



Fourth Presbyterian Church

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 17, 2023 • 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

- Fanfare and ChorusDieterich Buxtehude/arr. Robert King
- Praise the Lord Godwin Sadoh
- Jesu, Friend of Sinners Edvard Grieg/arr. Donald R. Frederick
- Christ, You Are the Fullness Korean folk song/arr. Jayne Latva
- The Majesty Georg Phillip Telemann/arr. Jerome Naulais

Introit

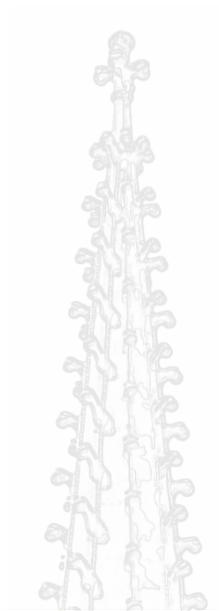
“Louez le Seigneur!” Cameroon processional song/arr. Ralph M. Johnson
Praise the Lord! Praise God’s holy name. Alleluia!

*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: *Who is our Creator?*
- People: The steady ground beneath our feet in times of trouble.
- Leader: *Who is our Redeemer?*
- People: The One who draws us out from our hiding places.
- Leader: *Who is our Sustainer?*
- People: The One who bears our pain and revives our souls.
- All: The One who we adore with praise, prayer, and worship.



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

***Hymn 619** “Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven”

Praise, my soul, the God of heaven; glad of heart your carols raise;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, who, like me, should sing God’s praise?
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the Maker all your days!

Praise God for the grace and favor shown our forebears in distress;
God is still the same forever, slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Sing our Maker’s faithfulness!

Like a loving parent caring, God knows well our feeble frame,
gladly all our burdens bearing, still to countless years the same.
Alleluia! Alleluia! All within me, praise God’s name!

Angels, teach us adoration; you behold God face to face.
Sun and moon and all creation, dwellers all in time and space:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace!

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

God of compassion, you stand ever ready before us: ready to heal,
to provide a pathway to peace and offer your gracious justice.
But in the ways we refuse to change, you receive our stubborn refusal.
In our selfishness, you hear apathy.
In our judgmentalism, reluctance to self-examination.
So our world experiences tragedy, want, and oppression,
rather than the Shalom you desire.
Instead of condemnation, we ask for the miracle of your mercy.
As we who are frail of faith receive your tenderness, may we extend it outward
until all your beloved people are restored and made whole. 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

Ministry Minute

Anthem

“Sing We Merrily” (9:30) Adrian Batten
Sing we merrily unto God our strength; make a cheerful noise unto the God of Jacob. Take the psalm, bring hither the tabret, the merry harp with the lute. Blow up the trumpet in the new moon, even in the time appointed and upon our solemn feast day. For this was made a statute for Israel, and a law of the God of Jacob.

“To God Be the Glory” (11:00) Scottish folk song/arr. George Bayley
To God be the glory, all glory in the highest, and peace to his people who dwell here below. Our heavenly Father, our Lord, and our Sovereign, to you, the Almighty, our praise bestow. We worship and adore you; we bow before you with grateful thanksgiving; our song let us raise. All glory, and honor, and glad adoration to God in the highest, hosanna and praise. Lord Jesus, only begotten of the Father, we praise and we bless you, the Son and the Lamb. The sin of the world you have taken upon you, have mercy upon us, the Great I AM. For holy, you meet us, yet lowly you greet us, the Lord in the highest, the Holy One. All glory to the Father, the Son, and the Spirit, from ages everlasting, the Three in One.

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter Psalm 103:1–13

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 14:1–12

Leader: *Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.*

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Nanette Sawyer

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

Responding to the Word

***Hymn 363** “Rejoice, the Lord Is King!”

Rejoice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King adore!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing, and triumph evermore.
Lift up your heart; lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Our Savior, Jesus, reigns, the God of truth and love;
when he had purged our stains, he took his seat above.
Lift up your heart; lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

His kingdom cannot fail; he rules o’er earth and heaven;
the keys of death and hell are to our Jesus given.
Lift up your heart; lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Rejoice in glorious hope! For Christ, the Judge, shall come
and gather all the saints to their eternal home.
Lift up your heart; lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

***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.

Commissioning to Service

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

“Cantate Sing to the Lord” (9:30) Jim Leininger
Sing to the Lord, sing a jubilant song, sing a new song! Sing to the Lord, O sing all the earth!

“How Firm a Foundation” (11:00) American folk hymn /arr. Paul Louis Anderson
How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in his excellent word! What more can he say than to you he hath said, to you that for refuge to Jesus have fled? “Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed! For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid; I’ll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand, upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand. When through the deep waters I call thee to go, the rivers of woe shall not thee overflow; for I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless, and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress. When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie, my grace all sufficient shall be thy supply; the flame shall not hurt thee, I only design thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine. The soul that to Jesus hath fled for repose, I will not desert to his foes; that soul, though all hell shall endeavor to shake, I’ll never forsake.”

***Offertory Response** Hymn 609

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures high and low.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one.

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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

Loving God, we have so many reasons to say thank you to you.
Your generosity, grace, and mercy are astounding,
and we pray that the gifts we offer in worship and throughout the week
might be used in your name.
Help us to be generous with our money and also with our talents and time.
Strengthen us to recognize your blessings, to be grateful, and to respond accordingly. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

***Hymn 268** “Crown Him with Many Crowns”

Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne;
hark, how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own!
Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless King through all eternity.

Crown him the Lord of love; behold his hands and side,
rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified:
no angel in the sky can fully bear that sight,
but downward bends his burning eye at mysteries so bright.

Crown him the Lord of peace, whose power a scepter sways
from pole to pole, that wars may cease, absorbed in prayer and praise.
His reign shall know no end; and round his pierced feet
fair flowers of paradise extend their fragrance ever sweet.

Crown him the Lord of years, the potentate of time;
creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime.
All hail, Redeemer, hail! For thou hast died for me;
thy praise shall never, never fail throughout eternity.

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

Sonata. Giovanni Battista Buonamente/arr. R. King



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 9:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. services on our YouTube channel (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos), where they can be viewed at any time after the services begin. *(For tips on how to watch—from the beginning a service in progress, see www.fourthchurch.org/watch-from-the-beginning)* ✳️ **Those without Internet access** are invited to listen via phone by calling 888.916.9166 at 9:30 a.m.



If you would like to join us for **in-person worship**, we gather at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. ✳️ On Sundays the **doors open for worship** a half hour prior to each 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. ✳️ **Worship can be heard** through “T” or “T-coil” settings 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 services **nursery care** for infants through two-year-olds is available on the fourth floor of the Gratz Center.

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. ✨ After worship, those worshipping in person are also invited to **greet one another during Coffee Hour** in Anderson Hall and the Commons.



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



Following the 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. services **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.** ✨ Following the 11:00 service a **pipe organ tour** begins at the front of the Sanctuary. ✨ 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 Replegle Center for Counseling and Well-Being hosts virtually a **Sacred Pause time of meditation** at facebook.com/repleglecenterforcounselingandwellbeing on Tuesdays (7:45 a.m.) and Saturdays (8:30 a.m.). ✨ Buchanan Chapel is open for **opportunity to walk the labyrinth** between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursday.



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 Replegle Center for Counseling and Well-Being at 312.787.2729, ext. 2260.

We gather each Sunday afternoon for **The Gathering: Communion at 2:00**, a more casual, intimate service than worship in the morning and featuring a breadth of musical expressions. The service, which takes place in the Sanctuary, **is also livestreamed**. We hope you will come experience it!



Sunday School takes place each Sunday at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. on the fourth floor of the Gratz Center. Eighth-grade **Confirmation** meets at 9:30 a.m. in Room 5G. **Junior High** (*grades 6 and 7*) gathers at 9:30 a.m. in the Bumpus Room, and **Senior High** gathers at 11:00 a.m. also in the Bumpus Room. ✨ **Children's Choir** (*kindergarten–grade 5*) rehearses at 9:00 a.m.; **Cherub Choir** (*ages 3 and 4*) at 10:15 a.m.; and **Youth Choir** (*grades 6–12*) at 10:30 a.m., all in Room 4G.



The **Handbell Choir**, which rehearses at 12:15 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel Loft, welcomes newcomers to join in ringing. ✨ **Voices of Light**, our Gospel choir, invites singers to join them in rehearsing at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday afternoons. ✨ This week's **free Friday Noonday Concert**, which takes place in the Sanctuary and is also livestreamed, features mezzo-soprano Ruth Ginelle Heald and guitarist Peter Argondizza. See www.fourthchurch.org/concerts for a complete concert schedule.



A Sunday morning Adult Education class is offered each week at 11:00 a.m. in Borwell Dining Room. The current series, which runs through next Sunday, September 24, is **“Celtic Spirituality,”** taught by **Vicky Curtiss**. The class, which is also available via Zoom, explores the Celtic life-affirming theology of creation, daily life and work, incarnation, friendship, pilgrimage, blessing, social justice, and prayer. For the Zoom link, register at www.bit.ly/aeceltic923 ✨ **“Foundations of Islam: Discovering Common Ground and Debunking the Myths,”** taught by Nanette Sawyer, Arshan Khalid, and Aisha Subhan, begins October 1. For Zoom details, register at www.bit.ly/aeislam1023



Men's Bible Study meets via Zoom on Tuesday mornings at 7:30 a.m. **Horizons Women's Bible Study** — which is exploring **“Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke – Acts”** — is offered via Zoom on Wednesday, September 27 at 12:00 and 6:30 p.m. For Zoom details, email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org). ✨ Matt Helms and Rocky Supinger invite you to tune into the new season of their **“Bible Top Ten”** podcast (www.fourthchurch.org/podcasts). This lively, informative, and occasionally funny podcast about the Bible as explored through a rotating series of top ten list has as its current theme **“Top 10 Biblical Movie Adaptations.”**

This month our weekly **“Rhythm and Word” video series** is led by Matt Helms, who guides us in an exploration of **“Prophets and Poets”** during ten minutes of midweek music, scripture, and prayer. The videos are available by email (*subscribe at www.bit.ly/rhythmandwordemail*). New and previous videos can also be viewed on our YouTube channel: www.bit.ly/fpcvideos ✨ Also available by email are our **daily devotions** (*fourthchurch.org/devotions*), written by members and staff as a resource for your **personal reflection and prayer**: subscribe at www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions



Knitting and Crocheting meets in person today at 9:30 a.m. in Room 5B and on Tuesday, September 26 at 4:00 p.m. via Zoom. For Zoom details, email Simon Crow (*scrow@fourthchurch.org*). ✨ **LGBTQIA+ Widen Our Welcome** (WOW) gathers today for brunch at 12:00 p.m. To join in this time of fellowship, meet at the reception desk to walk together to a nearby restaurant.



Also today the new **Veterans’ Support Group** meets for the first time at 12:00 p.m. in the Randolph Room and via Zoom. Led by Chaplain Mark Schimmelpfennig—a leader of the Road Home project at Rush Medical Center and a veteran who served in the U.S. Army—the group provides a safe, confidential space for veterans, their families, and friends to share their experiences. For Zoom details, email Nancy Benson-Nicol (*nbenson-nicol@fourthchurch.org*). ✨ A four-week **Grief Support Group** hosted by our Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being begins Wednesday, September 27 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. To register (*required*), email Sharon Crawford-Tucker (*stucker@fourthchurch.org*) or call the Center at 312.787.8425.



Zoom Small Groups will begin at the end of September. Groups will have as their focus conversation about faith journeys or one of the following books: Otis Moss’s *Dancing in the Darkness: Spiritual Lessons for Thriving in Turbulent Times*, Daniel James Brown’s *Facing the Mountain*, or C. S. Lewis’s *The Problem of Pain*. For details, email Simon Crow (*scrow@fourthchurch.org*). ✨ The **Autumn Session of the Center for Life and Learning**, for adults sixty and over, is underway. See www.fourthchurch.org/cll to learn about the classes or become a member of the CLL. ✨ **Women at Fourth** will gather for a time of fellowship and conversation with Rocky Supinger and Matt Helms, Associate Pastors and co-hosts of the “Bible Top Ten” podcast, on Thursday, September 28 at 5:30 p.m. in Borwell Dining Room. Register at www.bit.ly/waf923 ✨ **Cornerstones**, a group for those fifty and over, will meet on Friday, October 6 for dinner and a program by Paxton Suggs, Director of the Chicago Lights Urban Farm. Register (*required*) at www.bit.ly/cornerstones1023 for this 5:30 p.m. event that will be held in Borwell Dining Room.

The Officer Nominating Committee is in need of recommendations of individuals to serve in leadership positions opening in 2024 for Elder, Deacon, Trustee, Nominating Committee, and 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/nominating2024 or by using the paper forms in the pew racks.



We are delighted to announce that **the Reverend Tom Are Jr. will be joining us as our Interim Pastor.** Tom, who has been Senior Pastor / Co-Pastor at Village Presbyterian Church in the Kansas City area since 2004, will be with us beginning Sunday, October 29. Read more at www.fourthchurch.org



Those who volunteer with Fourth Church programs are asked to complete the "**Volunteer Experience**" survey at <https://bit.ly/volunteersurvey923> by Friday, September 22. ✨ **Tutors are needed** on weekday evenings, beginning in October, to partner with **Chicago Lights Tutoring** students. For details or to sign up, see www.chicagolights.org/youth-programs/#tutoring



"Beyond Words: From Mere Welcome to True Belonging" is an event **sponsored by the Covenant Network of Presbyterians and the Chicago Presbytery** and hosted at Fourth Church on Saturday, September 30 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The program, which will include worship, will explore how Christians can show true hospitality to anyone who walks through our church doors, especially members of the LGBTQIA+ community. To register to attend, see www.bit.ly/covenant923



Calling all creatures great and small! We're having our annual **Blessing of the Animals** service on Saturday, October 7 at 10:00 a.m. outdoors in the Michigan Avenue courtyard. All pets on leashes or in carriers are welcome. You can also bring your pet's photo to be blessed instead.



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 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)

Worship Leaders

Joseph L. Morrow, Ranjan Daniels (9:30), Larry Kerley (11:00), Nancy Benson-Nicol
Nanette Sawyer

The Music Today

Tower Brass; Charles Schuchat, Artistic Director
Drum Circle; John Doty, Director
Morning Choir (9:30); Chancel Choir (11:00)
Michael Rees, Organ Scholar
John W. W. Sherer, Organist and Director of Music

Worship Notes

TOWER BRASS AND THE DRUM CIRCLE return today from summer break to provide music leadership during our morning services. If you would like to join the Drum Circle or sing with one of our choirs, please contact John Sherer (jsherer@fourthchurch.org).

THIS MORNING'S SECOND PRELUDE PIECE was composed by Godwin Sadoh. Born in Lagos, Nigeria, in 1965, he studied music in both Nigeria and America and is active teaching and performing in both countries. His organ pieces are based on Yoruban and Christian folk songs of Nigeria.

OUR OPENING HYMN, "Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven," is a paraphrase of today's Psalm 103.

OFFERING GIFTS TO SUPPORT THE MINISTRY AND MISSION of Fourth Church can be placed in the plates passed during the service, or, afterwards, in an offering box at the exit from the Sanctuary. They also can be given via Venmo (@Fourth-Church) or online at fourthchurch.org/give

Lucy Forster-Smith Senior Associate Pastor

Associate Pastors

Nancy Benson-Nicol Caring Ministries and Spiritual Formation

Matt Helms Children, Family, and Welcoming Ministries

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

Church office: 126 E. Chestnut Street, Chicago, IL 60611.2014

www.fourthchurch.org www.facebook.com/fourthchurch

312.787.4570 Voicemail: 312.787.2729 Fax: 312.787.4584

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