



Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 5, 2021 • 10:00 a.m.

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

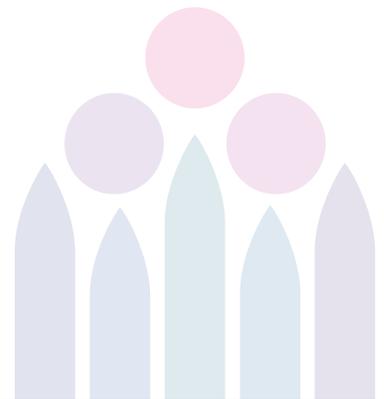
Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Allegro	Gioacchino Rossini
Aria	Giovanni Battista Martini
Andantino	Michel Angelo Rossi
Adagio and Allegro	Giovanni Battista Pescetti

Introit :: “Know That God Loves You” Carson Cooman
Know that God loves you. God’s command is this: “Love one another as I have loved you.”

*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: *This is the day the Lord has made.*

All: **Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Leader: *May we bring our minds, hearts, and souls to this service.*

All: **We seek the Spirit's transformation.**

Leader: *God's steadfast love endures forever.*

All: **Thanks be to God!**

***Hymn** (*congregation is invited to hum*) "This Is My Father's World"

*This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears
all nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world; I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas, his hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world. O, let me ne'er forget
that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.
This is my Father's world. The battle is not done:
Jesus who died shall be satisfied, and earth and heaven be one.*

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

**Just and merciful God,
we confess that we struggle to be honest with you, as well as ourselves.
We are tempted to hide from your searching truth.
We are eager to blame others when wrongdoing is uncovered
or lack of action is revealed. Forgive us, O God.

Free us to face up to ourselves.
May we trust in your forgiving love,
which sends us out into your hurting world
with words and acts of compassion, justice, and peace;
through Jesus, our brother and our Savior. Amen.**

Declaration of Pardon

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

Welcome and Announcements

Anthem :: “The Lord Is My Shepherd” Howard Goodall

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. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for you are with me; you will comfort me. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter Psalm 138

*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 Genesis 3:1–13

Sermon :: “Normal Never Was, God Always Is” Shannon J. Kershner

Responding to the Word

Anthem :: “Teach Me, O Lord” David Hurd

*Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes and I shall keep it to the end.
Give me understanding and I shall keep your law; I shall keep it with all my heart.
Make me go in the path of your commandments, for that is my desire.
Incline my heart to your decrees and not to unjust gain.
Turn my eyes from watching what is worthless; give me life in your ways.
Fulfill your promise to your servant, which you make to all who fear you.
Behold, I long for your commandments; in your righteousness preserve my life.*

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

*Affirmation of Faith (*unison*) from *A Brief Statement of Faith* (PCUSA)

In life and in death we belong to God.

Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,
whom alone we worship, and serve.

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life.

The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,
sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,
and binds us together with all believers
in the one body of Christ, the Church.

The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,
engages us through the Word proclaimed,
claims us in the waters of baptism,
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,
and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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 to Offering

*Prayer of Dedication (*unison*)

Holy God, your generosity is astounding.
Receive now our offerings and use them for healing, for mercy, for beauty.
Receive them with our gratitude for your grace. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn (*congregation is invited to hum*) “Come, Labor On”

*Come, labor on.
Who dares stand idle on the harvest plain
while all around us waves the golden grain?
And to each servant does the Master say, “Go work today.”*

*Come, labor on.
Claim the high calling angels cannot share;
to young and old the gospel gladness bear.
Redeem the time; its hours too swiftly fly. The night draws nigh.*

*Come, labor on.
Cast off all gloomy doubt and faithless fear!
No arm so weak but may do service here.
Though feeble agents, may we all fulfill God’s righteous will.*

*Come, labor on.
No time for rest, till glows the western sky,
till the long shadows o’er our pathway lie,
and a glad sound comes with the setting sun, “Well done, well done!”*

*Charge and Benediction

Postlude ♯ Trumpet Tune Tomaso Albinoni

*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.*



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/rhythmmandwordemail

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The First Tuesday Book Club, hosted by the Adult Education Committee, will discuss ***Passionate for Justice: Ida B. Wells as Prophet for Our Time*** this 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 these conversations. For Zoom details, email Simon Crow (scrow@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 this 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 * **"Understanding Gender Identity as a Church Community"** is a new three-week Academy for Faith and Life class beginning on Sunday, September 12 at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom. **Hosted by the Adult Education and Youth Ministry Committees**, it will be led by Community Outreach staff from Lurie Children's Hospital. For Zoom details, register at www.bit.ly/aflgenderidentity



Our **Friday Noonday Concerts** continue this week with our **new Organ Scholar Michael Rees** presenting our in-person concert at 12:10 p.m. *Masks must be worn by all in attendance.* The performances are also **livestreamed** on our YouTube channel (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos), at www.bit.ly/fpcprograms, and via Facebook Live; they are available to watch online afterwards as well.

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Next Sunday, 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 enjoy live music in the courtyard and pick up a schedule for the **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 as we look forward to making time to connect with friends both new and familiar this fall!



Sunday School and family activities resume next 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 also resume in-person gatherings next Sunday, September 12, 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 weekday classes, lectures, and exercise opportunities beginning Monday, September 13; for details, email Susan Quaintance (squaintance@fourthchurch.org) or see www.fourthchurch.org/cll



If you are interested in **becoming a member of Fourth Church**, we invite you to join us online for a one-session Inquirers’ Class next 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).



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.*

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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.



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



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). * 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



This week the **Benevolent Guild**—which has counted among its projects sewing face masks and making stuffed animals and taggies for children in the hospital—resumes meeting via Zoom on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. For Zoom details, email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org). * **Fourth Church Meals Ministry** is looking for individuals to help with Saturday breakfast to-go, the weekday Bag Lunch program, Sunday Night Supper, and Monday Night Supper. The **Good Neighbors Street Outreach** program of the **Chicago Lights Social Service Center** is also in need of **volunteers to take food and supplies to people in the neighborhood** who are experiencing homelessness. If you are able to help with one or more of these volunteer needs, please let us know via **VOMO, our Volunteer Ministry sign-up platform** at www.bit.ly/fpcvolunteers

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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.*



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 **Reprogle 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.



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.



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

Jeffrey Doane, Larry Thomas, Nanette Sawyer, Shannon J. Kershner

The Music Today

Members of the Morning Choir

Gretchen Adams, Beena David, Bill McMurray, and Cole Seaton

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

Michael Rees, Organ Scholar

Worship Notes

TODAY WE WELCOME MICHAEL REES as our new Organ Scholar. This intern position provides a learning opportunity for young organists beginning their church careers.

TODAY'S ANTHEM "Teach Me, O Lord" was written by David Hurd, an African American composer, concert organist, choral director, and educator from New York City. For thirty-nine years he was Professor of Sacred Music and Director of Chapel Music at General Theological Seminary, an Episcopal seminary in New York City. For many years he was also Music Director at the Church of the Holy Apostles and is now Organist and Director of Music at the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, both in New York City. Dr. Hurd has written numerous anthems and organ compositions and has performed at 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

