

Fourth Presbyterian Church

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost September 24, 2023 • 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Gathering around the Word

| Prelude |
|--|
| St. Anthony Chorale Franz Joseph Haydn/arr. Larry Sue |
| Aria from Symphony No. 1 |
| Prelude from <i>Te Deum</i> |
| Introit |
| "Yesuve Saranam" |
| Jesus, I surrender. |
| *Doxology |
| Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; |
| praise God, from whom an blessings flow, praise God, an creatures here below, praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.† Amen. |
| |
| praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen. |
| praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen. *Call to Worship |
| praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen. *Call to Worship based on Psalm 124:8; 118:24; 51:15 Leader: Our help is in the name of the Lord, |
| praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen. *Call to Worship |
| praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen. *Call to Worship |

^{*}Please rise in body or spirit. †Or "Father, Son, and Holy Ghost."

O worship the King, all glorious above!

O gratefully sing God's power and God's love:
our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,
pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.

O tell of God's might; O sing of God's grace, whose robe is the light, whose canopy space, whose chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form; and bright is God's path on the wings of the storm.

The earth with its store of wonders untold, Almighty, your power has founded of old; established it fast by a changeless decree, and round it has cast, like a mantle, the sea.

Your bountiful care what tongue can recite?

It breathes in the air; it shines in the light; it streams from the hills; it descends to the plain, and sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail, in you do we trust, nor find you to fail; your mercies, how tender, how firm to the end, our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend.

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry,

Prayer of Confession (unison)

too real to hide, and too deep to undo.

Forgive what our lips tremble to name,
what our hearts can no longer bear,
and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment.

Set us free from a past that we cannot change;

open us to a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image; through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. 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

"Almighty Maker, God" (11:00) American folk hymn/arr. Alice Parker Almighty Maker, God, how glorious is thy name! Thy wonders, how diffused abroad throughout creation's frame! In native white and red the rose and lily stand; and free from pride their beauties spread to show thy skillful hand. The lark mounts up the sky with unambitious song and bears her maker's praise on high upon her artless tongue. Fain would I rise and sing to my creator too, unto my God; fain would my heart adore my King and give him praises due.

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

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 |
| Sermon Lucy Forster-Smith |
| Responding to the Word |
| *Hymn 630 |
| Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature, O thou of God to earth come down, thee will I cherish, thee will I honor, thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown. |
| Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands, robed in the blooming garb of spring. Jesus is fairer; Jesus is purer, who makes the woeful heart to sing. |
| Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight, and all the twinkling, starry host. Jesus shines brighter; Jesus shines purer, than all the angels heaven can boast. |
| Beautiful Savior, Ruler of the nations, Son of God and Son of Man! Glory and honor, praise, adoration, now and forevermore be thine! |
| *Affirmation of Faith (unison) |
| 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.

New Members (9:30)

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

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)

God of the harvest, we are privileged to be among those whom you have called, graced to have been given your work to do,

blessed to receive more than we will ever earn.

Accept our thanksgivings and offerings and use what already belongs to you. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Bearing the World into the World

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun does its successive journeys run;

his kingdom stretch from shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.

To him shall endless prayer be made, and praises throng to crown his head; his name, like sweet perfume, shall rise with every morning sacrifice.

People and realms of every tongue dwell on his love with sweetest song, and infant voices shall proclaim their early blessings on his name.

Blessings abound where'er he reigns: the prisoners leap to loose their chains; the weary find eternal rest, and all who suffer want are blest.

Let every creature rise and bring honors peculiar to our King; angels descend with songs again, and earth repeat the loud Amen!

*Charge and Benediction

Postlude

News and Opportunities

September 24-30, 2023

We are glad to be worshiping 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 that is already 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 worshiping with us to **let us know you are here by filling out an information form.**Those worshiping 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 worshiping 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 worshiping 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 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.



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.

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. **Junior High** (*grades 6 and 7*) gathers at 9:30 a.m. in the Bumpus Room; **Senior High** gathers there at 11:00 a.m. Eighth-grade **Confirmation** does not meet today, as they had their fall lock-in this weekend. **** If your child is attending college** this fall, please email their mailing address to Katie Patterson (*kpatterson@fourthchurch.org*) by Sunday, October 15, as our youth groups will be assembling care packages for them the following week. **** Rehearsing today are Children's Choir** (*kindergarten-grade 5*) at 9:00 a.m. in Room 4G; **Cherub Choir** (*ages 3 and 4*) at 10:15 a.m. in 4B; and **Youth Choir** (*grades 6-12*) at 10:30 a.m. in 4G.



The **Handbell Choir**, which rehearses on Sundays 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 on Sundays at 1:30 p.m. in Room 4G. ****** All who enjoy singing are encouraged to join the **Fourth Church Choral Society**, with rehearsals beginning Thursday, October 5 at 7:00 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel in preparation for a November 10 **concert honoring Morgan Simmons**, former Fourth Church Organist and Choirmaster. ****** This week's **free Friday Noonday Concert**, which takes place in the Sanctuary and is also livestreamed, will be presented by **Organist John Sherer**.



A Sunday morning Adult Education class is offered each week at 11:00 a.m. in Borwell Dining Room. The current series, which concludes today, is "Celtic Spirituality," taught by Vicky Curtiss. 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 next Sunday, 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 this 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 explores "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



There is still time to join one of the **Zoom Small Groups** that will begin this week! Groups will have as their focus conversation about faith journeys or 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). ** Those who would like to **learn more about this congregation** or **become a member of Fourth Church** are invited to a one-session in-person Inquirers' Class on Sunday, October 15 at 11:15 a.m. (register at www.bit.ly/inquirers1023). For details, email member@fourthchurch.org



A four-week **Grief Support Group** hosted by our Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being begins this 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.



TwentiesThirties young adult group will enjoy an afternoon of free live music, theater, and dance at Navy Pier today following the 11:00 a.m. service; meet in Anderson Hall at 12:00 p.m. **

Knitting and Crocheting meets via Zoom this Tuesday, September 26 at 4:00 p.m. and in person on Tuesday, October 3 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 5B. For Zoom 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, co-hosts of the "Bible Top Ten" podcast, 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 at 5:30 p.m. for dinner and a program in Borwell Dining Room. Register (required) at www.bit.ly/cornerstones1023 ** 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

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. Please submit your recommendations by Sunday, October 1.



As we begin our 2024 stewardship campaign today, we encourage you to take time to reflect on the questions "How is Fourth Church home to me? To others?" and "What will my 2024 pledge be in support of the life-giving mission, ministry, and outreach efforts of Fourth Church and Chicago Lights?" Then please plan to submit your 2024 pledge—which you can make using the form mailed to member homes and also available online at www.bit.ly/fpcpledging—by Commitment Sunday, October 29, when we will celebrate all we are able to do together through our generous response to God's blessings in our lives. ** Also on October 29 we look forward to welcoming to our pulpit the Reverend Tom Are Jr., who is joining us as our Interim Pastor! Read more at www.fourthchurch.org



Next Sunday morning, October 1, we will welcome as our **guest preacher the Reverend Brian Ellison**,
Executive Director of the Covenant Network. ****** The previous day, Saturday, September 30, we will host **"Beyond Words: From Mere Welcome to True Belonging,"** an event **sponsored by the Covenant Network of Presbyterians and the Chicago Presbytery**. The program 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**, see 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), **Instagram** (instagram.com/fourthchurch), and **Threads** (www.threads.net/@fourthchurch)

Worship Leaders

Nancy Benson-Nicol, Chris Gernand (9:30), Robert Crouch (11:00), Nanette Sawyer Lucy Forster-Smith

The Music Today

The Handbell Choir; Briana Belding-Peck, Director Morning Choir (9:30); Chancel Choir (11:00) Michael Rees, Organ Scholar John W. W. Sherer, Organist and Director of Music

Worship Notes

THE HANDBELL CHOIR returns today from summer break to provide music leadership during our morning services. If you would like to ring with the choir, please contact Briana Belding-Peck (bbelding-peck@fourthchurch.org).

THIS MORNING'S PRELUDE AND POSTLUDE include music by Canadian organist and composer Rachel Laurin (1961–2023), who in 2020 received the American Guild of Organists' Distinguished Composer Award in recognition of her many compositions for the organ.

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

 $\boldsymbol{Lucy\ Forster\text{-}Smith}\ \mathsf{Senior}\ \mathsf{Associate}\ \mathsf{Pastor}$

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

Sources and Credits: The Call to Worship is from www.reformedworship.org/article/june-2016/worshiping-psalms
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THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO

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