



Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 29, 2021 • 10:00 a.m.

*Due to health concerns about the transmission of COVID-19,
we are not engaging in congregational singing. During hymns,
worshippers are invited to hum along with the choir members if they like.*

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

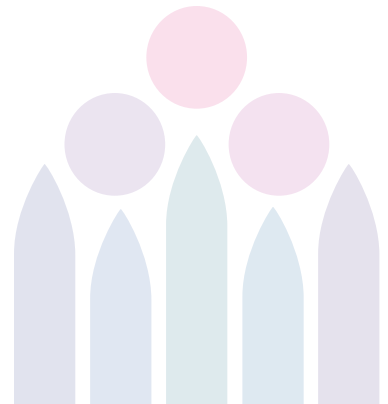
Two Ballads William Wolstenholme
Andantino in D-flat Major Edwin H. Lemare
Processional Martin Shaw

Introit :: “Come! Join Our Cheerful Song!” Dale Wood

Come! Join our cheerful song! Lift up your voices strong! Rejoice, be glad, give praise!

*Doxology (congregation is invited to hum)

*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.*



*Please rise in body or spirit. †Or “Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.”

*Call to Worship

Leader: *Great God, you have been our dwelling place through all generations.*

All: **Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.**

Leader: *A thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past, like a watch in the night.*

All: **Our days are like grass that sprouts in the morning and flourishes, and in the evening it fades and withers.**

So teach us to count our days that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

*Hymn (congregation is invited to hum) “Just as I Am, without One Plea”

*Just as I am, without one plea but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou biddest me come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come; I come!*

*Just as I am, though tossed about with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come; I come!*

*Just as I am, thou wilt receive, wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
because thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come; I come!*

*Just as I am, thy love unknown has broken every barrier down;
now to be thine, yea, thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come; I come!*

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Gracious and all-loving God, with the best that is within us we long to live lives pleasing to you. But so often we fall short of our aspirations. We find our self-seeking and self-preoccupation taking over. When you place us with people who are different than ourselves our impulse is to judge and not stay curious, to condemn and not try to understand. We harbor resentments against those who have hurt us and find forgiveness so hard to offer. Help us, our Savior, to learn forgiveness from the One who prayed from the cross, “Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.” It is in his name that we pray. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

Leader: *Friends, believe the good news:*

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

Welcome and Announcements

Sacrament of Baptism

Anthem :: “O for a Closer Walk” Charles V. Stanford

O for a closer walk with God, a calm and heavenly frame; a light to shine upon the road that leads me to the Lamb! Return, O holy Dove! Sweet messenger of rest. I hate the sins that made thee mourn and drove thee from my breast. So shall my walk be close with God, calm and serene my frame; so purer light shall mark the road that leads me to the Lamb.

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter Psalm 45:1–2, 6–9

*Gloria Patri (*congregation is invited to hum*)

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 James 1:17–27

Sermon Shannon J. Kershner

Responding to the Word

Anthem :: “For the Beauty of the Earth” John Rutter

For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies, for the love which from our birth over and around us lies: Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise. For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night, hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light: Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise. For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child, friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild: Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise. For each perfect gift of thine to each child so freely given, graces human and divine, flowers of earth and buds of heaven: Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.

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

*Affirmation of Faith (*unison*) The Iona Creed

We believe that God is present in the darkness before dawn;
in the waiting and uncertainty where fear and courage join hands,
conflict and caring link arms, and the sun rises over barbed wire.

We believe in a with-us God who sits down in our midst
to share our humanity.

We affirm a faith that takes us beyond the safe place:
into action, into vulnerability, and into the streets.

We commit ourselves to work for change and put ourselves on the line;
to bear responsibility, take risks, live powerfully, and face humiliation;
to stand with those on the edge; to choose life and to be used by the Spirit
for God's new community of hope. Amen.

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.

Minute for Mission

Call to Offering

*Prayer of Dedication (*unison*)

Living God, thank you for your gifts of life—
fragrant flowers, fruitful vines, singing creatures,
and our own lives, renewed in Christ.
Let your grace infuse the gifts we offer with life-giving power for those in need.
In the name of the Creator and of the Christ and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn (*congregation is invited to hum*). “Fairest Lord Jesus”

*Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature, O thou of God to earth come down,
thee will I cherish, thee will I honor, thou, my soul’s glory, joy, and crown.*

*Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands, robed in the blooming garb of spring.
Jesus is fairer; Jesus is purer, who makes the woeful heart to sing.*

*Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight, and all the twinkling, starry host.
Jesus shines brighter; Jesus shines purer, than all the angels heaven can boast.*

*Beautiful Savior, Ruler of the nations, Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration, now and forevermore be thine!*

*Charge and Benediction

Postlude ♪ Grand Chorus. R. G. Hailing

*We invite you to enjoy the postlude.
If you need to leave prior to the end of the postlude,
please do so quietly out of respect for those who choose to stay.*

Baptized in Today’s Service

George Salvatore Kendall, child of Jeffrey and Angela Kendall



We are glad to be worshipping with you today and hope you will explore the many opportunities for learning, serving, and community building at Fourth Church!

✱ Inspired by the radical hospitality of Jesus Christ, we welcome everyone, without exception, into the life of this congregation. ✱ We invite you to join us at this intersection of faith and life as we share God's grace with one another and the world through worship and ministries of healing, reconciliation, and justice.



On the Fourth Church campus, including in worship, **everyone is required to wear masks, fully covering the nose and mouth, regardless of vaccination status.** Anyone not vaccinated against COVID-19 is also required to practice social distancing. ✱ For those worshipping with us in person, we are not checking vaccination status, but **by entering the Fourth Church campus you certify** that (a) you do not currently have COVID-19; (b) you are not experiencing COVID symptoms; (c) you have no reason to quarantine; and (d) you will practice social distancing if you are not vaccinated against COVID-19.



We are offering **two in-person worship services** for the foreseeable future, including into the autumn: a **10:00 a.m. service in the Sanctuary** and a **4:00 p.m. Jazz at Four service in Buchanan Chapel.** ✱ In the Sanctuary, **the front section is for those required to or choosing to practice social distancing**, with seating by households. The remainder of the Sanctuary is open seating, with masks required wherever one sits. Seating for Jazz at Four is set up for social distancing. ✱ Due to health guidelines, **congregational singing is not permitted in the Sanctuary or Chapel;** those who would like to hum while the choir members sing the hymns are invited to do so.



Nursery care is not available at this time. ✱ **Worship can be heard** in the Sanctuary and Chapel through the "T" or "T-coil" setting of hearing aids. ✱ Please silence **electronic devices** when in the Sanctuary or Chapel. ✱ Following the morning service, those who would like to do so are invited to **greet one another outside** in the Michigan Avenue courtyard.

You can read more about the guidelines in place for in-person worship as well as information about continued online opportunities **at www.fourthchurch.org/reopening**

For those who prefer to worship online or who are unable to join us in person, we continue to livestream our morning worship service at 10:00 a.m. at www.bit.ly/FPCworship, Facebook Live (facebook.com/fourthchurch), and YouTube (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos). (*The prelude begins at approximately 9:45 a.m.*) The service is also available for viewing after the service, including later in the week. * **Those without Internet access** are invited to listen to the morning service via phone by calling 888.916.9166 at the time of the service. * During the week we make the **service and sermon available via podcast** on iTunes and Spotify (www.bit.ly/FPCpodcast).



The church campus remains closed as we continue to develop our reopening plans. * On Sundays the **doors open for worship** at 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. (*a half hour before each service starts*). For the morning service, access is only by the Michigan Avenue doors. For the Jazz at Four service, access is only by the Delaware doors to the Gratz Center.



Sunday parking is available at 900 N. Michigan (*access from Rush or Walton*) at the rate of \$9 between 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. and at the Hancock garage (*875 N. Michigan, enter from Delaware or Chestnut*) at the rate of \$10 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Validation tickets for the garages must be picked up from an usher.



On Wednesdays we gather for **Morning Prayer via Zoom** at 9:30 a.m. For details, email Carol Allerton (callerton@fourthchurch.org). * For those who would appreciate a fifteen-minute midweek worship experience, we invite you to view our summer 2021 **“Rhythm and Word: Midweek Music and Prayer” videos**, which you can find on YouTube (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos). An autumn series of these videos—which weave together scripture, prayer, and music offered by the Fourth Church Jazz Quartet—will launch on Wednesday, October 6. To receive the October videos by email, sign up online at www.bit.ly/rhythmandwordemail

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 Wednesday, September 1 is the registration deadline for those interested in joining Fourth Church and Community Presbyterian Church of Clarendon Hills for **“Peace and Compassion: A Music and Travel Seminar Trip to the Middle East.”** Registration for this trip to Israel and the Palestinian territories—which is planned for June 1–15, 2022—can be completed online at www.bit.ly/mideast2022; to learn more, email John Sherer (jsherer@fourthchurch.org).



Men’s Bible Study meets online on Tuesdays at 7:30 a.m., and **Horizons Bible Study for women** next meets online on Wednesday, September 8 at 12:00 p.m. For Zoom details for either study, email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org). * **TwentiesThirties Bible Study** for young adults meets online on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. For details, email Joe Morrow (jmorrow@fourthchurch.org).



Cornerstones’ online gatherings for those fifty and over will resume on Friday, September 10 at 5:30 p.m. That evening Gunnbjorg Lavoll will moderate a panel discussion by Jeff Doane, Robert Edger, and Larry Braskamp on resilience: the importance of understanding ways of dealing with and overcoming adversity. For Zoom details, register at www.bit.ly/cornerstones921 * **Adults sixty and over** are invited to take part in the **Center for Life and Learning**, which offers online weekday classes, lectures, and exercise opportunities beginning Monday, September 13; for details, email Susan Quaintance (squaintance@fourthchurch.org) or see www.fourthchurch.org/cll



The First Tuesday Book Club, hosted by the Adult Education Committee, will discuss **Passionate for Justice: Ida B. Wells as Prophet for Our Time** on Tuesday, September 7 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. Register at www.bit.ly/firsttuesday0921 for details. The book’s co-author Catherine Meeks, who is also Executive Director of the Absalom Jones Center for Racial Healing, will lead our discussion. * **Books by Women** will meet via Zoom on Tuesday, September 14 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss **Caste: Origins of Our Discontents** by Isabel Wilkerson. Newcomers are always welcome to join in the conversation. For Zoom details, email Simon Crow (scrow@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

On September 12, our annual **“Get Connected” Sunday** will kick off a series of Zoom gatherings that will each highlight a different area of opportunity at the church—areas in which you are invited to learn more, become engaged, get involved, and connect with one another. Those present in person on September 12 will be able to pick up a schedule for these **Zoom “Reconnect, Renew, and Reawaken” gatherings**, which will be held on weeknights in the days following September 12. Those worshipping with us online that day will be able to access the schedule and information on our website. Stay tuned for details in the weeks ahead as we make time to connect with friends both new and familiar this fall!



Sunday School and family activities resume on Sunday, September 12 both online and in person. For details, email Briana Belding-Peck (bbelding-peck@fourthchurch.org). * For details about **youth groups and Confirmation**, which resume in-person gatherings on Sunday, September 12, email Katie Patterson (kpatterson@fourthchurch.org).



Our **Friday Noonday Concert series** returns to the Sanctuary this week with in-person concerts each Friday at 12:10 p.m. *Masks must be worn by all in attendance.* Our September 3 concert will be presented by **pianist Reiko Yamada, violinist Kozue Funakoshi, and pianist Patrick Godon**. For those who would prefer to enjoy our concerts online, they will be **livestreamed** on our YouTube channel (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos) as well as at www.bit.ly/fpcprograms; they will be available to watch online afterwards as well.



The **Officer Nominating Committee** is gathering recommendations of individuals to serve in positions opening in 2022 for Elder, Deacon, Trustee, Nominating Committee, and the Chicago Lights Board. If you know Fourth Church members—including yourself!—who have demonstrated gifts for leadership and ministry, please offer your leadership recommendations by **completing the online form at www.bit.ly/nominating2022** by September 30.

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

If you are interested in **becoming a member of Fourth Church**, we invite you to join us online for a one-session Inquirers' Class on Sunday, September 12 at 9:00 a.m. To register for this class (*required for membership*) and discover more about Fourth Church and the Presbyterian Church (USA), sign up at www.bit.ly/inquirersclass0921; for more information, email Joe Morrow (jmorrow@fourthchurch.org). * For resources and ways to connect, watch our website (www.fourthchurch.org) and follow us on Facebook (facebook.com/fourthchurch) and Instagram (instagram.com/fourthchurch) * Online events are posted on the **church calendar**, which is accessible from the home page of our website and at www.fourthchurch.org/calendar



The congregation of the Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago was officially dedicated in worship on the morning of February 12, 1871. Thus on the second Sunday of February 2021 we kicked off **our sesquicentennial celebration!** We encourage you to visit the web page www.fourthchurch.org/150 to read **historical accounts** and **letters from Chicago's faith leaders**. There you can also hear **greetings from Fourth Church friends** from across the globe and view **videos of pastors who formerly served at Fourth Church** as they share memories of their time with our congregation. These collections continue to grow, so be sure to check back periodically.



For those who are facing life's challenges, **Stephen Ministers** provide a listening presence and regular spiritual support. 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. * To explore options for teletherapy, call our **Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being** at 312.787.2729, ext. 2260. * If you would like **to talk to a pastor** or notify the pastoral staff of personal concerns, illnesses, hospitalizations, or deaths, please call the church (312.787.4570). * **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.



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 * Written by members and staff, **daily devotional meditations** are available by email (sign up at www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions) as well as online (www.fourthchurch.org/devotions), via Facebook (facebook.com/fourthchurch), and Twitter (twitter.com/fourthchicago).

To purchase fresh produce and support the work of students and young adults gaining on-site job skills at the **Chicago Lights Urban Farm**, stop by their **Farmstand on Fridays** between 1:00 and 5:00 p.m. (444 W. Chicago Ave.). *Guests are required to wear a face covering and to practice social distancing while at the Farm.*



The **Chicago Lights Social Service Center** is in need of **donations of clean, gently used adult clothing and men's shoes**. Particularly needed are laced men's shoes in sizes 7-1/2 and larger that are good for walking and clothing items in sizes L, XL, XXL, and XXXL (*We are not accepting children's clothing, household supplies, or used underwear or used socks at this time.*) Donations can be dropped off inside the entrance at 126 E. Chestnut on Sundays through Fridays (*not Saturdays*) between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Please do not leave any donations on the church steps. Upon arrival, ring the receptionist bell to be buzzed in and directed to where to leave the donations. *Masks are required while on the campus.*



The **Good Neighbors Street Outreach** program of the **Chicago Lights Social Service Center** is in need of **volunteers to take food and supplies to people in the neighborhood** who are experiencing homelessness. **Also in need of volunteers is Fourth Church Meals Ministry**, which is looking for individuals to help with Saturday breakfast to-go, the weekday Bag Lunch program, Sunday Night Supper, and Monday Night Supper. If you are able to help with one or more of these needs, please let us know via **VOMO, our Volunteer Ministry sign-up platform** at www.bit.ly/fpcvolunteers



Those attending a Fourth Church worship service in person are entering an area where photography, video, and audio recording may occur on behalf of Fourth Church—including the weekly live stream of the Sunday morning service. By entering the worship service, you consent to the non-commercial use of the resulting visual and audio records; you waive all rights you may have to any claims of compensation for the use of these records; you release Fourth Church from any liability for the use of these records; and you waive the right to inspect or approve any of these records.



Worship Leaders

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

The Music Today

Members of the Morning Choir

Carol Carpenter, Laura Perkett, Cole Seaton, Les Ventsch

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

Worship Notes

THE TEXT OF TODAY'S OPENING HYMN, "Just as I Am, without One Plea," was written by Charlotte Elliott in 1834 when illness limited her abilities. She wrote this hymn text as a prayer to help her gain strength and to express a renewed sense of worth grounded in Christ. The hymn's simple, direct, and deeply felt language has made it a source of comfort and strength for many.

TODAY'S MINUTE FOR MISSION is presented by Alex Cornwell on behalf of the Tutoring program of Chicago Lights, the nonprofit community outreach arm of Fourth Church.

OFFERING GIFTS to support the ministry and mission of Fourth Church can be placed in one of the offering boxes at the exit from the Sanctuary. They also can be given via Venmo (@Fourth-Church) or online at www.fourthchurch.org/give-online (or via the "To Make a Gift" button on our website: www.fourthchurch.org).

Shannon J. Kershner Pastor

Lucy Forster-Smith Senior Associate Pastor

Associate Pastors

Matt Helms Children and Family Ministry

Joseph L. Morrow 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

SOURCES AND CREDITS: "Just as I Am, without One Plea" music harmony copyright © 1955, ren. 1983 John Ribble (admin. Westminster John Knox Press). All rights reserved. Used with permission. OneLicense.net. License A-712340.

The Affirmation of Faith is from The Iona Creed (www.nigelpaine.com). The Prayer of Dedication is adapted from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year B, Volume 2* (p. 144).

THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO

Church office: 126 E. Chestnut Street, Chicago, IL 60611.2014

www.fourthchurch.org www.facebook.com/fourthchurch

312.787.4570 Voicemail: 312.787.2729 Fax: 312.787.4584
