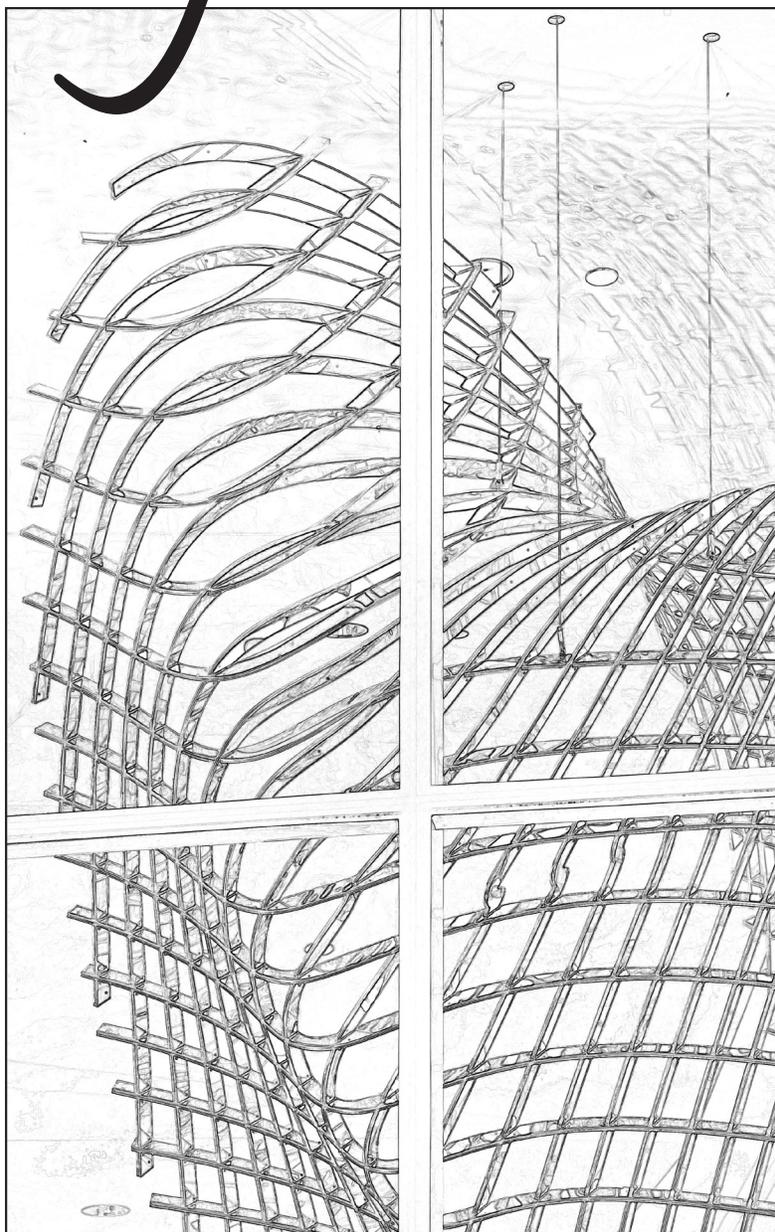




jazz at four



4:00 p.m. • December 11, 2022

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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.

Gathering Music

Call to Worship

***Opening Song** “Standing on the Promises”

Standing on the promises of Christ, my King,
Through eternal ages let his praises ring;
Glory in the highest, I will shout and sing,
Standing on the promises of God.

Refrain:

Standing, standing,
Standing on the promises of God, my Savior;
Standing, standing,
I’m standing on the promises of God.

Standing on the promises that cannot fail.

When the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,
By the living Word of God I shall prevail,
Standing on the promises of God. (*Refrain*)

Standing on the promises of Christ, the Lord,
Bound to him eternally by love’s strong cord,
Overcoming daily with the Spirit’s sword,
Standing on the promises of God. (*Refrain*)

Standing on the promises I cannot fall,
List’ning ev’ry moment to the Spirit’s call,
Resting in my Savior as my all in all,
Standing on the promises of God. (*Refrain*)

We Tell the Truth about Ourselves

Prayer of Confession

God of mercy, a million times a day we can be gracious; we can assume the best in others; and we can give the benefit of the doubt.

We can, indeed, choose the better way. But so often we don't.

We allow fear and greed to take over; assumptions and insecurities to intervene; and comparison and critique to press ahead.

Forgive us.

Forgive us for living like grace and mercy are not always available or near at hand.

Forgive us for forgetting that all belong to you.

We know better. Give us the courage to love when we're afraid and the wisdom to choose a better way, again and again. Amen.

God Forgives and Blesses Us

Friends, believe the good news!

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

We Proclaim the Story

The Jesse Tree

Leader: Tamar said:

People: See if you recognize whose seal, cord, and staff these are.

Leader: Judah said:

People: Tamar is more righteous than I am.

Leader: The rabbis said:

People: Tamar was clearly no wilting flower in the face of adversity or accusations.

Leader: Matthew says:

People: Judah was the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar.

Leader: The faithful say:

People: Blessed be Tamar, most righteous mother of the righteous.

Song "Prepare the Way, O Zion"

Scripture Lesson Genesis 38

Sermon Nancy Benson-Nicol

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 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

Offering

Musical Offering

Prayer of Dedication

God of abundance, ever more ready to give than we are to ask, accept these offerings.

They signify our intention to follow you and to love your Creation.

May they relieve the burdened, heal the wounded,

and give joy to all who experience sorrow.

In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

We Go Out with Gratitude

***Closing Song** “What Child Is This?”

What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary’s lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary!

Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through;
the cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail, the Word made flesh,
the babe, the son of Mary!

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, one and all, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high.
The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary!

***Benediction**

Sending Music

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. 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.**



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 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).



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 information. * To **submit a prayer request** to our Morning Prayer or Deacon Prayer Ministries, please email caringministries@fourthchurch.org * The chapel is also open for opportunity to **walk the labyrinth** between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. For details, email Rocky Supinger (rsupinger@fourthchurch.org). * An opportunity to explore the Bible is offered by Matt Helms and Rocky Supinger, as they discuss the **"Bible Top Ten"** in their **podcast** by that title (fourthchurch.org/podcast), with new episodes released every other Tuesday.



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 **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.

Today is the last day to remember or honor a loved one with a gift toward the Christmas flowers, wreaths, and garlands that will decorate Fourth Church this Advent and Christmas. A list of those individuals remembered and honored will be printed in the Christmas bulletin. Contributions can be made online at www.bit.ly/fpcgift and must be received by today (*Sunday, December 11*) for names to appear in the bulletin. For more information, contact Gloria Vicente (312.252.3571; gvicente@fourthchurch.org).



Our weekly **Advent “Rhythm and Word” video series** serves as a resource for your prayer and reflection as it weaves together scripture, prayer, and **music by the Fourth Church Jazz Quartet**. A new video is released each Wednesday evening on YouTube (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos); subscribe at www.bit.ly/rhythmandwordemail to receive them by email. * **Daily Advent devotions** written by Fourth Church members and staff offer another resource for **personal meditation and prayer**. Sign up at www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions to receive them in your inbox..



Our **Festival of Advent Lessons and Music** takes place this evening at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary (*in person and livestreamed*). This year instead of the cookies-and-cocoa reception afterwards, the seasonal treats will be packaged for worshipers to take home with them. * The **Christmas with Tower Brass concert** will be held this Saturday, December 17 at 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary and livestreamed.



The **“Longest Night” service**, for those experiencing grief and sadness, will be held next Wednesday, December 21 at 6:30 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel (*in person only*). There will also be opportunity that evening to **walk the labyrinth** in Anderson Hall between 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. * On Saturday, December 24 we will gather for **four Candlelight Christmas Eve services**: Children’s Pageant (*4:00 p.m.*), Family Service (*6:00 p.m.*), and Service of Lessons and Carols (*8:00 and 10:00 p.m.; the 8:00 p.m. service will be livestreamed*). * On Sunday, December 25, **Christmas Day**, we will gather for one service only, at 10:00 a.m. (*in person and livestreamed*). There will be **no Jazz at Four service on Sundays, December 25 and January 1**. After that two-week break, Jazz at Four will resume on Sunday, January 8. * Our **New Year’s Eve Taizé service** will take place on Saturday, December 31 at 7:30 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel.



Fourth Church Meals Ministry is in need of volunteers to assist in helping our neighbors who are experiencing food insecurity. To explore these volunteer needs, see our Volunteer Ministry platform, VOMO (www.bit.ly/fpcvolunteers) or email Robert Crouch, Director of Volunteer Ministry (rcrouch@fourthchurch.org). * The **Michigan Avenue Forum planning team is looking for individuals** to help develop and deliver forums that promote civic engagement within the church and the Chicagoland community. To learn more about this volunteer opportunity, contact Lucy Forster-Smith (lforster-smith@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**

Worship Leaders

Nancy Benson-Nicol Associate Pastor

Rocky Supinger Associate Pastor

Kevin Williams Liturgist

The Fourth Church Jazz Quartet

Leslie Beukelman, vocals

Bryan Doherty, bass

Marcus Evans, percussion

Amr Fahmy, piano

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.

Our annual “Light Up a Life” offering is being received throughout the Advent and Christmas seasons. Gifts to “Light Up a Life” support the mission and outreach efforts of Fourth Church and Chicago Lights as they extend mercy, kindness, and love to those who are most vulnerable. You can make a gift to this offering by noting “Light Up a Life” in the comments section (*when giving online via Venmo or the Fourth Church website: www.fourthchurch.org/give-online*) or on the memo line of a check made payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church. Special “Light Up a Life” offering envelopes are also available near the chapel entrance.

The bulletin cover image depicts the hanging sculpture in Buchanan Chapel, photographed at night from Chestnut Street, with the window mullions forming a cross.

Acknowledgments

“The Jesse Tree” liturgy is adapted from www.doubtingbeliever.com/resources/liturgy-for-narrative-lectionary-ruth-series

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

The Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago

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