

October 29, 2023
Reformation Sunday



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 "Abide with Me" (Hymnal 836)

Abide with me: fast falls the eventide. The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide!
When other helpers fail and comforts flee, help of the helpless, O abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day; earth's joys grow dim; its glories pass away;
change and decay in all around I see. O thou who changest not, abide with me.

I need thy presence every passing hour; what but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be? Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless; ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory? I triumph still, if thou abide with me.

Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes; shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee; in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

**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*)

Lord God, eternal and almighty God:

We acknowledge before your holy majesty that we have sinned
and are unable of our own power to do good.

Because of our sin, we endlessly violate your holy commandments.

But, O Lord, with heartfelt sorrow we repent and turn away from all our offenses.

We are sorry, O God, and ask that your grace will relieve our distress.

Have compassion on us, most gracious God of mercies,
for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

And in removing our guilt, also grant us daily increase of the grace of your Holy Spirit,
and produce in us the fruits of holiness and of righteousness pleasing in your sight:
through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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 Readings

Deuteronomy 34

Mark 1:14–15

Sermon by Tom Are Jr.

The View from Nebo

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 "Christ, Be Our Light" (Hymnal 314)

After the leader sings each verse, the congregation sings this refrain:

Christ, be our light!

Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

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 "We Remember" by Marty Haugen

***Song** "Standing on the Promises"

Standing on the promises of Christ my king, through eternal ages let his praises ring;
glory in the highest, I will shout and sing, standing on the promises of God.

Refrain:

Standing, standing, standing on the promises of God my Savior;
standing, standing, I'm standing on the promises of God.

Standing on the promises that cannot fail, when the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,
by the living Word of God I shall prevail, standing on the promises of God. (*Refrain*)

Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord, bound to him eternally by love's strong cord,
overcoming daily with the Spirit's sword, standing on the promises of God. (*Refrain*)

Standing on the promises I cannot fall, listening every moment to the Spirit's call,
resting in my Savior as my all in all, standing on the promises of God. (*Refrain*)

***Blessing**

Worship Leaders

Rocky Supinger, Nancy Benson-Nicol, Tom Are Jr.

The Music Today

Beena David, vocals; Bryan Doherty, bass; Amr Fahmy, 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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You are invited!

October 29–November 4, 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), 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) ✨ 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 6 hours (*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

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 worshipers have opportunity to greet one another by name following the service. ✨ 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: fourthchurch.org

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 fourthchurch.org/podcasts ✨ You can also receive the previous Sunday morning's **sermon text** (fourthchurch.org/sermons) **by email** by subscribing at 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). ✨ 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 on Tuesdays (7:45 a.m.) and Saturdays (8:30 a.m.).

Resources for personal reflection and spiritual formation

Our **daily devotions** (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 ✨ Our weekly **“Rhythm and Word” video series** offers ten minutes of midweek music, scripture, and prayer for your viewing at home. 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; you can also **subscribe to our YouTube channel** (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos) ✨ **Men's Bible Study** meets via Zoom on Tuesday mornings at 7:30 a.m. **Horizons Women's Bible Study** meets via Zoom on Wednesday, November 8 at 12:00 and 6:30 p.m. For Zoom details, email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org). ✨ **Matt Helms and Rocky Supinger** also invite you to tune in to their **“Bible Top Ten” podcast** (www.fourthchurch.org/podcasts). ✨ The **Spiritual Formation fall workshop on “Pilgrimage”** will be held Saturday, November 18 at 10:00 a.m. in Buchanan Chapel as well as via Zoom (www.bit.ly/pilgrimage1123). This time together will offer opportunity to learn how a pilgrimage can deepen your faith and prepare the way to step out of the busyness of life.

Today is Commitment Sunday!

Today is Commitment Sunday, the day we lift up our pledges to our 2024 stewardship campaign for Fourth Church and Chicago Lights, as **we each answer the invitation to join in God'sre-creating and reconciling work in this world through our financial support.** If you have not already made your pledge for 2024 indicating your support for and investment in the work of Fourth Church and Chicago Lights, we encourage you to take this opportunity to do so by filling out the form at www.bit.ly/fpcclpledge or by using the pledge cards found in the pew racks.

Today is also Reformation Sunday

Today is also Reformation Sunday, a day when we recall **the rich heritage of the Protestant tradition.** The Presbyterian Church (USA) grew out of the Reformation of the sixteenth century under leaders such as John Calvin and John Knox. The last Sunday in October has been chosen as Reformation Sunday because it was on October 31, 1517, that Martin Luther posted his ninety-five theses on the church door in Wittenberg, Germany, the watershed event sparking the Reformation. Today we remember and give thanks for Reformation leaders and all others who have kept the faith. ✨ Next Sunday, November 5 is **All Saints' Sunday**, a day when we lift up those whose baptism is new and those whose baptism is now complete. As part of our remembrance of the faithful who have gone before us and our honoring of departed loved ones, the names of all Fourth Church members who have entered the Church Triumphant in the past year will be read during worship. During the morning services that day we will celebrate Communion, and the Morning Choir will sing the twenty-five-minute **A New England Requiem by Scott Perkins.** (*And don't forget: Daylight Saving Time ends next Sunday, November 5; be sure to set your clocks back an hour!*)

Today we also welcome our Interim Pastor!

Tripling the reason for celebration on this Commitment and Reformation Sunday, today we also **welcome the Reverend Tom Are Jr. as our Interim Pastor!** We are delighted to have Tom and his wife, Carol, with us as we look forward to our season of ministry together. After the service today, please join us in the Narthex, at the back of the Sanctuary, to greet Tom.

This Thursday: A Michigan Avenue Forum

This Thursday, November 2 the **Michigan Avenue Forum "Understanding Antisemitism"** will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary and also livestreamed at www.bit.ly/fpcvideos. A panel of Rabbi Danya Ruttenberg; Becca Lubow, community organizer at Jewish Council on Urban Affairs; and Associate Pastor Nanette Sawyer will discuss the history of antisemitism, including the Christian church's role in its promotion and perpetuation; the rise in violent episodes and hate crimes; and concrete strategies for non-Jewish houses of worship to dismantle antisemitism and pursue reconciliation and healing.

Planning for our future

Please plan to join the Long-Range Planning Task Force for one of **two additional town halls** scheduled for November to provide an in-depth look at the long-range planning work. The first will be held in person next Sunday, November 5 at 12:30 p.m. in Borwell Dining Room. The second will be via Zoom on Sunday, November 12 at 10:45 a.m. (*Details will be available prior to each session.*) A **recording of the town hall on October 15** as well as a link to **the October presentation slides** can be found at fourthchurch.org/about/long-range.html; for details email longrange@fourthchurch.org

Volunteers needed

We have a waitlist of Chicago Lights Tutoring students in need of tutors on weekday evenings (for ninety minutes)—in person (*Tuesdays and Wednesdays*) or online (*Mondays*). For details or to sign up, see www.chicagolights.org/tutoring. ✨ **Meals Ministry** is looking for **doctors, physician 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).

Pastoral care and a listening presence

To **talk to a pastor** or **notify the pastoral staff** of personal concerns, illnesses, or deaths, please email caringministries@fourthchurch.org; if the situation requires immediate attention, please call the church at 312.787.4570. ✨ To **submit a prayer request** to our 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 conversations with a counselor**, call our Replegle Center for Counseling and Well-Being at 312.787.2729, ext. 2260. ✨ During **Domestic Violence Awareness Month** the **purple ribbons** along Michigan Avenue are our public witness to all affected by domestic violence.



Tom Are Jr. Interim Pastor

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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