



Fourth Sunday of Easter

We Approach God

Gathering Music

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship**

Praise to the Lamb who is seated on the throne of heaven!

Praise be to God who offers God's love to us!

Let us sing continually of God's wisdom and power and might.

Let our voices be raised in joyful celebration!

Worthy is the Lamb to receive honor and glory and majesty.

Let our hearts rejoice at God's redeeming love for us. Amen.

* Please rise in body or spirit

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** "We Gather Together"

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;
he chastens and hastens his will to make known;
the wicked oppressing now cease from distressing.
Sing praises to his name; he forgets not his own.

Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,
ordaining, maintaining his kingdom divine;
so from the beginning the fight we were winning;
thou, Lord, wast at our side; all glory be thine!

We all do extol thee, thou leader triumphant,
and pray that thou still our defender wilt be.
Let thy congregation escape tribulation;
thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!

We Tell the Truth about Ourselves

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

**God, we confess that we often let hopelessness have too much power over our lives.
In the face of crisis, our faith has frequently faltered.
In the midst of calamity, our fearlessness has faded.
In the presence of tribulation, our worry has weakened our ability to act justly.
Help our unbelief, O God!
Bring us back to you, great Redeemer.
Remind us of the unfailing treasure that is in your love and care for all of creation—
for your grace is sufficient, from the valley of death to the tables you've prepared for us.
Embolden us, again, and revive our spirits. Amen.**

God Forgives and Blesses Us

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

We Proclaim the Story

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter Psalm 23

Song “Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks”

Refrain: Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord. Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name

Jesus is Lord of all the earth. He is the King of creation. (*Refrain*)

Spread the good news o’er all the earth: Jesus has died and has risen. (*Refrain*)

We have been crucified with Christ. Now we shall live forever. (*Refrain*)

Come let us praise the living God, joyfully sing to our Savior. (*Refrain*)

Scripture Lesson Revelation 7:9–17

Sermon “A Great Multitude” *Nanette Sawyer*

Musical Reflection

Gloria

Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!

Glory to God, glory to God, alleluia, alleluia!

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!

Sanctus

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

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

Prayer after Communion

We Offer Ourselves

Call for Offering

Prayer of Dedication

**Holy God, Divine Shepherd,
you anoint us with the oil of gladness;
your love overflows our hearts.
Accept our offering for the good of the world
as we joyfully give thanks for our life in you.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

We Go Out with Gratitude

*Closing Song “Every Time I Feel the Spirit”

Refrain:

Every time I feel the Spirit
moving in my heart I will pray.
Yes, every time I feel the Spirit
moving in my heart I will pray.

Upon the mountain, when my Lord spoke,
out of God’s mouth came fire and smoke.
Looked all around me, it looked so fine,
till I asked my Lord if all was mine. (*Refrain*)

Jordan River, chilly and cold,
it chills the body but not the soul.
There is but one train upon this track.
It runs to heaven and then right back. (*Refrain*)

*Benediction

Sending Music

Worship Leaders

Nanette Sawyer Associate Pastor

Nancy Benson-Nicol Associate Pastor

The Fourth Church Jazz Quartet

Worship Notes

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

Words—The Call to Worship is by Nancy C. Townley (www.ministrymatters.com). The Prayer of Dedication is by Kimberly Bracken Long, *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 1: Advent through Pentecost* (p. 159). All rights reserved. Used by permission.

PASTORAL STAFF

Shannon J. Kershner, Pastor

Lucy Forster-Smith, Senior Associate Pastor

Nancy Benson-Nicol, Associate Pastor for Caring Ministries and Spiritual Formation

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

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, **masks are welcome but not required**. As a mask-welcoming campus we affirm that mask wearing continues to be an effective preventative measure for individuals. Thus we not only encourage the wearing of masks by anyone who wants or needs to wear one, but we are also committed to ensuring no one will feel out of place should they choose to wear a mask while at the church. * Since some populations are more vulnerable to COVID-19 than others, some programs on our campus may still choose to require masks. * Additionally, we are continuing our practice of not checking vaccination status, but **anyone coming on site certifies** by doing so that (a) they do not currently have COVID-19; (b) they are not experiencing COVID symptoms; (c) they have no reason to quarantine; and (d) they will wear a mask and practice social distancing if they are not vaccinated against COVID-19.



If you would like to join us for **in-person worship**, we gather on Sundays for a **10:00 a.m. service in the Sanctuary** and the **4:00 p.m. Jazz at Four service in Buchanan Chapel**. * **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 a half hour before the service. 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 for 6 hours between 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. (and \$18 for up to 12 hours). 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 service on our YouTube channel (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos).



Fourth Church offers a variety of ways to **connect with one another**. Online and in-person events are posted on **our church calendar**, accessible from our website's home page and at www.fourthchurch.org/calendar * For **resources** as well as additional ways to connect with the church and one another, watch our website (www.fourthchurch.org) and Facebook (facebook.com/fourthchurch). * To **learn more about Fourth Church** or **become a member** email member@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**

We invite you to use our **devotions for the Easter season as a resource for meditation and reflection.**

Subscribe at www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions to receive the meditations daily via email. * On Wednesdays we gather for **Morning Prayer via Zoom** at 9:30 a.m. and for **in-person Morning Prayer** at 10:00 a.m. in Buchanan Chapel. The chapel is also open for opportunity to **walk the labyrinth** between 9:00 and 9:45 a.m. on Wednesdays and between 9:00 and 10:00 a.m. on Thursdays. For Zoom details or information about walking the labyrinth, email Rocky Supinger (rsupinger@fourthchurch.org).



As we return to more on-site programming, Fourth Church and Chicago Lights are also implementing, **effective Monday, May 16, a new safety and security practice.**

Beginning May 16, **anyone present on the Fourth Church campus will be required to wear a campus badge while on site**, *except on Sundays and for other worship opportunities, concerts, and Meals Ministry meals.* Anyone who does not already have a campus badge (*except for those exceptions noted above*) will be asked to **pick up a single-day badge at the 126 E. Chestnut reception desk.** Reusable badges will be issued by some programs with regular, ongoing weekly programming, such as Chancel Choir. These reusable badges will only be available from the staff of those programs, not from the reception desk. Anyone who does not bring their reusable campus badge will be able to pick up a single-day badge.

To facilitate this process—as well as for safety and security reasons—**all access to the building will be through the 126 E. Chestnut entrance only**, except for worship, concerts, and Meals Ministry. Our ongoing commitment to the safety and security of all on our campus undergirds this practice, which has been under discussion since prior to the pandemic. (*Implementation was set aside while the campus was largely closed.*)

The campus badges and single-entry access point were strongly encouraged by our safety and security consultants and advisors and are also consistent with practices at other large, spread-out, multi-use buildings with spaces and uses like ours. They enable us to know who is in the building throughout the day. (*Previous unlimited access has at times resulted in unknown individuals hiding in corners of the campus.*) They also ensure that should we ever have to evacuate the buildings, we will know who was on site and needs to be accounted for.

As a congregation, we **value radical hospitality and welcome for all**, and we believe one expression of that is our care for the well-being of those who are present with us. **This safety and security practice is but one expression of that.** For those who will be joining us on site as programming on campus continues to expand, we look forward to seeing you!



Shannon Kershner begins her three-month sabbatical today. While she is away, we look forward to welcoming three guest preachers: **Barbara Lundblad** will be the first and will preach next Sunday morning, May 15. Lucy Forster-Smith, Senior Associate Pastor, is serving as Head of Staff. For more information about this sabbatical time, see www.fourthchurch.org/about/sabbatical.html