



Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 12, 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

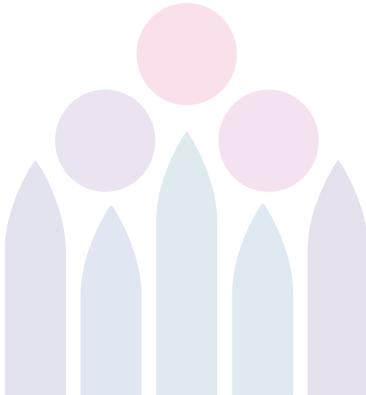
The Heavens Declare	Robert Wetzler
Morning Songs	Gwyneth Walker
1. Welcome Day!	
2. In This Still Room (Are Angel Voices)	

Introit :: “All My Hope on God Is Founded”	Herbert Howells
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*All my hope on God is founded; he doth still my trust renew; me through change and chance
he guideth, only good and only true. God unknown, he alone calls my heart to be his own.*

*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: *God, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.*

All: Our hearts are stirred by this powerful reminder!

Leader: *Yes, before the mountains were brought forth or before you formed the earth,*

All: *you, O God were there, bringing life.*

Leader: *Satisfy us this very morning with your Holy Presence and your love,*

All: *that our lives may resemble your love
and we would hold out our hand to receive your bounty.*

Let us worship God!

*Hymn (*congregation is invited to hum*) “O Day of Peace”

*O day of peace that dimly shines through all our hopes and prayers and dreams,
guide us to justice, truth, and love, delivered from our selfish schemes.*

*May swords of hate fall from our hands, our hearts from envy find release,
till by God’s grace our warring world shall see Christ’s promised reign of peace.*

*Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb, nor shall the fierce devour the small;
as beasts and cattle calmly graze, a little child shall lead them all.*

*Then enemies shall learn to love, all creatures find their true accord;
the hope of peace shall be fulfilled, for all the earth shall know the Lord.*

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Giver of Life, every day you rain down manna from heaven, and often we fail to receive it. We shrug away the bounty, relying on the small morsels we think will sustain us. We grumble about the challenges of our lives and spend hours trying to manage things on our own. We neglect the needs of others because we don’t think we have anything to offer. We shrink back from what might lead to the promised land of truth and hope, taking the path of least resistance.

Gracious God, forgive us. Strengthen us by your mighty Spirit, that we would be the community you have called us to be. Meet us in the wildernesses of our lives with courageous might and joyful perseverance; through Christ, 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 ♫ “Ecce Quam Bonum” Richard Proulx

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is when friends live together in unity.

*Such unity is fragrant as the precious oil poured upon the head
and falling down over the head of Aaron, down to the collar of his robes.*

*Such unity is plentiful as the dew of Mount Hermon, descending upon the hills of Zion.
For there the Lord bestows his blessing and life forevermore.*

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter Psalm 145:1–8

***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 Exodus 16:1–21

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

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

Responding to the Word

Anthem ♫ “I Choose Love” Mark A. Miller

*In the midst of pain, I choose love. In the midst of pain, sorrow falling down like rain,
I await the sun again, I choose love. In the midst of war, I choose peace. In the midst of war,
hate and anger keeping score, I will seek the good once more; I choose peace. When my world
falls down, I will rise. When my world falls down, explanations can't be found, I will climb
to holy ground, I will rise.*

*Affirmation of Faith (*unison*) Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. 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.

Call to Offering

*Prayer of Dedication (*unison*)

Gracious God, our hearts overflow with gratitude for all your blessings to us.
Now receive these gifts of thanksgiving as a sign of the greater gift
of our entire lives dedicated to glorifying you.
We give them in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn (*congregation is invited to hum*) “Live into Hope”

*Live into hope of captives freed, of sight regained, the end of greed.
The oppressed shall be the first to see the year of God’s own jubilee!*

*Live into hope! The blind shall see with insight and with clarity,
removing shades of pride and fear, a vision of our God brought near.*

*Live into hope of liberty, the right to speak, the right to be,
the right to have one’s daily bread, to hear God’s word and thus be fed.*

*Live into hope of captives freed from chains of fear or want or greed.
God now proclaims our full release to faith and hope and joy and peace.*

*Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Morning Songs Gwyneth Walker

3. Go Forth with Joy!

*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

James Thomas Back, child of Garret and Lauren Back

Calvin Wiersema Kinnear, child of Craig Kinnear and Courtney Wiersema

Collins Marie Monge, child of Joseph and Katie Monge

Henry Arthur Schmitt, child of Robert Schmitt and Carrie Gilson

Jack David Vick, child of Josh and Molly Vick

Clayton Brian White, child of Brian and Whitney White



We are glad to be worshiping 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 worshiping 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: 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

Today is “**Get Connected**” Sunday! We invite those who are with us in the Sanctuary to join us in the Michigan Avenue courtyard after worship. (*We strongly encourage the wearing of masks outdoors in the courtyard.*) There you can enjoy the **music** of our Fourth Church Jazz Quartet, take part in a **ribbon-tying prayer** opportunity, and pick up a schedule for the **Zoom “Reconnect, Renew, and Reawaken” gatherings** that kick off this Tuesday, September 14. * Those eight different Zoom gatherings will be held between September 14 and October 7, with one at 5:30 p.m. each Tuesday and Thursday. The same Zoom link will be used for all of them — www.bit.ly/fpcgetconnected21—and each session will 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. (*The complete schedule is posted on our website: www.fourthchurch.org*) We look forward to making time to connect with friends both new and familiar this fall!



Do you have children who are Sunday School-aged or youth who are in junior high or senior high? Or are you interested in what’s involved in being a Sunday School teacher or youth or Confirmation leader? Or maybe you’re looking to connect with other parents and families. Join us for our **first Zoom “Reconnect, Renew, and Reawaken” gathering—“Children, Youth, and Families”**—this Tuesday, September 14 at 5:30 p.m. at www.bit.ly/fpcgetconnected21



As part of “Get Connected” Sunday, **Sunday School** (*ages 3 through grade 5*) resumes this morning with in-person classes for three-year-olds through fifth graders at 10:00 a.m. in the Gratz Center. For details about online Sunday School, email Briana Belding-Peck (bbelding-peck@fourthchurch.org). * **Eighth-grade Confirmation** meets with their parents at 9:00 a.m. in Borwell Dining Room. **Junior High Youth** meet at 9:15 a.m. in the Bumpus Room, where **Senior High Youth** meet at 11:15 a.m. For additional details about youth groups, including Sunday evening Senior High Zoom time, email Katie Patterson (kpatterson@fourthchurch.org). * **Cherub and Children’s Music Time** (*ages 3 through grade 5*) meets each Sunday at 9:30 a.m. in Room 4F, and **Youth Music Time** (*grades 6–12*) meets on Sundays at 10:45 a.m. in Room 4F. * **Youth parents** are invited to a time of fellowship on Sundays at 9:15 a.m. in the fifth floor lobby.

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Our second Zoom “Reconnect, Renew, and Reawaken” gathering—“Education and Spiritual Formation”—will take place at www.bit.ly/fpcgetconnected21 this Thursday, September 16 at 5:30 p.m. Come learn about Bible study opportunities, our adult education classes, Center for Life and Learning weekday offerings for those sixty and over, and spiritual formation practices and experiences that deepen our relationship with God, self, and one another. A wide variety of resources is available to you for your ongoing exploration and spiritual growth!



“Understanding Gender Identity as a Church Community” is a new three-week Academy for Faith and Life class beginning this Sunday, September 12 at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom. **Hosted by the Adult Education and Youth Committees**, it is led by Community Outreach staff from Lurie Children’s Hospital. For Zoom details, register at www.bit.ly/aflgenderidentity



Books by Women will meet via Zoom this 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). * The **First Tuesday Book Club**, hosted by the Adult Education Committee, will discuss **Liturgy of the Ordinary: Sacred Practices in Everyday Life** by Tish Harrison Warren on Tuesday, October 5 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. For Zoom details, email Lewis Hamer (lhamer@fourthchurch.org).



Men’s Bible Study meets online on Tuesdays at 7:30 a.m., and **Horizons Bible Study for women** meets online on Wednesday, September 22 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). * 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 Repogle Center on Tuesdays (7:45 a.m.) and Saturdays (8:30 a.m.) at facebook.com/repoglecenterforcounselingandwellbeing

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Our **Friday Noonday Concerts** continue this week with **pianist Mio Nakamura and trombonist**

Hugo Saavedra presenting our in-person concert at 12:10 p.m. *Masks must be worn by all in attendance.* The concerts are also **livestreamed** on YouTube (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos), via Facebook Live, and at www.bit.ly/fpcprograms and are available to view afterwards as well.



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 this week; for details, email Susan Quaintance (squaintance@fourthchurch.org) or see www.fourthchurch.org/cll



The **Benevolent Guild**—which has counted among its projects sewing face masks and making stuffed animals and taggies for children in the hospital—meets via Zoom on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. ♦ **Knitting and Crocheting** gathers online on Tuesday, September 28 at 4:00 p.m. for a time to work on knitting or crocheting projects while sharing in conversation. ♦ This month **Women at Fourth** will gather online for its monthly time of fellowship and a program on Thursday, September 23 at 6:00 p.m. For Zoom details for any of these three gatherings, email Simon Crow (scrow@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 ♦ If you are interested in **becoming a member of Fourth Church**, we encourage you to email Joe Morrow (jmorrow@fourthchurch.org).

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 **Reogle 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 **Officer Nominating Committee** is in need of 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.



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**. (*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.* * **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. If you are able to help or are interested in other volunteer opportunities, please let us know via **VOMO, our Volunteer Ministry sign-up platform** at www.bit.ly/fpcvolunteers



Our congregation is **celebrating its sesquicentennial!** 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

Lucy Forster-Smith, Kashane Taylor, David Handley, Shannon J. Kershner

The Music Today

Members of the Morning Choir

Michael Rees, Organ Scholar

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

Worship Notes

THE ANTHEM “I CHOOSE LOVE” was written for Emmanuel African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church in Charleston, South Carolina, after that church experienced a mass shooting on June 17, 2015, in which nine African Americans were killed during a Bible study. The piece was composed by Mark Miller (b. 1956), an African American composer, teacher, and performer who believes passionately that music can change the world. Miller serves at Yale University as a Lecturer in the Practice of Sacred Music and at Drew Theological School as Assistant Professor of Church Music.

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

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