at the heavenly board,
may the church still waiting for you
keep love’s tie unbroken, Lord.

In your service, Lord, defend us;
in our hearts keep watch and ward;
in the world to which you send us
let your kingdom come, O Lord.

Charge and Benediction

Postlude ♯ Intermezzo in C Major Hermann Schroeder



During worship this morning we will be celebrating the Lord's Supper. We encourage you to **have at hand elements for communion** such as juice and crackers or bread.

* Next Sunday, February 14, our morning worship service will kick off our celebration of the **150th anniversary of the founding of Fourth Presbyterian Church**. As part of that service **Pastor Emeritus John Buchanan** will join us as a worship leader and an octet from the Morning Choir will **premiere a choral anthem** commissioned by Fourth Church for this anniversary occasion. * In the days and weeks ahead we will be sharing **stories from our history** as well as **greetings from former pastors and other partners in ministry**. To ensure you do not miss any of these, if you do not already receive our weekly News @ Fourth Church emails, be sure to sign up www.bit.ly/newsfromfpc

Also next Sunday, February 14 we will gather online for the **Annual Meeting of the Congregation**. The meeting will be held online at www.bit.ly/fpcprograms (call in at 888.916.9166) following the 11:00 a.m. service and will include the election of officers. The **recommended slate of officers** that will be presented by the Nominating Committee will be posted on our website, www.fourthchurch.org, early this week.

Today is the **Souper Bowl of Caring!** Again this year our team is led by Fourth Church youth, who encourage you to take part in this national grassroots, faith-based campaign against hunger by making a gift online at www.bit.ly/fpcsouperbowl21; all proceeds will support **Fourth Church Meals Ministry** and the **food pantry of our Chicago Lights Elam Davies Social Service Center**.

Hanging above our Sanctuary entrance throughout Black History Month is a banner with an image of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the words **"Moving the Dream Forward."** It is a continued expression of our commitment to embrace racial equity by purposely including all people, striving for radical hospitality, and modeling an antiracist approach in all areas. * "Building Beloved Community" is the topic of a **Muslim–Presbyterian Dialogue**, co-moderated by Nanette Sawyer, on Tuesday, February 23 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. For details, register at www.bit.ly/building0221

The season of **Lent begins on February 17, Ash Wednesday**. * **Lenten devotions** for you to use as a **resource for reflection** will be available daily via email; sign up at www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions * In the Lenten **"Path of Discipleship" series**—meeting six Tuesday evenings via Zoom beginning February 23—the pastoral staff will lead a study grounded in the book **Entering the Passion of Jesus by Amy Jill-Levine**. For details, register by February 15 at www.bit.ly/fpcpod2021 * Our **online Ash Wednesday worship service** will be streamed at 7:30 p.m. on February 17. It will include Rocky Supinger preaching and Nanette Sawyer creating an Ash Wednesday artwork during the service. * Those who would like to receive an in-person, safely-distanced verbal **blessing on Ash Wednesday** (*we will not be imposing ashes this year*) are invited to come by the Sanctuary steps on Michigan Avenue between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. on February 17.

New small groups will meet weekly during Lent via Zoom. These groups offer opportunity to connect with one another and build relationships among participants as we get to know ourselves and each other better. Three types of groups will be formed: **Bible study and discipleship groups**, focusing conversation and reflection on Bible passages and their application to our daily lives; **race conversation groups**, using discussion of *The Color of Compromise* by Jemar Tisby to practice having meaningful conversations about race, racism, and being an anti-racist church; and **self-improvement groups**, using Brené Brown's *Braving the Wilderness: The Quest for True Belonging and the Courage to Stand Alone* to guide conversation and reflection on developing virtues, such as setting boundaries and developing courage. To express interest in being part of a group, email Anne Ellis (aellis@fourthchurch.org).

Another opportunity to connect with others is by joining us for a time of fellowship today after worship: **virtual Coffee Hour via Zoom takes place at www.bit.ly/fpcfellowship** (Zoom details are also posted at www.fourthchurch.org) and begins after the postlude. You can take part in Coffee Hour **by phone** as well: dial 312.626.6799 and enter meeting ID number 963 5583 1751#.

The adult education class led by Carol Allen, **"On Restoring God's Beloved Community: Looking for Guidance in Scripture,"** continues via Zoom at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays through February 28. For Zoom details, register at www.bit.ly/restoring21 * **"End Times: A New Look,"** the current theme within the "Foundations of Faith: An Hour a Week with the Bible" Zoom class also continues on Sundays at 12:30 p.m. and is led by Lucy-Forster-Smith. For Zoom details, register at www.bit.ly/fpcf20 * **Men's Bible Study** meets via Zoom on Tuesdays at 7:30 a.m. and the **Horizons Bible Study for women** next meets this Wednesday, February 10 at 12:00 p.m. For Zoom details for these Bible studies, email Anne Ellis (aellis@fourthchurch.org). * **An online Bible study for those in their twenties and thirties** meets on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. For Zoom details and more information, sign up at www.bit.ly/2Yq3znE

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.

If you are interested in **becoming a member** of Fourth Church, please join us online for a **one-session Inquirers' Class** next Sunday, February 14 at 9:00 a.m. Sign up to receive Zoom details for this class (*which is required for membership*) at www.bit.ly/inquirer0221

Our **Friday Noonday Concerts** take place at 12:10 p.m. each week at www.bit.ly/fpcprograms as well as via Facebook Live and on our YouTube channel (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos). This week the online concert will be presented by the **Chen Family string quartet**.

Books by Women will meet via Zoom on Tuesday, February 9 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss *Madame Fourcade's Secret War* by Lynne Olson. * The Fourth Church LGBTQIA+ **Widen Our Welcome group** will gather for a half-hour Zoom Happy Hour this Tuesday, February 9 at 6:30 p.m. * The **Benevolent Guild**, which has been making face masks, meets via Zoom on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. For links for these Zoom gatherings, email Anne Ellis (aellis@fourthchurch.org).

The **Chicago Lights Gala of Hope at Home** will be held online 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 details about attending this free event or becoming an event sponsor, sign up at chicagolights.org/gala or contact Laura Woods (lwoods@chicagolights.org).

Fourth Church's Employment Network, which works in partnership with the St. Sabina Employment Resource Center on the South Side, is **looking for volunteers** interested in supporting job-preparedness workshops on interviewing, entrepreneurship, or credit repair. The skills of those volunteering for SCORE or CARE Chicago are especially needed as are **individuals whose organizations can provide internship to job opportunities** in the fields of health care, security, manufacturing, IT, retail, administrative, and commercial driving. If you can help or would like to learn more, please email employmentnetwork@fourthchurch.org

Sunday School and family activities 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). * Adults sixty and over are invited to take part in 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/cll

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).

Watch our **website** (www.fourthchurch.org) for resources and ways to connect. Online events are posted on our calendar at www.fourthchurch.org/calendar; for news, quotes, and photos follow us on **Facebook** (facebook.com/fourthchurch) and **Instagram** (instagram.com/fourthchurch).

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

Worship Leaders

Rocky Supinger, Marsha Heizer, Matt Helms, Shannon J. Kershner

The Music Today

Members of the Morning Choir

Gretchen Adams, Daniel Henry, Phil Pierick, Sarah van der Ploeg

Phil Pierick, Soloist and Saxophonist

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 was written by Errollyn Wallen (b. 1958), who was born in Belize and now lives in London. She received her doctoral degree from King’s College, Cambridge, and in 1998 was selected to be the first Black female composer to receive a performance at the BBC Proms. Wallen’s wide range of compositions, which draw from many musical influences, have been played by major orchestras around the world.

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.