

September 24, 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** “This Little Light of Mine”

This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine!
This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine!
This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine!
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Everywhere I go, I’m gonna let it shine . . .

All through the night, I’m gonna let it shine . . .

This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine . . .

**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.

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

Gracious God,
our sins are too heavy to carry,
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.

***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 Philippians 3:7–16

Sermon by Lucy Forster-Smith

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 "Here I Am, Lord" (Hymnal 69)

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

Refrain:

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send? (*Refrain*)

Communion

*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.

Communion Song "The Best in Me" by Marvin Sapp

***Song** "Guide My Feet" (Hymnal 741)

Guide my feet while I run this race; (yes, my Lord!)
guide my feet while I run this race; (yes, my Lord!)
guide my feet while I run this race,
for I don't want to run this race in vain! (race in vain!)

Hold my hand . . .

Stand by me . . .

Guide my feet . . .

***Blessing**

Worship Leaders

Nancy Benson-Nicol, Lucy Forster-Smith

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.

Acknowledgments: "Here I Am, Lord" text © 1981, 2000 OCP; music harm. © 2011 Alfred V. Fedak. OneLicense.net. License A-712340. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

News and Opportunities

September 24–30, 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 ✱ Matt Helms and Rocky Supinger invite you to tune into the new season of their **podcast “Bible Top Ten”** (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.”**



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).



A **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 all the Center at 312.787.8425. ✱ 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

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.



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



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



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.



"Foundations of Islam: Discovering Common Ground and Debunking the Myths," taught by Nanette Sawyer, Arshan Khalid, and Aisha Subhan, begins next Sunday, October 1 at 11:00 a.m. in Borwell Dining Room. For Zoom details, register at www.bit.ly/aeislam1023 * **Knitting and Crocheting** meets via Zoom this Tuesday, September 26 at 4:00 p.m. 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**, 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 * 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 for a November 10 **concert honoring Morgan Simmons**, former Fourth Church Organist and Choirmaster. * **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



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



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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