



Fourth Presbyterian Church

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

November 12, 2023 • 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

I Call to Thee, O Lord. Johann Sebastian Bach
Andante sostenuto from *Symphonie Gothique* Charles-Marie Widor
“At the River” American folk song/arr. Aaron Copland

Introit

“Sing Alleluia to the Lord” (9:30) Terry Taylor
*Sing alleluia to the Lord above, lift up your song of praise. Give God your best always,
God’s love is strong and true and fills all the earth. Sing alleluia to the Lord.*
“Exsultate, Jubilate!” (11:00). Dave and Jean Perry
Come rejoicing, let the festive music play. Alleluia. Sing together, celebrate this day! Alleluia

*Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.† Amen.

*Call to Worship adapted from Psalm 147

One: *Praise the Lord! How good it is to sing praises to our God!*
All: For God is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.
One: *God heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.*
All: God determines the number of the stars and gives to each of them their names.
One: *Let us hope in God’s steadfast love!*

*Please rise in body or spirit. †Or “Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.”

***Hymn 645** “Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above”

Sing praise to God who reigns above, the God of all creation,
the God of power, the God of love, the God of our salvation.
With healing balm my soul is filled, and every faithless murmur stilled:
to God all praise and glory!

What God’s almighty power has made God’s gracious mercy keepeth;
by morning glow or evening shade God’s watchful eye ne’er sleepeth.
Within the kingdom of God’s might, lo! all is just and all is right:
to God all praise and glory!

The Lord is never far away, but, through all grief distressing,
an ever-present help and stay, our peace and joy and blessing,
as with a mother’s tender hand God gently leads the chosen band:
to God all praise and glory!

Thus all my toilsome way along I sing aloud thy praises,
that all may hear the grateful song my voice unwearied raises.
Be joyful in the Lord, my heart; both soul and body, take your part:
to God all praise and glory!

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Eternal and merciful God,
you have loved us beyond our understanding,
and set us on paths of righteousness for your name’s sake.
Yet we have strayed from your way;
we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
through what we have done and what we have left undone.
You showed us how to carry out your mission, yet still we insist on our own.
You come to us, but we do not recognize you. You call, but we do not follow.
You love us, but we do not love all our neighbors.
Forgive us, we pray, and guide us once more
that we might humbly and faithfully walk in your way. 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 (9:30 and 11:00)

“Eternal Light” Leo Sowerby
*Eternal Light, shine into our hearts; Eternal Goodness, deliver us from evil;
Eternal Power, be our support; Eternal Wisdom, scatter the darkness of our ignorance;
Eternal Pity, have mercy upon us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter Psalm 131

One: *The Word of God for the people of God.*

All: Thanks be to God.

(9:30) Children age three through grade five are invited to come forward during the singing of the Gloria Patri.

***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.

(9:30) Children depart for Sunday School with their teachers.

Second Lesson Matthew 25:1–13

One: *Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.*

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Faith Requires Patience. Tom Are Jr.

[†]Or “to the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Ghost.”

Responding to the Word

***Hymn 771** “What Is the World Like”

What is the world like when God’s will is done?

Mustard seeds grow more than we can conceive;
roots thread the soil; branches reach for the sun.
This is how God moves us each to believe.

What is the world like when God’s will is done?

Witness the wandering child coming home;
watch as the parent breaks into a run.
This is how God longs for us when we roam.

What is the world like when God’s will is done?

No more is neighbor just ally or friend;
peace thrives in places where once there was none.
This is how God works when rivalries end.

What is the world like when God’s will is done?

Ready for feasting, we watch through the night,
tending our lamps till the new day’s begun.
This is how God readies us for the light.

These are the stories that Jesus imparts,

filled with the Spirit who joins us as one.
Born through our voices, our hands, and our hearts,
this is a new world where God’s will is done.

***Affirmation of Faith** (*unison*) Apostles’ Creed

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.

(Continued on facing page)

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.

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

"Pilgrim's Hymn" (9:30). Stephen Paulus
Even before we call on your name to ask you, O God, when we seek for the words to glorify you, you hear our prayer; unceasing love, O unceasing love, surpassing all we know. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Even with darkness sealing us in, we breathe your name, and through all the days that follow so fast, we trust in you; endless your grace, O endless your grace, beyond all mortal dream. Both now and forever, and unto ages and ages. Amen.

"Hark, I Hear the Harps Eternal" (11:00) American folk hymn/arr. Alice Parker
Hark, I hear the harps eternal ringing on the farther shore, as I near those swollen waters, with their deep and solemn roar. Hallelujah, praise the Lamb, glory to the great I AM. And my soul, though stained with sorrow, fading as the light of day, passes swiftly over those waters to the city far away. Hallelujah, praise the Lamb, glory to the great I AM. Souls have crossed before me, saintly, to that land of perfect rest, and I hear them singing faintly in the mansions of the blest. Hallelujah, praise the Lamb, glory to the great I AM.

***Offertory Response** Hymn 609

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*)

Sing a new song through our lives, O God.
You have done marvelous things, and our hearts brim with joy.
Take our lives and let them be, consecrated through these gifts,
as they carry forth your good news to this world.
We are grateful beyond measure to give, to serve, to sing out your love this day.

Bearing the Word into the World

***Hymn 644** “Give Thanks, O Christian People”

Give thanks, O Christian people, for workers of our day
who heed the call to service and make it their life’s way
to go to feed the hungry, to tend to those in need,
to work for equal justice, till all God’s folk are freed.

Give thanks, O Christian people, for leaders of our years
who live to share with others our joy when Christ appears,
to teach the ones who seek light, to guide the faltering feet,
to lead the followers forward our living Lord to meet.

Give thanks, O Christian people, for all who love the Lord,
who live each day believing in God’s eternal Word:
to share Christ’s love in living, to witness with each deed,
to use the talents given to plant the gospel seed.

Give thanks, O Christian people, for life in fellowship
with all who trust our Savior their serving to equip:
to ease another’s burdens, to cope in joy and stress,
to magnify God’s message and Christ’s great love confess.

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

Thou Art Peter, the Rock Henri Mulet

You are invited!

November 12–18, 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.

Joining us with children

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** is available on the fourth floor of the Gratz Center for infants through two-year-olds.

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.

Worship podcasts and sermon text

During the week the Sunday morning **service and sermon is 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

Those who would like to **offer individual prayers of praise or concern with a Deacon today** are invited to do so in Stone Chapel (*through the door to the right of the pulpit*) following the 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. services. ✱ 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

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 **November “Rhythm and Word” video series** offers ten minutes of midweek music, scripture, and prayer for viewing at home. This month **Lucy Forster-Smith is guiding our reflections on giving thanks**. 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/rhythmwordemail; you can also **subscribe to our YouTube channel** (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos)

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

Today's opportunities

Those worshipping in person are encouraged to **greet one another during Coffee Hour** in Anderson Hall and the Commons following worship, where there is also opportunity to learn about ways to get connected with one another and Fourth Church. Today's Coffee Hour is sponsored by the World Mission Social Justice Council **in celebration of the one-year anniversary of Fourth Church's Refugee One Family.** (See page 9 for more about our refugee partnership.) * A **Long-Range Planning town hall** will be held today at 10:45 a.m. via Zoom at www.bit.ly/longrange1112 (or see www.fourthchurch.org for the link). * **"Reformed and Always Being Reformed"** begins today at 11:00 a.m. in Borwell Dining Room (*in person only*). In this two-week Adult Education class, **Jeff Doane** will lead us in comparing selections from Reformation-era Confessions with portions of A Brief Statement of Faith. * **LGBTQIA+ Widen Our Welcome** (WOW) meets for pizza and games at 12:00 p.m. today in the Manse off of Parish House. (*Stop by the reception desk for directions.*) * **Eighth-grade Confirmation** meets at 9:30 a.m. in Room 5G. **Junior High** (grades 6–7) gathers at 9:30 a.m. in the Bumpus Room, and at 11:00 a.m. **Senior High** also meets in the Bumpus Room. * **Sunday School** for children from three years old to fifth grade meets at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. on the fourth floor of the Gratz Center. * Rehearsing on Sundays 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 also 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 at 1:30 p.m. in Room 4G. * Following the 11:00 service a **pipe organ tour** begins at the front of the Sanctuary. * We invite you to join us this afternoon for **The Gathering: Communion at 2:00**. This more casual, intimate service, which is livestreamed as well, features a breadth of musical expressions.

Organ anniversary concert

This Friday **world-renowned organist Isabelle Demers** will present the annual **Andrew Pipe Organ Dedication anniversary concert**, which is cosponsored by the American Guild of Organists. Taking place at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, November 17 in the Sanctuary, the concert will also be livestreamed. * Earlier in the day, the **Roosevelt University Choirs** will present the free **Friday Noonday Concert** at 12:10 p.m., also in the Sanctuary and livestreamed. * For a **complete listing of performances** at Fourth Church, **including holiday concerts**, see www.fourthchurch.org/concerts

Singing in the season

This Saturday, November 18 at 5:00 p.m. we will be **singing carols on the steps of the Sanctuary** prior to the 5:30 p.m. **Tree-Lighting Parade** that is part of the annual Magnificent Mile Lights Festival. Come join us in spreading holiday cheer to those gathered for the Michigan Avenue festivities!

Pilgrimage

This Saturday morning, November 18 our **Spiritual Formation fall workshop “Pilgrimage”** will provide opportunity to learn how a pilgrimage can **deepen your faith and prepare the way to step out of the busyness of life**; come find the sacred within while building community. This 10:00 a.m. workshop will be held in Buchanan Chapel as well as via Zoom (Zoom link: www.bit.ly/pilgrimage1123).

Exploring the Bible

Men’s Bible Study meets via Zoom on Tuesday mornings at 7:30 a.m. For Zoom details, email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org). ☼ Matt Helms and Rocky Supinger also invite you to tune in to the their **“Bible Top Ten” podcast** (www.fourthchurch.org/podcasts). This lively, informative, and often amusing podcast explores the Bible through a rotating series of top ten lists.

World mission and social justice

Please stop by Coffee Hour in Anderson Hall today to **meet our refugee family: Paul, Flora, Leila, and Nolan, originally from the Ivory Coast and Cameroon**. Celebrating their one-year anniversary in Chicago, the family continues to welcome our prayers, encouragement, and support as they navigate new beginnings in the US. Interested in learning more about Refugee One, with whom we have cosponsored this family, and **becoming a mentor to a new refugee family**? Contact refugeeproject@fourthchurch.org. ☼ This past week we learned that the city will be using the Selina Hotel next door to the church to **provide shelter during the winter months to those experiencing homelessness**. While the city is still working out the details, we look forward to identifying ways in which we might strategically partner to **help provide services that may be needed by our new neighbors** as part of this important initiative. ☼ Our annual **Meals Ministry Christmas Gift Bag Drive is underway!** This year our goal is to fill 475 bags, which includes an addition of 75 gift bags for children. A list of items needed by December 4 can be found at <https://qrco.de/mealsministry>. We are also in need of 475 McDonald’s gift cards of \$10 each; cards can be dropped off or mailed to the church to the attention of Meals Ministry.

Volunteers needed

Our Legal Affairs Committee is developing a **directory of attorney volunteers** who could consult with Fourth Church from time to time on legal matters. If you would be willing to be included in the directory, email Allison MacDonna (amacdonna@fourthchurch.org) with your interest, noting any particular legal subject matter expertise you may have. ☼ **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. ☼ We need **doctors, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and medical students** to assist with medical services at **Sunday Night Supper**. To learn more, email Mike Usiak (musiak@fourthchurch.org).

Get connected

Books by Women meets this Tuesday, November 14 at 6:00 p.m. in the Bumpus Room to discuss ***Crying in H Mart: A Memoir* by Michelle Zauner**. ✱ **Benevolent Guild**, which creates sewn and crafted items to care for those in need, meets on Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. in Room 5B. *No sewing experience is necessary*. ✱ **Knitting and Crocheting** meets next Sunday, November 19 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 5B. **Women at Fourth** will be gathering next Sunday, November 19 at 11:00 a.m. in Room 5G for a program on “**Nurturing Responsibility in Children: Strategies and Considerations**” led by Dr. Margaret (Peg) Griffiths. Register at www.bit.ly/waf1123 ✱ An in-person workshop on “**You and Your Spiritual Gifts**” will be held on Saturday, December 2 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 5G. To register for this in-person-only opportunity to discover your spiritual gifts and find ways to **connect with the programs and ministries in the church specifically related to your God-given gifts**, sign up at www.bit.ly/spiritualgifts122 ✱ A **Holiday Deep Listening Dinner** will be held Saturday evening, December 2 in Anderson Hall. Register (*required*) at www.bit.ly/holidaylistening23 ✱ 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

Pastoral care and a listening presence and witness

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. ✱ Our **Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being** facilitates **grief groups**. To learn more or add your name to the list for new groups being formed, email Sharon Crawford-Tucker (stucker@fourthchurch.org). ✱ To **explore options for teletherapy or in-person conversations with a counselor**, call the Replogle Center at 312.787.2729, ext. 2260 or visit www.reploglecenter.org

Stay connected

To see all that is going on at Fourth Church, be sure to bookmark our **online church calendar**, accessible from our website’s home page and at fourthchurch.org/calendar ✱ We also invite you to follow us on **YouTube** (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos), **Facebook** (facebook.com/fourthchurch), and **Instagram** (instagram.com/fourthchurch).

Worship Leaders

Matt Helms, Cora Gambell (9:30), Blake Anderson (11:00), Lucy Forster-Smith,
Tom Are Jr.

The Music Today

Morning Choir and Children's Choir (9:30)
Chancel Choir and Youth Choir (11:00)
Laura Supinger, soloist
Katy Sinclair, Children's and Youth Choir Director
Hsing-Huei Huang, Pianist
Michael Rees, Organ Scholar
John W. W. Sherer, Organist and Director of Music

Worship Notes

TODAY'S SECOND HYMN, "What Is the World Like," draws on four parables, including the one in today's Gospel text from Matthew 25: the Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids. Also woven into the hymn are the Parables of the Mustard Seed, the Prodigal Son, and the Good Samaritan.

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

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

Amy Pagliarella Parish Associate for Caring Ministries

John Buchanan Pastor Emeritus

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THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO

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