

October 8, 2023



# *The Gathering*

## Communion at 2:00

**We Gather.**

### **Call to Worship** "Open My Eyes, Lord"

Open my eyes, Lord. Help me to see your face.

Open my eyes, Lord. Help me to see.

Open my ears, Lord. Help me to hear your voice.

Open my ears, Lord. Help me to hear.

Open my heart, Lord. Help me to love like you.

Open my heart, Lord. Help me to love.

### **Welcome**

### **\*Song** "This Is My Father's World" (Hymnal 370)

This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears

all nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.

This is my Father's world; I rest me in the thought

of rocks and trees, of skies and seas, his hand the wonders wrought.

*(Song continued on following page)*

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*\*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.*

This is my Father's world. O, let me ne'er forget  
that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.  
This is my Father's world. The battle is not done:  
Jesus who died shall be satisfied, and earth and heaven be one.

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

Merciful God, in your gracious presence we confess our sin and the sin of this world.  
Although Christ is among us as our peace,  
we are a people divided against ourselves;  
we cling to the values of a broken world.  
The profit and pleasures we pursue lay waste the land and pollute the seas.  
The fears and jealousies we harbor  
set neighbor against neighbor and nation against nation.  
Lord, have mercy upon us; heal and forgive us.  
Set us free to serve you in the world  
as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ. 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.  
World without end... (without end...) Amen.

**\*Peace**

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

**We Hear.**

**Scripture** Matthew 21:33–46

**Sermon** by Rocky Supinger

### 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](http://www.fourthchurch.org/give)

### Song "Standing in the Need of Prayer"

Not my brother, not my sister, but it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer;  
not my brother, not my sister, but it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer.

*Refrain:*

It's me, it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer;  
It's me, it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer.

Not the preacher, not the deacon, but it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer;  
not the preacher, not the deacon, but it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer.  
(*Refrain*)

Not my father, not my mother, but it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer;  
not my father, not my mother, but it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer.  
(*Refrain*)

Not the stranger, not my neighbor, but it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer;  
not the stranger, not my neighbor, but it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer.  
(*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 “Just as I Am, without One Plea” (William Batchelder Bradbury)

We Go.

### \*Song “Down by the Riverside”

#### 1. Gonna lay down my burden . . .

down by the riverside,  
down by the riverside,  
down by the riverside;  
gonna lay down my burden,  
down by the riverside,  
gonna study war no more.

Refrain (*sung after each verse*):

I ain’t gonna study war no more. I ain’t gonna study war no more.  
I ain’t gonna study war no more. I ain’t gonna study war no more.  
I ain’t gonna study war no more. I ain’t gonna study war no more.

#### 2. Gonna try on my starry crown . . .

#### 3. Gonna meet my loving Jesus . . .

### \*Blessing

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## Worship Leaders

Nancy Benson-Nicol, Rocky Supinger

## The Music Today

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

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**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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# You are invited!

October 8–14, 2023



*The following pages are our invitation to you—an invitation to explore the many opportunities for learning, serving, and community building at Fourth Church as well as an invitation to connect with one another, our staff, and the varied resources available to you here. We hope you will spend a few minutes looking over the opportunities and identifying those that interest you!*

## Welcome!

**We are glad to be worshipping with you today** and invite you to continue 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. ✨ Inspired by the radical hospitality of Jesus Christ, we welcome everyone, without exception, into the life of this congregation!

## Joining us online

Each Sunday our worshipping body is a wonderful mix of those online, on the phone, and in the pews. 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](http://www.bit.ly/fpcvideos)), where they can be viewed any time after the services begin. *(For tips on how to watch—from the beginning—a service that is already in progress, see [fourthchurch.org/watch-from-the-beginning](http://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.

## Joining us in person

If you like to join us for **in-person worship**, we gather at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. ✨ 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 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.

**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](http://www.bit.ly/newsfromfpc)

## Let us know you're worshipping with us!

Please 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 worshippers have opportunity to greet one another by name following the service.

## Worship podcasts and sermon text

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](http://www.bit.ly/fpcsermons).

## Prayer and meditation

On Wednesdays we gather 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](mailto:nbenson-nicol@fourthchurch.org)). ☼ Buchanan Chapel is open for **opportunity to walk the labyrinth** between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. ☼ A **Sacred Pause time of meditation** is offered virtually by our Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being at [facebook.com/reploglecenterforcounselingandwellbeing](https://facebook.com/reploglecenterforcounselingandwellbeing) on Tuesdays (7:45 a.m.) and Saturdays (8:30 a.m.).

## Resources for personal reflection

Our **daily devotions** ([fourthchurch.org/devotions](http://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](http://www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions) ☼ Our weekly **“Rhythm and Word” video series** offers ten minutes of midweek music, scripture, and prayer for your viewing at home. In October these videos, **led by Rocky Supinger and our Gathering musicians**, invite us to **explore what it means to be one body in Christ**. A new video 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/rhythmandwordemail](http://www.bit.ly/rhythmandwordemail); you can also **subscribe to our YouTube channel** ([www.bit.ly/fpcvideos](http://www.bit.ly/fpcvideos))

## Exploring the Bible

**Men's Bible Study** meets via Zoom on Tuesday mornings at 7:30 a.m. **Horizons Women's Bible Study** meets via Zoom this Wednesday, October 11 at 12:00 and 6:30 p.m. For Zoom details, email Simon Crow ([scrow@fourthchurch.org](mailto:scrow@fourthchurch.org)). ☼ **Matt Helms and Rocky Supinger** also invite you to tune in to the new season of their **“Bible Top Ten” podcast** ([www.fourthchurch.org/podcasts](http://www.fourthchurch.org/podcasts)). This lively, informative, and occasionally funny podcast explores the Bible through a rotating series of top ten lists.

## Get connected

Bible studies (see page 6) are but one way to build connections with others at Fourth Church. **Books by Women** will discuss *Unraveling: What I Learned about Life While Shearing Sheep, Dyeing Wool, and Making the World's Ugliest Sweater* by Peggy Orenstein this Tuesday, October 10 at 6:00 p.m. in the Bumpus Room. ✨ **Benevolent Guild**, which creates sewn and crafted items to care for those in need, meets on Wednesdays 9:30 a.m. in Room 5B. *No sewing experience is necessary.* ✨ 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 next Sunday, October 15 at 11:15 a.m. (*register at [www.bit.ly/inquirers1023](http://www.bit.ly/inquirers1023)*). ✨ **"Foundations of Islam: Discovering Common Ground and Debunking the Myths,"** taught by Nanette Sawyer, Arshan Khalid, and Aisha Subhan, meets on Sunday mornings at 11:00 a.m. in Borwell Dining Room and via Zoom. For Zoom details, register at [www.bit.ly/aeislam1023](http://www.bit.ly/aeislam1023) ✨ On Sunday, October 22 at 12:00 p.m. **LGBTQIA+ Widen Our Welcome (WOW)** will gather for brunch. Those who would like to join in this time of fellowship are invited to meet at the reception desk that day to walk together to a nearby restaurant. ✨ 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](http://www.fourthchurch.org) ✨ Also be sure to bookmark **our online church calendar**, accessible from our website's home page and at [fourthchurch.org/calendar](http://fourthchurch.org/calendar)

## Our home. Our commitment.

Our 2024 stewardship campaign is underway, inviting us to reflect on **"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?"** Please plan to submit your 2024 pledge—which you can make using the form mailed to member homes and also available in the pew racks and online at [www.bit.ly/fpcpledging](http://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.

## Volunteers needed

**Tutors are needed** on weekday evenings to partner with **Chicago Lights Tutoring** students. For details or to sign up, see [www.chicagolights.org/youth-programs/#tutoring](http://www.chicagolights.org/youth-programs/#tutoring). ✨ **Meals Ministry** is looking for **doctors, physicians assistants, nurse practitioners, and medical students** to assist with our medical services program for guests attending **Sunday Night Supper**. To learn more, contact Mike Usiak ([musiak@fourthchurch.org](mailto:musiak@fourthchurch.org)). ✨ **To sign up** for these or the many other volunteer opportunities at Fourth Church, see **our Volunteer Ministry platform:** [app.vomo.org/org/fourth-presbyterian-church](http://app.vomo.org/org/fourth-presbyterian-church) ✨ We are also looking for more individuals to sing with **Voices of Light**, our Gospel choir, which rehearses on Sundays at 1:30 p.m. in Room 4G. For more information, contact John Sherer ([jsherer@fourthchurch.org](mailto:jsherer@fourthchurch.org)).



## Planning for our future

We look forward to welcoming the **Reverend Tom Are Jr. as our Interim Pastor!** He will be joining us on Commitment/Reformation Sunday, October 29, when he will preach at the morning services. Read more at [www.fourthchurch.org](http://www.fourthchurch.org) ✨ Thank you to everyone who responded to the congregational survey of the **Long-Range Planning Task Force!** Your responses, paired with the interviews, are serving as the foundational work from which the long-range plan will be developed. As the next step in this process, the task force will be presenting two town hall sessions, during which they will share the **draft strategic directives** that are coming out of the information gathered and when there will also be opportunity for you to **offer your feedback**. This will be done through a **virtual town hall on Sunday, October 15** following the 9:30 a.m. service and an **in-person town hall on Sunday, October 22** after the 11:00 a.m. service. The October 15 session will be recorded and made available for viewing. (*Watch for specific details in the coming week or email [longrange@fourthchurch.org](mailto:longrange@fourthchurch.org) for more information.*) Please plan to join in taking the next step in developing a long-range plan for Fourth Church!

## Pastoral care and a listening presence

To **talk to a pastor** or **notify the pastoral staff** of personal concerns, illnesses, hospitalizations, or deaths, please email [caringministries@fourthchurch.org](mailto: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](mailto: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.



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**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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