



**Third Sunday after Epiphany**

## **We Approach God**

### **Gathering Music**

### **Welcome and Announcements**

### **\*Call to Worship**

Our God says,

“Do not remember the former things or consider things of old.

**I am about to do a new thing.**

The new thing springs forth—do you perceive it?

**I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.**

I will give drink to those whom I choose,

**so God’s people will declare praise!”**

**Let us worship the Living God!**

\* Please rise in body or spirit

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*Inspired by the radical hospitality of Jesus Christ, Fourth Church welcomes all of God’s children into the life of the church regardless of sex, gender, sexual orientation, age, race, ethnicity, physical or mental ability, mental health, educational background, economic situation, religious background, or documentation status.*

**\*Opening Song** (*congregation sings while masked*) . . . . . “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.

**We Tell the Truth about Ourselves**

**Prayer of Confession** (*unison*)

**Dear God, we come before you with heavy hearts and worn spirits.  
You know us before we say a word, and you know all the things we’re sorry for:  
the unkind words, the dishonest dealings, the half-hearted joys.**

**You know too the sins of our culture:  
our shutting out those who are different;  
our turning our eyes from those in need;  
our preoccupation with our own needs and wants.**

**Receive our contrition, O God.  
Search our hearts and cleanse all that keeps us from you  
so that, opening our lives to your forgiveness, we may turn again to life—  
refreshed, renewed, reordered. Amen.**

**God Forgives and Blesses Us**

Friends, believe the good news!  
**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Psalter** (*congregation sings the antiphon while masked*) . . . . . Psalm 103

**ANTIPHON:** *Like the grass that grows and fades is the cycle of our days.*

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God’s holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all God’s benefits—who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases; who redeems your life from the grave and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy; who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like an eagle’s. O Lord, you provide vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.

**ANTIPHON**

You made known your ways to Moses and your works to the children of Israel. Lord, you are full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love; you will not always accuse us, nor will you keep your anger forever. You have not dealt with us according to our sins, nor repaid us according to our iniquities.

**ANTIPHON**

For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you. As far as the east is from the west, so far have you removed our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion for his children, so you have compassion for those who fear you, O Lord. For you know well how we are formed; you remember that we are but dust. As for mortals, their days are like the grass; they flourish like a flower of the field; when the wind passes over it, it is gone, and its place shall know it no more.

**ANTIPHON**

But your steadfast love, O Lord, is forever with those who fear you, and your righteousness is for the children’s children; for those who keep your covenant and remember to do your commandments. The Lord’s throne is established in heaven; God’s dominion rules over all. Bless the Lord, you angels, you mighty ones who do God’s bidding, who obey the voice of God’s word. Bless the Lord, all you hosts of God, you servants who do God’s will. Bless the Lord, all you works of God, in all places where God rules; bless the Lord, O my soul.

**ANTIPHON**

**Scripture Lesson** . . . . . Mark 2:1–12

**Sermon** Things Jesus Never Said: “God Helps Those Who Help Themselves” . . . . . *Joseph L. Morrow*

**Musical Reflection**

## **We Feast Together**

### **The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper**

#### **The Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our 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**

## **We Offer Ourselves**

#### **Call for Offering**

##### **\*Prayer of Dedication**

**For the life you have given to us;**

**for the love you have made known in Jesus, your Son;**

**for the blessing of being able to return to you a portion of our livelihood—  
time, talent, treasure, we are ever grateful, O God.**

**We ask your blessing on us, our life together and these gifts**

**that reach to those who await your amazing bounty; through Christ. Amen.**

## We Go Out with Gratitude

**\*Closing Song** (*congregation sings while masked*) . . . . . “We Are One in the Spirit ”

We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord;  
we are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord,  
and we pray that all unity may one day be restored:

*Refrain:*

And they’ll know we are Christians by our love,  
by our love; yes, they’ll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand;  
we will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand,  
and together we’ll spread the news that God is in our land: (*Refrain*)

We will work with each other; we will work side by side;  
we will work with each other; we will work side by side,  
and we’ll guard human dignity and save human pride: (*Refrain*)

All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,  
and all praise to Christ Jesus, God’s only Son,  
and all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one: (*Refrain*)

**\*Benediction**

**Sending Music**

## Worship Leaders

**Joseph L. Morrow** Associate Pastor  
**Lucy Forster-Smith** Senior Associate Pastor  
**Paula Addington** Liturgist  
**The Fourth Church Jazz Quartet**

## Worship Notes

**Offering gifts** to support the ministry and mission of Fourth Church can be placed in an offering box at the exit to the Chapel. They also can be given online at [www.fourthchurch.org/give-online](http://www.fourthchurch.org/give-online) (or via the “To Make a Gift” button on our website: [fourthchurch.org](http://fourthchurch.org)) or via Venmo (@Fourth-Church).

**Incorporating ancient and contemporary traditions in this service**, God is named corporately in a variety of ways that are gender neutral. This allows for your personal expressions as you are led to name the Holy in ways meaningful to you.

## Acknowledgments

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## PASTORAL STAFF

**Shannon J. Kershner**, Pastor  
**Lucy Forster-Smith**, Senior Associate Pastor  
**Matt Helms**, Associate Pastor for Children and Family Ministry  
**Joseph L. Morrow**, Associate Pastor for Evangelism and Community Engagement  
**Nanette Sawyer**, Associate Pastor for Discipleship and Small Group Ministry  
**Rocky Supinger**, Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry and Worship  
  
**Jeffrey Doane**, Parish Associate for Caring Ministries and Spiritual Formation  
**Maggie Shreve**, Parish Associate for Jail Ministry  
**John Buchanan**, Pastor Emeritus

# News and Opportunities

**We are glad to have you with us today** and hope you will explore the many opportunities for learning, serving, and community building at Fourth Presbyterian 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**. Anyone not wearing a mask fully covering their nose and mouth will be asked to leave, as we know that some people make the decision to worship with us in person—or participate in other in-person activities—based on the knowledge that everyone will be fully masked. This is but one of the ways we continue to live out our commitment to value the health and safety of all. \* 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 each Sunday for a **10:00 a.m. service in the Sanctuary** and a **4:00 p.m. Jazz at Four service in Buchanan Chapel**. \* **Worshippers are invited to sing while masked**. We invite those who are concerned about being near those who are singing to worship with us from home via our 10:00 a.m. livestream, which is also available for viewing later in the week. \* **Worship in the Chapel can be heard** through hearing aids' "T" or "T-coil" setting. \* **Please** silence electronic devices when in the Chapel. \* The **doors open for worship** on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. For the 4:00 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. Validation tickets for the garage must be picked up from an usher.



**For those who prefer to worship online** or are unable to join us in person, we livestream our morning worship service at 10:00 a.m. on our YouTube channel ([www.bit.ly/fpcvideos](http://www.bit.ly/fpcvideos)). (*The prelude begins at approximately 9:45 a.m.*) The service is also available for viewing afterwards. \* **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](http://www.bit.ly/FPCpodcast)). \* To **receive the sermon text by email**, subscribe online at [www.bit.ly/fpcsermons](http://www.bit.ly/fpcsermons)

**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](http://www.bit.ly/newsfromfpc)**

**For those who are seeking a time for prayer**, on Wednesdays we gather at 9:30 a.m. for **Morning Prayer via Zoom**. In January we are also holding **in-person Morning Prayer** on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. in Buchanan Chapel. Also during January, Buchanan Chapel is open for **opportunity to walk the labyrinth** between 9:00 and 10:00 a.m. on Wednesdays and Thursdays. For Zoom details or information about walking the labyrinth or in-person Morning Prayer, email Rocky Supinger ([rsupinger@fourthchurch.org](mailto:rsupinger@fourthchurch.org)). \* A **Sacred Pause time of meditation** is hosted virtually by our Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being on Tuesday mornings (7:45 a.m.) and Saturday mornings (8:30 a.m.) at [facebook.com/reploglecenterforcounselingandwellbeing](https://facebook.com/reploglecenterforcounselingandwellbeing)



**Men's Bible Study** meets online on Tuesdays at 7:30 a.m. **Horizons Bible Study for women** will host two online sessions this Wednesday, January 26, one at 12:00 p.m. and one at 6:30 p.m. For details for these Bible studies, email Simon Crow ([scrow@fourthchurch.org](mailto:scrow@fourthchurch.org)). \* **Daily devotions** written by Fourth Church members and staff as a **resource for meditation and prayer** are available **daily by email** (*sign up at [www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions](http://www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions)*).



A four-session class on **"The 1619 Project,"** discussing slavery's continuing legacy of injustice and inequality, meets on Sunday mornings at 11:15 a.m. in Buchanan Chapel and via Zoom. (*For Zoom details, register at [www.bit.ly/1619class](http://www.bit.ly/1619class); the class will also be available for viewing on our website in the days ahead.*) Guest speakers are leading conversation about the history of slavery; cultural and religious practices brought to America from Africa; the history of the Great Migration in Chicago; the 1919 race riot and its origins; and present-day socioeconomic struggles in America's and Chicago's Black community. \* **Cornerstones**, a fellowship group of those fifty and over, will meet via Zoom on Tuesday, February 4 at 5:30 p.m. for a presentation by Joe Morrow, Associate Pastor for Young Adults and Community Engagement, and Jose Morales, Professor of Church History at Chicago Theological Seminary, about **recent debates over Critical Race Theory**. For Zoom details, register at [www.bit.ly/cornerstones221](http://www.bit.ly/cornerstones221)



For those who are facing life's challenges, **Stephen Ministers** provide a listening presence. To have a one-time phone conversation with a Stephen Minister or arrange for ongoing talks, 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 at 312.787.4570. \* **If you have a prayer request**, Jeff Doane ([jdoane@fourthchurch.org](mailto:jdoane@fourthchurch.org)) is receiving these requests as part of our Morning Prayer and Deacon Prayer Ministries.



**Our congregation is celebrating its sesquicentennial!** During this 150th anniversary year we encourage you to visit the web page [www.fourthchurch.org/150](http://www.fourthchurch.org/150) to read historical accounts and view video messages. \* On **Sunday, February 13** we will conclude our sesquicentennial year with a festive service of worship at 10:00 a.m. **John Buchanan, Pastor Emeritus, will preach**, and we hope current and former members and staff will worship with us—whether online or in person—as we celebrate this congregation's legacy and look toward our future.



**The Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago**

Church office: 126 E. Chestnut Street, Chicago, IL 60611.2014 • [www.fourthchurch.org](http://www.fourthchurch.org)

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