



Fourth Presbyterian Church

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

July 30, 2023 • 10:00 a.m.

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

- “Salmo 150” Ernani Aquiar
- “Festival Sanctus” Victor C. Johnson
- “Esto Les Digo” Kinley Lange
- “Total Praise” Richard Smallwood

Introit

“O Bless the Lord, My Soul!” Aaron Williams/arr. Theodore Hoelty-Nickel
*O bless the Lord, my soul! Let all within me join and aid my tongue to bless his name
 whose favors are divine.*

*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.

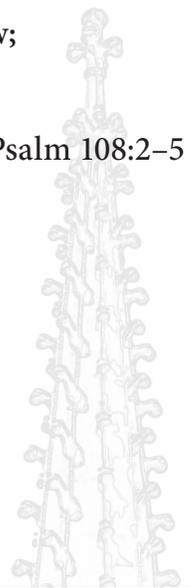
*Call to Worship Adapted from Psalm 108:2–5

Leader: *Let us sing and make melody; let us awaken the dawn!*

People: We give thanks to you, O God, among the peoples.
 We sing praises to you among the nations.

Leader: *For your steadfast love is higher than the heavens,
 and your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.*

People: Be exalted, O God, above the heavens,
 and let your glory be over all the earth.



**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*)

Almighty God, we confess how hard it is to be your people.
You have called us to be the church,
to serve as your witnesses in a hurting and broken world.
Yet we acknowledge that we are
more apathetic than active,
more isolated than involved,
more callous than compassionate,
more obstinate than obedient.

Gracious Lord, have mercy upon us and forgive our sins.
Awaken our hearts to the promised gift of your indwelling Spirit.
We pray this in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

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

***Exchange of Peace**

Leader: *The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.*

People: *And also with you.*

We invite you to greet those around you, wishing them “peace” or “the peace of Christ,” and encourage those online to use this time to share your presence with us, using the online form.

Welcome and Announcements

Anthem

“The Word Was God” Rosephanye Powell
*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made that have been made;
nothing was made, he has not made. All things were made by him.*

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter Psalm 119:129–136

Leader: *The Word of God for the people of God.*

People: *Thanks be to God.*

***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.

Scripture Lesson Romans 8:26–39

Leader: *Holy wisdom, holy word.*

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Sermon Nancy Benson-Nicol

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

Responding to the Word

***Hymn 771** “What Is the World Like”

What is the world like when God’s will is done?

Mustard seeds grow more than we can conceive:
roots thread the soil; branches reach for the sun.

This is how God moves us each to believe.

What is the world like when God’s will is done?

Witness the wandering child coming home;
watch as the parent breaks into a run.

This is how God longs for us when we roam.

What is the world like when God’s will is done?

No more is neighbor just ally or friend;
peace thrives in places where once there was none.

This is how God works when rivalries end.

What is the world like when God’s will is done?

Ready for feasting, we watch through the night,
tending our lamps till the new day’s begun.

This is how God readies us for the light.

These are the stories that Jesus imparts,

filled with the Spirit who joins us as one.

Born through our voices, our hands, and our hearts,
this is a new world where God’s will is done.

***Affirmation of Faith** (*unison*)

We trust in God the Holy Spirit,

everywhere the giver and renewer of life.

The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,

sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,

and binds us together with all believers

in the one body of Christ, the Church.

(Continued on facing page)

The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,
engages us through the Word proclaimed,
claims us in the waters of baptism,
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,
and calls women and men to all ministries of the church. Amen.

Prayers of the People

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

“Done Made My Vow to the Lord” African American spiritual/arr. John W. Work
Done made my vow to the Lord, and I never will turn back. I will go. I shall go to see what the end will be. Done opened my mouth to the Lord, and I never will turn back. O I will go. I shall go to see what the end will be. The man who loves to serve the Lord will surely get his just reward. When every star refuse to shine, I know King Jesus will be mine. Sometimes I'm up, sometimes I'm down, but still my soul feels heavenly bound.

*Offertory Response Hymn 717

For the life that you have given, for the love in Christ made known,
with these fruits of time and labor, with these gifts that are your own:
here we offer, Lord, our praises; heart and mind and strength we bring;
give us grace to love and serve you, living what we pray and sing.

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

Fount of all blessing, in your Spirit we find the strength to share more freely
and love more fervently.

Accept our offering as a sign of our gratitude and trust in you.

Under your care and nourishment let what we have sown by faith
flower into good news for a watching world. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

***Hymn 714** “God of the Fertile Fields”

God of the fertile fields, shaper of earth that yields
our daily bread:
forth from your bounteous hand come gifts your love has planned,
that all in every land be clothed and fed.

We would be stewards true, holding in trust from you
all that you give;
help us in love to share, teach us like you to care
for people everywhere, that all may live.

As grows the hidden seed to fruit that serves our need,
so your reign grows.

Let all our toil be used, no gift of yours abused,
no humble task refused your love bestows.

God of the countryside, dear to the Christ who died
to make us one:
we pledge our lives anew in faithful love to you.
Guide all we say and do. Your will be done.

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

Trumpet Tune in D Major David Johnson



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.



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 via phone by calling 888.916.9166 at the time of the livestreamed service.



If you would like to join us for **in-person worship**, we gather each Sunday at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. ✿ On Sundays the **doors open for worship** a half hour prior to the service. There are three fully accessible entrances, without steps, that lead to the Sanctuary: on Michigan Avenue (*through the glass Loggia doors located between the courtyard and the main Sanctuary doors*); at 126 E. Chestnut; and at 115 E. Delaware. ✿ **Sunday parking** is available at 900 N. Michigan (*access from Rush or Walton*) at the rate of \$9 for 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. ✿ In the Sanctuary **worship can be heard** through the “T” or “T-coil” setting of hearing aids. ✿ Please silence **electronic devices** during worship.



Children are always welcome in worship! **If you need to step out to comfort your child**, the Hospitality Suite, on the second floor of the Gratz Center, is a quiet space for families where worship is livestreamed. During the morning service **nursery care** for infants through two-year-olds is available on the fourth floor of the Gratz Center. ✿ **Sunday School** meets today at 10:00 a.m. on the fourth floor and will then be on break until Sunday, September 10.

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 ask all who are worshipping with us to **let us know you are here by filling out an information form.**

Those worshipping with us via livestream will find **a link to the online form**—which takes only 20 seconds to complete!—included in the descriptive text below the video (*after exiting full-screen view*); a QR code is also displayed during the “Welcome and Announcements” that can be scanned with a phone camera to take you to the form. Those worshipping with us in person are asked to use the **information pads in the pews**, passing them down the pew so worshipers have opportunity to greet one another by name following the service. ✨ Following the service, those worshipping in person are also invited to **greet one another during Coffee Hour**, which during the summer is held outdoors if weather and air conditions permit or in Anderson Hall and the Commons.



During the week we make the 10:00 a.m. Sunday **service and sermon available via podcast** on multiple podcast platforms and at **www.fourthchurch.org/podcasts** ✨ You can also receive the previous Sunday’s **sermon text by email** by subscribing at www.bit.ly/fpcsermons.



Following worship a **pipe organ tour** begins at the front of the Sanctuary. ✨ Also following the service **Deacons are available in Stone Chapel** (*through the door to the right of the pulpit*) to pray with those 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 at 10:00 a.m. for **in-person Morning Prayer** in Buchanan Chapel. For Zoom details, email Nancy Benson-Nicol (nbenson-nicol@fourthchurch.org). ✨ Our Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being hosts virtually a **Sacred Pause time of meditation** at facebook.com/reploglecenterforcounselingandwellbeing on Tuesdays (7:45 a.m.) and also on Saturdays (8:30 a.m.). ✨ Buchanan Chapel is open for **opportunity to walk the labyrinth** between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday this week.



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 requires immediate attention, 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 ✨ **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.

This morning our World Mission and Social Justice Council invites you to learn how **“Violence Interrupters” reduce gun violence**. Damien Morris, Chief Program Officer of Violence Prevention at Breakthrough Urban Ministries, will talk about violence interruption and share how he and his staff have intervened in violent situations with more than 360 young people in Chicago’s East Garfield Park neighborhood. We hope you will join us for this time of questions and answers today at 11:15 a.m. in Room 4G.



Our annual School Supply Drive, organized by Women at Fourth, continues to gather school supplies for children taking part in the **Chicago Lights Urban Farm and Tutoring** programs. For lists of items needed, see www.bit.ly/schoolsupplydrivefpc; monetary contributions for the team to purchase supplies can be made by designating either a check (*payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church*) or an online gift (www.fourthchurch.org/give) to “School Supply Drive.” For more information, contact Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org).



On Sunday, August 13 we will welcome as guest preacher Paul Brandeis Raushenbush, president and CEO of Interfaith Alliance. An ordained Baptist minister, he is a longtime leader in the interfaith movement working to protect an inclusive vision of religious freedom for people of all faiths and none. He has also served as senior vice president of the Auburn Seminary, the founding and executive editor of HuffPost Religion, associate dean of religious life and the chapel at Princeton University, and a founding editor of Beliefnet.com.



Come enjoy the outdoor concerts of our Music by the Fountain series on August Fridays at 12:10 p.m. in the Michigan Avenue courtyard! This Friday, August 4 the vocal jazz ensemble **Peppermint Patties** will be in concert, followed by **cabaret duo Beckie Menzie and Tom Michaels** performing on August 11. A full concert listing is available at www.fourthchurch.org/concerts



The **Fourth Church Day School has openings in its preschool programs** this fall. For enrollment details, contact Kathy Hager (khager@fourthchurch.org). ✨ **The fall schedule of Adult Education classes has been announced**. You can read about the classes at www.fourthchurch.org/adult-education, where you can also subscribe to our adult education email newsletter.

Fourth Church Meals Ministry is seeking help with translation with our Spanish-speaking guests at all meals, although assistance is especially needed at Monday Night Supper at Catholic Charities (721 N. La Salle). Those wishing to sign up for a **Spanish translator** spot on Monday night can do so at www.bit.ly/fpcmns; other ways in which to **assist Meals Ministry** are posted on VOMO, our Volunteer Ministry software platform, at www.bit.ly/mealsministryvolunteer



Would you be interested in contributing to worship by **serving as a beadle, usher, liturgist, or member of the Chancel Guild**. Beadles lead our procession into worship each Sunday, while ushers welcome worshipers with warm hospitality. Liturgists read scripture or lead prayers in the service, and the Chancel Guild prepares elements for Communion. You can volunteer to be a **beadle** in September and October by signing up at www.bit.ly/beadle91023; to sign up as an **usher**, visit the Usher table at Coffee Hour after worship today or sign up at www.bit.ly/usherinterest; and to volunteer as a **liturgist**, email Rocky Supinger (rsupinger@fourthchurch.org). To join the **Chancel Guild** for a Communion Sunday, sign up at www.bit.ly/chancelguildfpc



We are **in need of Cookie Table Hosts, Servers, and Hospitality Coordinators** for Coffee Hour. If you would be available to be a welcoming presence at a Sunday morning fellowship gathering, contact Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org) or sign up online at app.vomo.org/project/coffeehour ✨ We invite you to **explore other volunteer opportunities** by visiting www.bit.ly/fpcvolunteers or by contacting Robert Crouch (rcrouch@fourthchurch.org; 312.981.3382), Director of Volunteer Ministry.



The **Chicago Lights Social Service Center** has an **immediate need for men's casual clothing** in all sizes as well as for **walking shoes for men and women**. ✨ **Fourth Church Shower Ministry** is in need of unused, hotel-sized bottles of **body wash, shampoo, conditioner, and deodorant; razors; toothbrushes; and lip balm**. Items can be dropped off at the church reception desk seven days a week between 8:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Please mark them "Attn. Shower Ministry" or "Attn. Social Service Center."



Opportunities to engage in Bible study via Zoom include **Men's Bible Study**, which meets on Tuesdays at 7:30 a.m., and **Horizons Women's Bible Study**, which next meets Wednesday, August 9 at 12:00 and 6:30 p.m. For Zoom details for these studies, email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org).

Our **daily devotions** (fourthchurch.org/devotions), written by Fourth Church members and staff, are available as a **resource for your personal meditation and prayer**. To receive them by email, subscribe at www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions ✨ **Our August “Rhythm and Word” video series** offers **ten minutes of midweek music, scripture, and prayer** led by Nancy Benson-Nicol. A new video, with music by the Fourth Church Jazz Ensemble, is released each Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. on YouTube, where you can also view videos from previous series; to receive the videos by email, sign up at www.bit.ly/rhythmwordemail; you can also subscribe to our YouTube channel (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos).



Knitting and Crocheting meets in person on Tuesday, August 1 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 5B. Email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org) for Zoom details. ✨ On Sunday, August 13 we will be having a **Church Picnic** in the Michigan Avenue courtyard following worship! ✨ **LGBTQIA+ Widen Our Welcome** (WOW) gathers for brunch on Sunday, August 20; those joining in this time of fellowship will meet at the reception desk following worship to walk together to a nearby restaurant. ✨ Knitting and Crocheting, WOW, and the picnic are but three ways in which to build community with others through Fourth Church. For **additional ways to connect** with one another and this congregation, whether in person or online, as well as for various **resources and opportunities**, watch our **website** (www.fourthchurch.org). ✨ Events are posted online on our **church calendar**, accessible from our website’s home page and at fourthchurch.org/calendar ✨ We invite you to follow us on **Facebook** (facebook.com/fourthchurch) for news, updates, photos, and favorite quotes from recent devotions, sermons, and prayers. You can also find us on **Instagram** (instagram.com/fourthchurch) and **Threads** (www.threads.net/@fourthchurch).



The **scaffolding on the Fourth Church campus** is to enable tuckpointing, flashing, and window repair being done this summer. ✨ **After Labor Day we will be adding a second Sunday morning worship service**. Beginning Sunday, September 10, we will be worshipping at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings. Also on September 10 our afternoon service, which is currently taking a summer break, will resume. Until then we will continue to worship at 10:00 a.m. on Sundays. ✨ The **Interim Pastor Nominating Committee** (IPNC) is at work identifying and having conversations with candidates to consider for the role of Interim Pastor. The Interim Pastor, who will be hired by Session, will not be our next Senior Pastor. Rather they will be someone to guide us during the year or more when we are searching for the next Pastor. You can read about the IPNC work and find the latest transition updates at fourthchurch.org/transition; if you have **questions or comments about the transition**, please email them to transition@fourthchurch.org

Worship Leaders

Matt Helms, Clyde Yancy, Joseph L. Morrow, Nancy Benson-Nicol

The Music Today

The After School Matters Choir; Elyssa Peters, Pianist; Daniel Henry, Director

The Men's Choir

Michael Rees, Organ Scholar

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

Worship Notes

THE CHOIR OF THE AFTER SCHOOL MATTERS program, which is singing today's prelude and anthems, is composed of youth from throughout Chicago. During the summer the choir gathers to learn and share music throughout the city. We are grateful that this morning they are sharing their gifts with us!

TODAY'S OPENING HYMN, "There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit," was inspired by Doris Aker's "intense experience of prayer" with her interracial church choir in Los Angeles in 1962, an experience this Black author and composer recalled as a "a sweet, sweet Spirit" she translated into this hymn.

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

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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