

November 26, 2023



The Gathering

Communion at 2:00

We Gather.

Call to Worship "There Is a Redeemer" (443)

There is a Redeemer, Jesus, God's own Son;
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.

Refrain:

Thank you, O Creator, for giving us your Son,
and leaving your Spirit till the work on earth is done.

Jesus, my Redeemer, Name above all names,
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Hope for sinners slain. *(Refrain)*

When I stand in glory, I will see God's face;
there I'll serve my King forever in that holy place. *(Refrain)*

**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.

***Song** "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" (Hymnal 367)

Come, ye thankful people, come; raise the song of harvest home.

All is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin.

God, our Maker, doth provide for our wants to be supplied.

Come to God's own temple, come; raise the song of harvest home.

All the world is God's own field, fruit in thankful praise to yield,
wheat and tares together sown, unto joy or sorrow grown.

First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear.

Lord of harvest, grant that we wholesome grain and pure may be.

For the Lord our God shall come, and shall take the harvest home;
from each field shall in that day all offenses purge away;
give the angels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,
but the fruitful ears to store in God's garner evermore.

Even so, Lord, quickly come to thy final harvest home.

Gather thou thy people in, free from sorrow, free from sin,
there forever purified, in thy presence to abide:

come, with all thine angels, come; raise the glorious harvest home!

***Confession and Assurance** *(sung litany)*



***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 Ephesians 1:15–23

Sermon Nancy Benson-Nicol

We Respond.

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 “For the Beauty of the Earth” (Hymnal 14)

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies:

Refrain:

Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light: *(Refrain)*

For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind’s delight,
for the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight: *(Refrain)*

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild: *(Refrain)*

For thyself, best gift divine to the world so freely given;
for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven: *(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 Anthem “Because He Lives” (Bill and Gloria Gaither)

We Go.

***Song** “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee” (Hymnal 611)

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee; earth and heaven reflect thy rays;
stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.

Mortals, join the happy chorus which the morning stars began.
Love divine is reigning o’er us, joining all in heaven’s plan.
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife.
Joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.

***Blessing**

Worship Leaders

Nancy Benson-Nicol

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!

November 26–December 2, 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. we come together 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 **weekly “Rhythm and Word” video series** offers ten minutes of midweek music, scripture, and prayer for viewing at home. A new video is released each Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. on YouTube: www.bit.ly/fpcvideos To receive the videos by email, sign up at www.bit.ly/rhythmandwordemail ✨ Matt Helms and Rocky Supinger invite you to tune in to their **“Bible Top Ten” podcast** which explores the Bible through a series of top ten lists (www.fourthchurch.org/podcasts). ✨ **Men's Bible Study** meets via Zoom on Tuesday mornings at 7:30 a.m. For details, email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org)

Our shared commitment. Our shared work.

If you have not yet made your 2024 Stewardship pledge (www.bit.ly/fpcpledging), please take a moment to do so! **As of this week**, 515 of our households have made a pledge to Fourth Church for next year, with those totaling \$2,076,386 toward our 2024 goal of \$3,000,000. Toward the 2024 Chicago Lights goal of \$750,000, 303 of our households have pledged, in total, \$670,072.80. **Every gift matters in making it possible for us to do together the work that God has called us to do!**

Advent reflections

The season of Advent begins next Sunday, December 3! **Daily Advent devotions** written by Fourth Church members and staff will be available beginning that day as a resource for personal meditation and prayer. We invite you to receive them in your inbox (*subscribe at www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions if you don't already receive our devotions*), read them online (www.fourthchurch.org/devotions), or share them via Facebook (www.facebook.com/fourthchurch).

Sharing Christmas joy

Our **Christmas Wishes project to provide gifts for Chicago Lights Tutoring students** is collecting gift cards to Target, Amazon, Walmart, Starbucks, and McDonald's, along with books. If dropping off cards at the church, please do so by Wednesday, December 6, marking them to the attention of Simon Crow and designating the amount on the card(s). (*We are giving \$25 worth of gift cards to each student.*) For a list of books, contact Simon (scrow@fourthchurch.org). Monetary contributions for gift purchases can also be made to Fourth Church, noting "Christmas Wishes" in the online designation or the check memo line. ✨ Our **Meals Ministry Christmas Gift Bag Drive** is also underway. A list of items needed by Monday, December 4 can be found at <https://qrco.de/mealsministry>. We are also in need of McDonald's gift cards of \$10 each; cards can be dropped off or mailed to the church to the attention of Meals Ministry.

Christmas flowers

We invite you to **remember or honor a loved one with a contribution toward the Christmas flowers**, wreaths, and garlands that will decorate the Sanctuary and Gratz Center. A list of those individuals remembered and honored will be printed in the Christmas bulletin. **Contributions can be made online** at www.bit.ly/fpcgift and must be received by Sunday, December 10 for names to appear in the bulletin. For more information, contact Gloria Vicente (312.252.3571; gvicente@fourthchurch.org).

Advent and Christmas worship

In addition to our Advent worship services on Sundays at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., we also have some special services on the calendar that we hope you will put on yours. Our **Festival of Advent Lessons and Music** service will take place on Sunday, December 10 at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. ✨ This year's **Christmas Cantata**, by Daniel Pinkham, will be part of the Sunday morning services on December 17. ✨ The **"Longest Night" Service**, for those for whom Christmas celebrations are made difficult by loss, grief, or loneliness, will be held on Wednesday, December 20 at 6:30 p.m. Buchanan Chapel. ✨ On the **morning of Sunday, December 24 we will have just one worship service:** at 10:00 a.m. (*which will also be livestreamed*). That afternoon and evening we will gather for the **Christmas Eve Children's Pageant** at 4:00 p.m.; **Family Service** at 6:00 p.m., and **Lessons and Carols** at 8:00 p.m. (*also livestreamed*) and 10:00 p.m. On **Christmas morning** we will gather again at 10:00 a.m. (*in person only*).

Get connected

Knitting and Crocheting meets via Zoom this Tuesday, November 28 at 4:00 p.m. For details, email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org). ✱ **Cornerstones**, a group for those fifty and over, gathers for a **Christmas Carol Sing-Along** led by John Sherer this Friday, December 1. To sign up, register (*required*) by Monday, November 27 at www.bit.ly/cornerstones1223 ✱ An in-person workshop on **"You and Your Spiritual Gifts"** will be held this Saturday, December 2 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 5G. To register for this opportunity to discover your God-given gifts and find ways to **connect with the programs and ministries in the church related to them**, 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 ✱ **"How (Not) to Build a School in Haiti: Conversation with Filmmakers"** will be the topic of an Adult Education class led by Kat Evans next Sunday, December 3 at 11:00 a.m. in Borwell Dining Room and via Zoom. For the link to view the documentary in advance and for the Zoom details, register at www.bit.ly/aehaitidocumentary

Pastoral care and a listening presence

To **talk to a pastor** or **notify pastoral staff** of personal concerns, illnesses, or deaths, please email caringministries@fourthchurch.org; if the situation requires immediate attention, call the church at 312.787.4570. ✱ To **submit a prayer request** to Prayer Ministries, 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**. Email Sharon Crawford-Tucker (stucker@fourthchurch.org) to learn more. ✱ **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



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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