



Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 26, 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

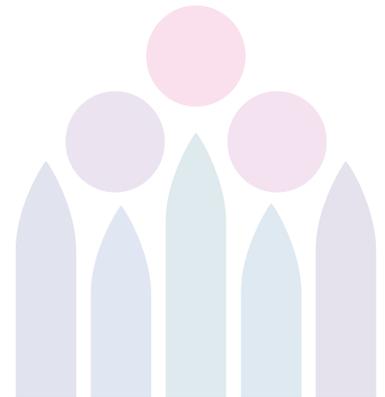
Sonata in the Style of Handel William Wolstenholme
Introduction—Allegro
Largo
Minuet

Introit :: “Let the Whole Creation Cry” Jacob Hintze

Let the whole creation cry, “Glory to the Lord on high.” Heaven and earth, awake and sing, “Praise to our almighty King.” Praise God, angel hosts above, ever bright and fair in love; sun and moon, uplift your voice; night and stars, in God rejoice!

*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: *As we gather with friends and strangers, family and neighbors,*

All: come among us, Healing God, with that love which never ends.

Leader: *As we gather listening, alive to your presence,*

**All: come among us, Friend of the Broken,
with your compassion which makes us whole.**

Leader: *As we gather, watching and waiting, alive to your presence,*

All: come among us, Restorer of Hope, in word, silence, and song.

*Hymn (*congregation is invited to hum*) “Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty”

Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!

O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!

All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near; join me in glad adoration!

*Praise ye the Lord, who o’er all things so wondrously reigneth,
shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!*

Hast thou not seen how thy desires e’er have been granted in what he ordaineth?

Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!

All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!

Let the amen sound from his people again; gladly for aye we adore him.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

God of compassion, you stand ever ready before us:

ready to heal, to provide a pathway to peace and offer your gracious justice.

But in the ways we refuse to change, you receive our stubborn refusal.

In our selfishness, you hear apathy.

Rather than help others, we stand over them in accusation.

And so our world suffers tragedy, want, and oppression.

In this life too often marked by condemnation, we ask for the miracle of your mercy.

As we who are frail of faith receive your tenderness, may we extend it outward

until all your beloved people are restored and made whole. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

Leader: *Friends, believe the good news:*

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

Welcome and Announcements

Anthem :: “Let Their Celestial Concerts All Unite” from *Samson*. . . . George Frideric Handel

Let their celestial concerts all unite, ever to sound his praise in endless morn of light.

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter Psalm 146

*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 Mark 7:31–37

Sermon Series :: Normal Never Was, God Always Is: Part Four Shannon J. Kershner

Responding to the Word

Anthem :: “God Be in My Head” John Rutter

God be in my head and in my understanding;

God be in mine eyes and in my looking;

God be in my mouth and in my speaking;

God be in my heart and in my thinking;

God be at mine end and at my departing.

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

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

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.

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.

New Members

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*)

Ever-present God, with these offerings we also present ourselves:
all that we have been, all that we are, and all that we will become.
For in sharing ourselves, we help honor the Christ who walks alongside
each of our brothers and sisters. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn (*congregation is invited to hum*). “May the God of Hope Go with Us”
*May the God of hope go with us every day, filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way, bringing light and hope to every land and race.
Praying, let us work for peace; singing, share our joy with all;
working for a world that’s new, faithful when we hear Christ’s call.*

*Charge and Benediction

Postlude

March C. Hubert H. Parry; arr. Richard Pantcheff

*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.



If you would like to join us for **in-person worship**, we gather for 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 at this time. * 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 by the Michigan Avenue doors to the Sanctuary and the Delaware doors to the Gratz Center. For the Jazz at Four service, access is only by the Delaware doors.



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). **New videos in this series**—which weave together scripture, prayer, and music offered by the Fourth Church Jazz Quartet—will **launch on Wednesday, October 6**. To receive these new videos by email each week, sign up online at www.bit.ly/rhythmwordemail

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Our **Zoom “Reconnect, Renew, and Reawaken” gatherings** are underway! Held on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5:30 p.m., each session highlights 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), and the same Zoom link—www.bit.ly/fpcgetconnected21—is used for all of them. We hope you will join us in making time to connect with friends both new and familiar this fall!



Caring ministries at Fourth Church provide a presence, listening ear, and prayerful support for those experiencing challenges in personal and communal life. Our Deacons and Stephen Ministers invite you to join them this Tuesday, September 28 at www.bit.ly/fpcgetconnected21 at 5:30 p.m. for our next **Zoom “Reconnect, Renew, and Reawaken” gathering—“Ministries of Care”**—as they talk about their work and share how to partner with them, whether as a caregiver or care receiver. * 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.



Sunday School for three-year-olds through fifth graders meets 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 at 9:15 a.m. on the fifth floor. * **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 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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This Thursday, **September 30 is the deadline for submitting recommendations** to the **Officer Nominating Committee**, which is working to identify a slate 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.



Are you looking to **connect with others** over conversation about books? Current issues? The study and practice of faith? Or maybe you are looking to take part in a small group or spend time with others your age. Or perhaps you would like to come together with those who share a common interest, such as knitting and crocheting or crafting and sewing. This week join us for our **Thursday Zoom “Reconnect, Renew, and Reawaken” gathering—“Fellowship and Small Groups.”** This time to learn about fellowship opportunities and small groups that are building connections among us will take place via Zoom at www.bit.ly/fpcgetconnected21 on Thursday, September 30 at 5:30 p.m. * **New Zoom Small Groups**, which will meet weekly for six weeks, begin the week of October 11. If you would like to **connect with five to seven other people via Zoom** for a time of **fellowship, relationship building, and spiritual formation** or want to learn more about small-group opportunities, please email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org).



A Thursday evening online Bible study led by Lucy and Tom Forster-Smith and examining themes and events in Genesis will begin on Thursday, October 7 at 7:00 p.m. 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** next meets online on Wednesday, October 13 at 12:00 p.m. A **6:30 p.m. evening Bible study for women** is also being formed. For details for Men’s or Women’s Bible studies, email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org). * On Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. **TwentiesThirties Bible Study** for young adults meets online. 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).

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Knitting and Crocheting gathers online this Tuesday, September 28 at 4:00 p.m. for a time to work on knitting or crocheting projects while sharing in conversation. * On Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m., the **Benevolent Guild**—which has counted among its projects sewing face masks—meets via Zoom and also, this week, in person. * On Tuesday, October 12 **Books by Women** will meet via Zoom at 6:00 p.m. to discuss ***A Room of One's Own*** by Virginia Woolf. Newcomers are always welcome to join in these conversations. For Zoom details for any of the above gatherings, email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org). * **Cornerstones'** online October gathering for those fifty and over will feature Rocky Supinger, Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry, moderating a panel of high school students discussing **"How Has the COVID Pandemic Impacted Your High School Experience?"** For Zoom details for the event, which will be held this Friday, October 1 at 5:30 p.m., register at www.bit.ly/cornerstones1021



Cate Hummel and Cindy Trowbridge will present a **flute and piano concert** this Friday, October 1 at 12:10 p.m. as part of our weekly **Friday Noonday Concert** series. *Masks must be worn by all in attendance.* Our concerts can also be enjoyed online live as well as afterwards on YouTube (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos), at www.bit.ly/fpcprograms, and on Facebook Live.



Effective October 15, 2021, **all Fourth Church volunteers serving in person must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19.** If you are volunteering this fall please send a copy of your vaccination certification to vaxproof@fourthchurch.org by October 15. Your information will be received directly by our Human Resources Department and kept confidential, only used to confirm your ability to volunteer with the church. Please direct questions about to Robert Crouch, Director of Volunteer Ministry (rcrouch@fourthchurch.org). * Starting on October 10 Meals Ministry will offer limited indoor dining—in addition to the to-go option—for Sunday Night Supper. That means additional **volunteers are needed to help serve Supper guests on Sundays.** You can sign up to volunteer with Meals Ministry programs by using VOMO, our Volunteer Ministry sign-up platform, at www.bit.ly/fpcvolunteers * Do you have time one evening a week to **mentor a student through Chicago Lights Tutoring? Tutoring will take place online** this fall, and the Tutoring Volunteer Application can be completed at www.bit.ly/cltutorapp21; for more information, contact Mark Dennison (mdennison@chicagolights.org).

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The class **“Understanding Gender Identity as a Church Community,”** led by Community Outreach staff from Lurie Children’s Hospital, concludes with today’s 9:00 a.m. session. For Zoom details, register at www.bit.ly/aflgenderidentity; previous sessions can be viewed at www.fourthchurch.org/academy * To follow up on our spring classes with artist Gerald Griffin, Mr. Griffin has invited members of Fourth Church to **visit the Gerald Griffin gallery** in the Chatham neighborhood (8237 S. Princeton) on Sunday, October 3 from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. Individuals will need to provide their own transportation to and from the gallery, where we will learn more about Mr. Griffin’s art, the healing power of creativity, and the importance of art in the neighborhood. **Those who would like to carpool** from the church are asked to email Lewis Hamer (lhamer@fourthchurch.org) by Wednesday, September 29. * On Tuesday, October 5 the **First Tuesday Book Club** will discuss **Liturgy of the Ordinary: Sacred Practices in Everyday Life** by Tish Harrison Warren at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. For Zoom details, email Lewis Hamer (lhamer@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. For details, email Susan Quaintance (squaintance@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).



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 **ideos of pastors who formerly served at Fourth Church** as they share memories of their time with our congregation. These collections continue to grow, so do 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

Joseph L. Morrow, Deborah Oberschelp, Matt Helms, 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

TODAY WE WELCOME THE NEWEST MEMBERS OF FOURTH CHURCH: Shannon Farrar, Marsha McGowen, Jennifer Mickel, Danielle Patrick, Clifford Przybyl, Alexa Rice, Mark Schaetzlein, Alin Schubert, Luke Schubert, Macee Simon, and Nancie Thompson. If you are interested in learning more about becoming a member of Fourth Church, we invite you to contact Joe Morrow (jmorrow@fourthchurch.org)

TODAY'S CLOSING HYMN, "May the God of Hope Go with Us," is an Argentinian folk melody with an English text by Alvin Schutmaat, who wrote the words in 1984 while serving as a PC(USA) missionary in Argentina.

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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