

September 17, 2023



The Gathering

Communion at 2:00

We Gather.

Call to Worship "Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness" (Hymnal 291)

Spirit, spirit of gentleness,
blow through the wilderness, calling and free.
Spirit, spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.

Welcome

*Song "Let Us Build a House" (Hymnal 301)

Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:
all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger:
all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.

(Continued on following page)

**Please rise in body or spirit.*



FOURTH
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
A Light in the City

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.

Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace;
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter
all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.

***Confession and Assurance** (*unison*)

God of compassion, you stand ever ready before us: ready to heal,
to provide a pathway to peace and to 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.

***Response** "Glory to God" (Hymnal 582)

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

***Peace**

The Peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

We Hear.

Scripture Matthew 18:21–35

Sermon by Rocky Supinger

We Respond.

Offering

The gifts we share to support the ministry and mission of Fourth Church can be placed in the offering plate or, upon leaving today, in the offering boxes at the Sanctuary exits. Gifts also can be given via Venmo (@Fourth-Church) or online at www.fourthchurch.org/give

Song “Taste and See” (Hymnal 520)

The congregation sings this refrain:

**Taste and see, taste and see
the goodness of the Lord.
O taste and see, taste and see
the goodness of the Lord, of the Lord.**

Communion “I Am the Bread of Life”

*Communion will be served by intinction (dipping the bread into the juice).
Gluten-free bread is available.*

The Lord’s Prayer

**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.**

***Song** "I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me" (Hymnal 700)

I'm gonna live so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna live so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna work...

I'm gonna pray...

I'm gonna sing...

***Blessing**

Worship Leaders

Nancy Benson-Nicol, Rocky Supinger

The Music Today

Beena David, vocals; Bryan Doherty, bass; Kent Wehman, piano; Neal Wehman, drums

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.

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News and Opportunities

September 17–23, 2023



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 to the morning service 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, for the morning only, 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 garage 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.



We ask all who are worshipping with us to **let us know you are here by filling out an information card** found in your bulletin. 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” that can be scanned with a phone camera to take you to the form.

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 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 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.



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*



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



Our new **Veterans’ Support Group** meets in person and via Zoom. The group provides a safe, confidential space for veterans, their families, and friends to share their experiences and is 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. For details, email Nancy Benson-Nicol (*nbenson-nicol@fourthchurch.org*). ✨ A **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 all the Center at 312.787.8425.



To **become a member of or learn more about Fourth Church**, please join us for a one-session in-person Inquirers’ Class on Sunday, October 15 at 11:15 a.m. (*register at www.bit.ly/inquirers1023*).

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



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.



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.



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



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."**

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).

✿ **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.

✿ **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**. For the Zoom link, register at www.bit.ly/aeceltic923 ✿ 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.



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)



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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