



Fourth Presbyterian Church

Baptism of the Lord

January 8, 2023 • 10:00 a.m.

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Christ, Our Lord, to Jordan Came Dieterich Buxtehude
Come, Holy Ghost. Johann Sebastian Bach

Introit

“You Have Put on Christ” Howard Hughes
You have put on Christ; in Christ you have been baptized, alleluia!
We have put on Christ; in Christ we have been baptized, alleluia!

*Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.† Amen.

*Call to Worship

Leader: *Descend, Holy Spirit:*

People: Gather your children who wander from near and far.

Leader: *Come down, Great Sustainer:*

People: Cleanse us who are tested by the waters of fear and who cross rivers of doubt.

Leader: *Descend, Sweet Heavenly Dove:*

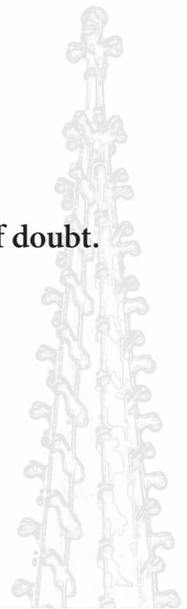
People: Offer us your peace that transcends this world’s worries.

Leader: *Come down, Giver of Grace:*

People: Renew us as we walk the path of love found in Christ Jesus.

Leader: *Descend, Holy Spirit:*

People: Lead us, your redeemed ones, into a future filled with hope.



**Please rise in body or spirit. †Or “Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.”*

***Hymn 408** “There’s a Sweet, Sweet Spirit”

There’s a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,
and I know that it’s the Spirit of the Lord;
there are sweet expressions on each face,
and I know they feel the presence of the Lord.

Refrain:

Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove,
stay right here with us, filling us with your love;
and for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise;
without a doubt we’ll know that we have been revived
when we shall leave this place.

There are blessings you cannot receive
till you know him in his fullness and believe;
you’re the one to profit when you say,
“I am going to walk with Jesus all the way.” (*Refrain*)

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

God of our baptism, we long to be cleansed as Jesus was,
but we are fearful of the disruption that true repentance brings.
We want your grace but too often choose to act as we did before receiving it:
seeking our own benefit first, ignoring those who suffer,
wounding the very land upon which life depends.
Give us courage to receive the costly grace of your baptism with joy and thanksgiving.
May it not only refresh us but, through our action, help renew the whole of creation. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

Leader: *Friends, believe the good news:*
All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Welcome and Announcements

Anthem :: “Father in Heaven” David Hurd

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the river Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit, grant that all who are baptized into his name may keep the covenant they have made and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson Isaiah 42:1–9

*Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:[†]
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

Second Lesson Matthew 3:13–17

Sermon

“From Generation to Generation: The Waters of Baptism” Shannon Kershner

Responding to the Word

***Hymn 317** “In Christ There Is No East or West”

In Christ there is no east or west,
in him no south or north,
but one great fellowship of love
throughout the whole wide earth.

In Christ shall true hearts everywhere
their high communion find;
his service is the golden cord
close-binding humankind.

Join hands, disciples of the faith,
whate'er your race may be.
All children of the living God
are surely kin to me.

In Christ now meet both east and west;
in him meet south and north.
All Christly souls are one in him
throughout the whole wide earth.

[†]Or “to the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Ghost.”

Today we remember the baptism of our Lord, one of the texts traditionally read after Epiphany, when we continue to focus on the revelation of the divinity of Jesus. As we hear again the voice of the Lord saying at Jesus' baptism "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased" and as the congregation is sprinkled with water, we recall our own baptism, in which God has claimed and named us as God's own. In grateful thanksgiving we together renew our commitment to live out our call as beloved children of God.

A REAFFIRMATION OF OUR BAPTISMAL VOWS

***Baptismal Litany**

Leader: *Remember your baptism and be glad!*

People: **The waters of God's mercy have flowed, and we have been cleansed and refreshed.**

Leader: *Remember the waters that God gathered together and called seas, the mothers of rivers, lakes, and springs that quench the thirst of the earth and all its inhabitants.*

People: **We drink of the water of God's creation and praise God's name for life.**

Leader: *Remember the waters of the Red Sea and God's salvation.*

People: **With the people of old we have been freed from our oppression and brought to a new land.**

Leader: *Remember the well where our Samaritan sister found Jesus and received her blessing.*

People: **We know that sacred place, for Jesus has also encountered us there, speaking truth to us and loving us.**

Leader: *Remember Jesus at the river Jordan;*

People: **the one who was without sin took upon himself our sin.**

Leader: *We are redeemed by Jesus, called to live his righteousness.*

People: **May God be our help.**

Leader: *Remember God's grace: we are redeemed by Jesus and not by who we are or what we do.*

People: **Thanks be to God for unmerited grace!**

Remember your baptism and be glad!

We remember and our lives are filled with joy!

***Affirmation of Faith** (*unison*). Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Blessing over the Waters

Proclamation and Invitation for Remembrance

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.

Call to Offering

Offertory Anthem :: "His Light in Us" Kim André Arnesen

*God's distant call flares in the night, so long expected, so longed for; and all my life,
Christ called my name, and now at last, I'll answer him. Renewed, his hope, his light in us,
incarnate, fragile, our Lord appears, alleluia! Eternal, so perfect, his cry of changeless love.
Alive, awake, his call is here: it is the crying of the child; I know Christ's call, its hidden
flame, it makes my spirit flare with hope! Renewed, his hope, his light in us, incarnate,
fragile, our Lord appears, alleluia! Eternal, so perfect, his cry of changeless love. This root,
this stem, this flowering love, this mustard seed, it grows to the greatest tree, the birds of
souls have nested there. The light of the night now blazes as the dawn! You've led me here,
O little child, your singing with God's life. The kingdom sings, it choirs with earth, all
creation lives Christ's peace. Renewed, his hope, his light in us, incarnate, fragile, our Lord
appears, alleluia! Eternal, so perfect, his cry of changeless love.*

***Offertory Response** Hymn 712, verse 3

In gratitude and humble trust we bring our best today,
to serve your cause and share your love with all along life's way.
O God who gave yourself to us in Jesus Christ your Son,
help us to give ourselves each day until life's work is done.

***Prayer of Dedication** (*unison*)

God of light and life, we give thanks for your splendor and love,
for your love that is expressed through the living of our lives
and the giving of our means brings joy to this world!
We are grateful for all you give to us.
We dedicate these offerings to you to bring hope to this, your world.
Through Christ. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

***Hymn 485** "We Know That Christ Is Raised"

We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
Embraced by death he broke its fearful hold,
and our despair he turned to blazing joy. Alleluia!
We share by water in his saving death.
Reborn we share with him an Easter life
as living members of a living Christ. Alleluia!
The Father's splendor clothes the Son with life.
The Spirit's power shakes the church of God.
Baptized we live with God the Three in One. Alleluia!
A new creation comes to life and grows
as Christ's new body takes on flesh and blood.
The universe, restored and whole, will sing: Alleluia!

***Charge and Benediction**

Worshippers who wish to do so are invited to sing along with the choir during the Benediction responses.

Postlude

March in F Major Alexandre Guilmant

*We invite you to enjoy the postlude. If you need to leave prior to the end of the postlude,
please do so quietly out of respect for those who choose to stay.*



We are glad to be worshipping with you today and hope you will explore the many opportunities for learning, serving, and community building at Fourth 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 remain committed to **ensuring no one will feel out of place should they choose to wear a mask while at Fourth Church.**

✳️ In the Sanctuary, the **front section on the pulpit side is for those required to or choosing to practice social distancing, and everyone sitting in that section is required to wear a mask.** The remainder of the Sanctuary is open seating.



For those who prefer to worship online or who are unable to join us in person, we livestream our morning service at 10:00 a.m. on our YouTube channel (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos), where 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 10:00 a.m. Sunday **service and sermon available via podcast** on iTunes and Spotify (www.bit.ly/FPCpodcast). ✳️ You can also receive the previous Sunday's **sermon text by email** by subscribing online at www.bit.ly/fpcsermons ✳️ Available by podcast as well is an invitation to join Matt Helms and Rocky Supinger in biblical exploration as they discuss the **"Bible Top Ten"** in their **podcast** by that title (fourthchurch.org/podcast), with new episodes released every other Tuesday.

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

If you would like to join us for **in-person worship**, we gather each Sunday at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary and at 4:00 p.m. for our Jazz at Four service (*with Communion*) in Buchanan Chapel. ✨ On Sundays the **doors open for worship** a half hour prior to the service. For the morning service, access is by the Michigan Avenue doors to the Sanctuary and the Delaware doors to the Gratz Center. For the Jazz at Four 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*) and at the Hancock garage (*875 N. Michigan, enter from Delaware or Chestnut*) at the rate of \$10 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Validation tickets for the garages must be picked up from an usher. ✨ During the morning service **nursery care** is available on the fourth floor of the Gratz Center. ✨ **Worship can be heard** in the Sanctuary through the “T” or “T-coil” setting of hearing aids. ✨ Please silence **electronic devices** during worship.



Following worship, a **pipe organ tour** begins at 11:15 a.m. at the front of the Sanctuary ✨ Also following worship, Deacons are available in Stone Chapel (*through the door to the right of the pulpit*) to pray with **individuals who would like to offer prayers** of praise or concern. ✨ We gather on Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. for **Morning Prayer via Zoom** and also at 10:00 a.m. for **in-person Morning Prayer** in Buchanan Chapel. For Zoom details, email Nancy Benson-Nicol (*nbenson-nicol@fourthchurch.org*). ✨ To **submit a prayer request** to our Morning Prayer or Deacon Prayer Ministries, please email *caringministries@fourthchurch.org* ✨ The Chapel is 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*). ✨ A **Sacred Pause time of meditation** is hosted virtually by our Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being at *facebook.com/reploglecenterforcounselingandwellbeing* on Tuesdays (7:45 a.m.) and Saturdays (8:30 a.m.).



We ask that those of you worshipping with us in person **please take a moment to sign the pew information pads** so that we might know you are here. Then please pass the pad down your pew so that all worshipers have an opportunity to provide updated information and to greet one another by name following the service. ✨ Those worshipping in person this morning are also invited to **greet one another during Coffee Hour** in Anderson Hall and the Commons following the service. ✨ **For additional ways to connect** with one another and Fourth Church, whether in person or online, as well as for various **resources**, watch our **website** (*www.fourthchurch.org*) and **Facebook** (*facebook.com/fourthchurch*) ✨ Events are posted on our **church calendar**, accessible from our website’s home page and at *www.fourthchurch.org/calendar*

Are you interested in taking part in **Deep Listening Dinners** early this year? Groups of six to ten people each will dine together twice in home settings, gathering for a time of discovering and better understanding our differences while honoring our shared humanity and telling our life experiences to one another. **To express interest** in this opportunity to get to know each other more deeply, please fill out the form at www.bit.ly/deeplisting123, or for more information, email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org).



A new three-week class, **“Using the Enneagram as a Tool for Spiritual Growth,”** begins this morning at 11:15 a.m. in Borwell Dining Room and via Zoom. The class provides opportunity to learn about the enneagram and how to apply it as a tool for enhanced self-awareness; heart, head, and body intelligence; and the spiritual dimensions of all nine enneagram types, their virtues and vices, and the holy ideas that reconnect us to our true nature and oneness with God. For Zoom details, register at www.bit.ly/enneagramjan23



For those who are sixty and over, membership in Fourth Church’s **Center for Life and Learning (CLL)** is a ticket to a grand adventure filled with new insights, experiences, and friendships. CLL members enjoy Special Topics, Events, and Member-Led Groups; receive a discount for special classes; and may select from more than twenty different classes each week of the twelve-week session. Registration for the **CLL Winter Session Membership** is now underway and can be completed online at www.bit.ly/cll2023 or by calling the CLL office (312.981.3389 or 312.981.3391). This new session will begin this Monday, January 9. ✨ The CLL, along with Skyline Village Chicago, has invited all of the Chicago mayoral candidates to participate in a **Mayoral Forum on Aging** on Wednesday, January 18 at 12:00 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel. Candidates Kam Buckner, Frederick Collins, Ja’Mal Green, Brandon Johnson, Sophia King, Roderick Sawyer, and Paul Vallas will be participating. The format will be one of questions prepared in advance by the moderator, with no questions from the audience. Although the event is free (*and will also be available to watch via Zoom*), for planning purposes registration is required at www.bit.ly/agingforum1823



Men’s Bible Study meets via Zoom on Tuesday mornings at 7:30 a.m. **Women’s Bible Study**—which offers two Zoom gathering times (12:00 and 6:30 p.m.) on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month—meets this Wednesday, January 11. For Zoom details for Bible studies, email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org).

Are you incorporating a time of personal meditation and prayer into your daily routine this year?

Daily devotions written by Fourth Church members and staff are available as a **resource for personal meditation and prayer**. You can receive them in your inbox by subscribing online at www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions or read them online (www.fourthchurch.org/devotions), via Facebook (facebook.com/fourthchurch), or Twitter (twitter.com/fourthchicago). ✨ Also available as a resource for your prayer and reflection is our **new Winter “Rhythm and Word” video series**. These brief worship experiences are led by Lucy Forster-Smith and the Fourth Church Jazz Quartet. Weaving together scripture, prayer, and music, these fifteen-minute videos are released on our YouTube channel (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos) on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. (*and are available there for viewing afterwards*). To receive them by email, sign up online at www.bit.ly/rhythmandwordemail



New Zoom Small Groups are starting again this month. Some groups will use Nanette Sawyer’s **Hospitality** as a resource and others will use **The Color of Compromise** by Jemar Tisby. If you would like to connect with five to seven other people via Zoom for a time of fellowship, relationship building, and spiritual formation or would like more information about small group opportunities, please email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org).



Books by Women will discuss **Walking on Pins and Needles: A Memoir of Chronic Resilience in the Face of Multiple Sclerosis** by Arlene Faulk in person and via Zoom this Tuesday, January 10 at 6:00 p.m. in the Bumpus Room. For Zoom details, contact Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org). ✨ **Cornerstones**, a fellowship group of those fifty and over, will meet for dinner and a program on Friday, February 3 at 5:30 p.m. in Borwell Dining Room. The program will be presented by **Debbie Frisch, founder of HelloBaby**, a no-cost drop-in play space for children from birth to three years old and their caregivers. Come learn more about HelloBaby’s mission to support, empower, and inspire families raising young children in underserved neighborhoods in Chicago. Registration for the evening is required by Tuesday, January 31 and can be completed online at www.bit.ly/cornerstones223



Those who would like to **learn more about this congregation or become a member** of Fourth Church are invited to the Inquirers’ Class on Sunday, January 15 from 11:15 to 1:30 p.m. in Room 5F. Lunch will be served. Registration is required for planning purposes and can be completed at www.bit.ly/inquirers123; for more information, email member@fourthchurch.org

Those interested in taking part in the **Fourth Church Choir tour to India in February 2024** are invited to an information session on Sunday, February 5 at 12:00 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel. Come learn more about this trip that will include visiting Delhi, Agra, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Mumbai, and the Taj Mahal as well as enjoying a safari. For more information, email Emily Cox (ecox@fourthchurch.org).
* **CSO violist Beatrice Chen** will perform an all-Bach program for this week's free **Friday Noonday Concert** at 12:10 p.m. in the Sanctuary and also livestreamed.



Fourth Church Meals Ministry is in need of volunteers to assist in helping our neighbors who are hungry and experiencing food insecurity. To explore these volunteer needs, see our Volunteer Ministry platform, VOMO (www.bit.ly/fpcvolunteers) or contact Robert Crouch, Director of Volunteer Ministry (rcrouch@fourthchurch.org). * **Chicago Lights Tutoring is in need of in-person (at Fourth Church) and online mentors** to connect one-to-one with a student (*grades 1-12*) one evening a week. They are recruiting Permanent Tutors, who meet with the same student weekly, building relationships, trust, and self-esteem through academics, advising, and social and communication skills, as well as Substitute Tutors, who volunteer on a more flexible schedule. For details, contact Mark Dennison (mdennison@chicagolights.org).



Our **Chicago Lights Social Service Center program participants** need a means to transport their food, clothing, housewares, blankets, and other items that they receive from the Share Shop and Food Pantry. **Particularly needed** are paper grocery bags, sturdy plastic bags, cloth bags, shopping bags, backpacks, suitcases, grocery carts, and push or pull carts. Donations of these items can be dropped off at the 126 E. Chestnut reception desk on weekdays and Sundays between 8:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.



For those facing life's challenges, **Stephen Ministers** provide a listening presence. To talk with a Stephen Minister, please leave a confidential message at 312.573.3365. * To explore options for teletherapy or in-person conversations 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, hospitalizations, or deaths, please email caringministries@fourthchurch.org; if the situation is an emergency or requires immediate attention, please call the church at 312.787.4570 to be connected to the Minister on Call.

Worship Leaders

Joseph L. Morrow, Erick Skaff, Lucy Forster-Smith, Shannon J. Kershner

The Music Today

The Morning Choir

Michael Rees, Organ Scholar

John W. W. Sherer, Organist and Director of Music

Worship Notes

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM, “His Light in Us,” was written in 2016 by Norwegian composer Kim André Arnesen (b. 1980), who says of the piece, “Christmas is a permanently new, permanently fresh, and refreshing gift: the human heart is renewed through the gift not of riches but of a tiny, fragile child. ‘His Light in Us’ is a thanksgiving, and its key word is *renewed*, reflecting the glory of what goes on in our spirits at the Christmas.”

OFFERING GIFTS TO SUPPORT THE MINISTRY AND MISSION of Fourth Church can be placed in one of the offering plates at the time of the offering or, after the service, in one of the offering boxes at the exits from the Sanctuary. They also can be given via Venmo (@Fourth-Church) or online at www.fourthchurch.org/give

Shannon J. Kershner Pastor

Lucy Forster-Smith Senior Associate Pastor

Associate Pastors

Nancy Benson-Nicol Caring Ministries and Spiritual Formation

Matt Helms Children and Family Ministry

Joseph L. Morrow Evangelism and Community Engagement

Nanette Sawyer Discipleship and Small Group Ministry

Rocky Supinger Youth Ministry and Worship

John Buchanan Pastor Emeritus

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THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO

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