



We Approach God

Gathering Music

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship

The heavens are telling the glory of God;

may our worship reflect God's glory.

The firmament proclaims God's handiwork.

May we see each other as the handiwork of God.

Let our prayer and praise, our singing and proclamation project the love of God.

We commune with Christians around the world, with Christians throughout time.

With Christians across geography and across time,

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** "Seek Ye First"

Seek ye first the kingdom of God
and its righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you.
Allelu, alleluia!

Ask, and it shall be given unto you;
seek, and you shall find;
knock, and the door shall be opened unto you.
Allelu, alleluia!

You shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word
that proceeds from the mouth of God.
Allelu, alleluia!

We Tell the Truth about Ourselves

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

**Almighty God, we confess that we have taken your commandments
and turned them into rules.**

**We have criticized those who have fallen short
and selfishly proclaimed ourselves righteous.**

**We have failed to understand the spirit of the commandments
and the way that was shown by you to live,
loving God and loving our neighbors.**

**Forgive us for turning your law into burdens for others and ourselves,
instead of a way to love and freedom in you.**

**In the name of Christ,
who has given us the way and leads us on, we pray. Amen.**

God Forgives and Blesses Us

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

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter Psalm 139:1–6, 13–18

ANTIPHON: *I praise you for I am wonderfully made, I praise you for I am fearfully made.*

Lord, you have searched me out; O Lord, you have known me.
You know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts from afar.
You trace my journeys and my resting places and are acquainted with all my ways.
Indeed, there is not a word on my lips but you, O Lord, know it altogether.
You encompass me, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain to it.

ANTIPHON

For you yourself created my inmost parts; you knit me together in my mother’s womb.
I will thank you because I am marvelously made; your works are wonderful, and I know it well.
My body was not hidden from you, while I was being made in secret
and woven in the depths of the earth.
Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb;
all of them were written in your book; my days were fashioned before they came to be.
How deep I find your thoughts, O God! How great is the sum of them!
If I were to count them, they would be more in number than the sand;
to count them all, my life span would need to be like yours.

ANTIPHON

Scripture Lesson Luke 14:25–33

Sermon *Joseph L. Morrow*

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

Gracious God, our hands were empty and you filled them.

Our bodies hungered and you fed them.

Our hearts ached and you healed them.

Accept, O Lord, these offerings, our sacrifice of praise for you.

Through them may the world witness the fullness of your compassion and care.

In Christ, through the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

We Go Out with Gratitude

***Closing Song** "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

Nancy Benson-Nicol Associate Pastor

Anita Balodis 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

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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**. * **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).

Next 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 will also be hosting an outdoor **block party in the courtyard** between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. that day, with music by the Jazz at Four musicians, a pet blessing, photo booth, free ice cream, and other festivities. We hope you will bring a friend and join us! * The **scaffolding** over the Chestnut Street sidewalk and the Delaware entrance to the Gratz Center is to facilitate tuckpointing as well as maintenance and repair work on the 1914 building. The scaffolding will likely be in place throughout September.



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.



Our autumn **“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*). * 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



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