



We Approach God

Gathering Music

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship

Sing aloud to God our strength.

Shout for joy to the Lord of Life.

Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

Glory to God forever.

Let us worship God!

* 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** "Come Down, O Love Divine"

Come down, O Love Divine; seek out this soul of mine,
and visit it with your own ardor glowing.
O Comforter, draw near; within my heart appear,
and kindle it, your holy flame bestowing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming.
And let your glorious light shine ever on my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong, with which the soul will long,
shall far outpass the power of human telling.
For none can guess God's grace, till Love creates a place
wherein the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.

We Tell the Truth about Ourselves

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

**God of justice and love, we confess that we have not always seen your image in each other.
We have spoken evil of others and pointed fingers in blame.
We have turned away from you and our community, pursuing instead our own self-interests.
Parched for mercy, we cry out for your help.
Forgive us, God, and teach us your ways,
that we may be renewed like a garden freshly watered. Amen.**

God Forgives and Blesses Us

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

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter Psalm 81:1, 10–16

ANTIPHON: *I hear a voice I had not known.*

Sing with joy to God our strength and raise a loud shout to the God of Jacob.

I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt.

Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.

Yet my people did not hear my voice, and Israel would not obey me.

So I gave them over to the stubbornness of their hearts, to follow their own devices.

ANTIPHON

Oh, that my people would listen to me, that Israel would walk in my ways!

I would quickly subdue their enemies and turn my hand against their foes.

Those who hate the Lord would cringe in fear, and their punishment would last forever.

But I would feed you with the finest wheat and satisfy you with honey from the rock.”

ANTIPHON

Scripture Lesson Hebrews 13:1–8, 15–16

Sermon “Entertaining Angels” *Lucy Forster-Smith*

Musical Reflection

Gloria

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

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

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

**Generous and loving God, we are so grateful for the very gift of our lives.
For the blessings of each day, for the ability to work, for the capacity to serve,
for the joy of human love, we give you thanks.
As we return to you a portion of our livelihood, may these gifts increase by your Spirit
to be a blessing to all they serve. Through Christ we pray. Amen.**

We Go Out with Gratitude

***Closing Song** "God of Grace and God of Glory"

God of grace and God of glory, on thy people pour thy power;
crown thine ancient church's story; bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.

Lo! the hosts of evil round us scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!
From the fears that long have bound us free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.

Cure thy children's warring madness; bend our pride to thy control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, lest we miss thy kingdom's goal,
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.

Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore.
Let the gift of thy salvation be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving thee whom we adore,
serving thee whom we adore.

***Benediction**

Sending Music

Worship Leaders

Lucy Forster-Smith Senior Associate Pastor

Nanette Sawyer Associate Pastor

Toni Yang Liturgist

The Fourth Church Jazz Quartet

Leslie Beukelman, vocal

Bryan Doherty, bass

Marcus Evans, percussion

Amr Fahmy, piano

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.

Offering gifts to support the ministry and mission of Fourth Church can be placed in the offering plate at the time of the offering or in the offering box at the Chapel exit. They also can be given via Venmo (@Fourth-Church; see QR code at right) or online at www.fourthchurch.org/give-online (or via the “To Make a Gift” button at www.fourthchurch.org).



Acknowledgments

Words—The Call to Worship and Prayer of Confession are adapted from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 2: Trinity Sunday through Reign of Christ*. 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

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.



Although wearing a mask is not required at Fourth Church, we as a community have made a commitment to be a **mask-welcoming campus**, encouraging the wearing of masks by anyone who wants or needs to wear one. With the COVID risk level in Chicago at "medium," we **not just encourage but recommend** (*though not require*) **that individuals wear masks** while on campus. This is consistent with city health officials recommending that—in light of the "medium risk" level—individuals wear masks indoors when they are not certain of the vaccination status of others present. As a mask-welcoming campus, we also remain committed to **ensuring no one will feel out of place should they choose to wear a mask while at Fourth Church**. * Since some populations are more vulnerable to COVID-19 than others, some programs on our campus 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**. Next Sunday, September 4, we look forward to **taking our Jazz at Four worship service outdoors** to the Michigan Avenue courtyard. * **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 each 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).

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. Email Nancy Benson-Nicol (nbenson-nicol@fourthchurch.org) for Zoom details.

* The chapel is also open for opportunity to **walk the labyrinth** between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. on Tuesdays; between 8:30 and 9:30 a.m. on Wednesdays; and between 9:00 and 10:00 a.m. on Thursdays. For labyrinth information, email Rocky Supinger (rsupinger@fourthchurch.org).

* A **Sacred Pause time of meditation** is hosted virtually by our Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being on Tuesdays (7:45 a.m.) and Saturdays (8:30 a.m.) at facebook.com/reploglecenterforcounselingandwellbeing

* We invite you to use our **daily devotions as a resource for personal meditation and reflection**. They can be found online at www.fourthchurch.org/devotions; to receive the devotions daily by email subscribe at www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions

* Our **"Rhythm and Word" video series**—which includes the music of the Fourth Church Jazz Quartet—returns for four weeks on September Wednesdays on YouTube (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos) and by email (*subscribe at www.bit.ly/rhythmwordemail*).



The Officer Nominating Committee is gathering **recommendations of individuals to serve in leadership positions** opening in 2023 for Elder, Deacon, Trustee, and Nominating Committee as well as the Chicago Lights Board. If you know any Fourth Church members—including yourself!—who have demonstrated gifts for leadership and ministry, please offer your recommendations via the online form at www.bit.ly/nominating2023 or by using the paper forms by the chapel door.



For those facing life's challenges, **Stephen Ministers** provide a listening presence and regular spiritual support. To arrange conversation with a Stephen Minister, leave a confidential message at 312.573.3365.

* To explore options with a counselor, call our **Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being** at 312.787.2729, ext. 2260.

* To **talk to a pastor** or **notify the pastoral staff** of personal concerns, illnesses, or deaths, please email caringministries@fourthchurch.org; if the situation is an emergency, please call the church at 312.787.4570 to be connected to the Minister on Call.

* To **submit a prayer request** to our Morning Prayer or Deacon Prayer Ministries, please email caringministries@fourthchurch.org



Sunday, September 11 is **Get Connected Sunday** at Fourth Church, a day when we will kick off our autumn opportunities, from Sunday School to youth gatherings to adult education and more. We hope you will mark your calendar and plan to join us!

* Beginning this week, **scaffolding will be erected** over the Chestnut Street sidewalk to facilitate tuckpointing and maintenance and repair work on the parapets and dormers of Parish House. The following week scaffolding will be erected over the Delaware entrance to the Gratz Center (*which will remain accessible, except on the day of installation*) to enable tuckpointing and repairs to the stonework of the chimney and surrounding areas. The scaffolding will likely be in place throughout September.