



# Fourth Presbyterian Church

*First Sunday of Advent*

**December 3, 2023 • 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.**

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## Gathering around the Word

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### Prelude

Watchman, Tell Us of the Night . . . . . Healey Willan

An Advent Meditation . . . . . David Lasky

Symphony No. 3 “Reformation” . . . . . Daniel Gawthrop

I – Intrada (Savior of the Nations, Come)

II – Capriccio (“Sleepers, Wake!” A Voice Astounds Us)

### Introit

“Our King and Savior Draweth Nigh” . . . . . Leo Sowerby

*Our King and Savior draweth nigh; O come, let us adore him.*

### \*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.<sup>†</sup> Amen.

### \*Call to Worship

One: *The prophet Zechariah said that the rising sun will come to dispel the dark night.*

All: In this Advent season, we wait for the light to shine in the darkness.

One: *Zechariah also promised that God will guide the people into the path of peace.*

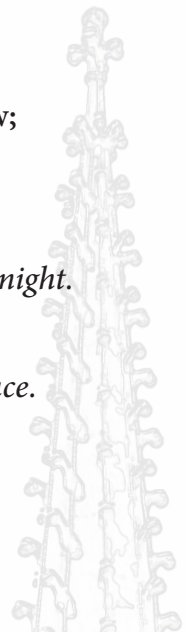
All: In this Advent season, we trust the promise of God’s peace.

One: *We know the promise is true: Jesus is coming!*

All: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. Let us worship God!

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



**\*Hymn 347** . . . . . “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;  
ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in his hand  
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood,  
Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood,  
he will give to all the faithful his own self for heavenly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way,  
as the Light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day,  
that the powers of hell may vanish as the shadows clear away.

At his feet the six-winged seraph, cherubim, with sleepless eye,  
veil their faces to the presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry,  
“Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Lord most high!

**Prayer of Confession and Lighting of the Advent Wreath** (*unison*)

God of the future, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule.

We confess that we have not expected your kingdom,  
for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment.

We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth,  
and refuse your justice and peace.

In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way  
and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world in love. Amen.

**\*Hymn 88** (*verse 1*) . . . . . “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

**Declaration of Pardon**

One: *Believe this 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**

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### **Listening for the Word**

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## **Prayer for Illumination**

**Psalter** . . . . . Psalm 80:1–7

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

All: Thanks be to God.

## **\*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.

**Scripture Reading** . . . . . Mark 13:24–37

One: *Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.*

All: Thanks be to God.

## **Sermon**

It Has Always Been True . . . . . Tom Are Jr.

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

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## Responding to the Word

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**\*Hymn 384.** . . . . . “Soon and Very Soon”

Soon and very soon we are going to see the King.

Soon and very soon we are going to see the King.

Soon and very soon we are going to see the King.

Hallelujah, hallelujah, we’re going to see the King!

No more crying there: we are going to see the King.

No more crying there: we are going to see the King.

No more crying there: we are going to see the King.

Hallelujah, hallelujah, we’re going to see the King!

No more dying there: we are going to see the King.

No more dying there: we are going to see the King.

No more dying there: we are going to see the King.

Hallelujah, hallelujah, we’re going to see the King!

Soon and very soon we are going to see the King.

Soon and very soon we are going to see the King.

Soon and very soon we are going to see the King.

Hallelujah, hallelujah, we’re going to see the King!

**\*Affirmation of Faith** (*unison*) . . . . . from the Nicene Creed

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,

God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,

begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;

through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,

and his kingdom will have no end. Amen.

## Call to Offering

### Offertory Anthem

“Lift Up Your Heads, O Ye Gates” . . . . . William Mathias  
*Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lifted up ye everlasting doors, and the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle. The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.*

**\*Offertory Response.** . . . . . Hymn 144, verse 4

What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a wise man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

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## Sealing the Word

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### THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

#### Invitation

#### Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

Leader: *The Lord be with you.*

People: And also with you.

Leader: *Lift up your hearts.*

People: We will lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: *Let us give thanks to God.*

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

#### Prayer

Leader: *Blessed are you, strong and faithful God . . .*

*. . . with all the powers of heaven and earth, we sing the ageless hymn of your glory:*

**Sanctus** (*sung*) . . . . . The Hymnal, 565

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.†

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

*Leader: Blessed are you, God of every age. . .*

*. . . We join with angels in singing the timeless hymn of praise:*

**Memorial Acclamation** (*sung*) . . . . . The Hymnal, 566

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again. (*repeat*)

### **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.

### **The Communion**

#### **Communion Anthems**

"The Eyes of All Wait upon Thee" . . . . . Jean Berger

*The eyes of all wait upon thee, and thou givest them their meat in due season.*

*Thou openest thine hand and satisfiest the desires of every living thing.*

"I Shall See" . . . . . Michael John Trotta

*Teach me your way; lead me in a straight path. One thing I seek; I seek to dwell in your house.*

*Your face I seek, hide not from me. You are my light, whom should I fear? In times of trouble  
he shall hide me. I will not fear, he is my strength. I believe I shall see all of your good in the land  
of the living. Wait upon him and he will strengthen you. Wait for him, he is your strength.*

*I will not fear, he is my strength.*

#### **Psalm 23** (*unison*)

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want;

he maketh me to lie down in green pastures;

he leadeth me beside the still waters; he restoreth my soul.

He leadeth me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies;

thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life;

and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

**\*Prayer after Communion** (*unison*)

We have come to this table, graced with symbols of your love, O God.  
Yours is a love that seeks us out and welcomes us home.  
We go from your table, Blessed One,  
nourished and renewed for the journey of faith that awaits.  
Our song is one of joy, our hope is unfailing, our spirit is refreshed,  
because you continue to lead us to your promised day.  
In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

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Bearing the Word into the World

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**\*Hymn 357** . . . . . “The Days Are Surely Coming”

The days are surely coming, says God to all the earth,  
when you will see my promise: salvation come to birth.  
My righteousness and justice will spread throughout the land  
and you will be delivered by my almighty hand.

The days are surely coming, says Christ, the promised one,  
when you will read my warning in moon and stars and sun.  
Though earth and heaven tremble, stand up and do not fear,  
for I am your redeemer, and I am drawing near.

The days are surely coming when we will know at last  
the fullness of God’s presence, God’s promise, come to pass.  
Then righteousness and justice will spread throughout the land  
and we will be delivered by God’s almighty hand.

**\*Charge and Benediction**

**Postlude**

“Sleepers, Wake!” A Voice Astounds Us . . . . . Sigfrid Karg-Elert

# You are invited!

December 3–December 9, 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 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](http://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](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.).

## Advent reflections

**The season of Advent begins today! Daily Advent devotions**, written by Fourth Church members and staff and **based on Advent hymn texts**, are available as a **resource for personal meditation and prayer**. We invite you to receive them in your inbox (*subscribe at [www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions](http://www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions) if you don't already receive our devotions*), read them online (*[www.fourthchurch.org/devotions](http://www.fourthchurch.org/devotions)*), or share them via Facebook (*[www.facebook.com/fourthchurch](https://www.facebook.com/fourthchurch)*). ✱ Our **Advent “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. To receive the videos by email, sign up at [www.bit.ly/rhythmmandwordemail](http://www.bit.ly/rhythmmandwordemail); you can also subscribe to our YouTube channel (*[www.bit.ly/fpcvideos](http://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](http://www.bit.ly/newsfromfpc)

## Sharing Christmas joy

A list of items needed by this **Monday, December 4** for our **Meals Ministry Christmas Gift Bag Drive** can be found on the church website ([www.fourthchurch.org](http://www.fourthchurch.org)). The drive is in need of McDonald's gift cards of \$10 each as well; cards can be dropped off or mailed to the church to the attention of Meals Ministry. ✨ Also on the church website is a list of books needed by this **Wednesday, December 6** for our **Christmas Wishes project to provide gifts for Chicago Lights Tutoring students**. Additionally we are collecting gift cards for Target, Amazon, Walmart, Starbucks, and McDonald's and welcome monetary contributions (*designated "Christmas Wishes"*) towards purchase of these gifts. Books and gift cards dropped off at the church for Christmas Wishes should be marked to the attention of Simon Crow. For details, see the website. ✨ Our annual **"Light Up a Life"** offering is being received throughout the Advent and Christmas seasons. Gifts to this offering provide funds for Fourth Church programs that support our neighbors and congregation; for Chicago Lights, as it extends kindness and love to those who are most vulnerable; and for the Presbyterian Church (USA) Joy Offering. You can make a gift to "Light Up a Life" by indicating that designation (*when giving online via Venmo or the church website: [www.fourthchurch.org/give](http://www.fourthchurch.org/give)*) or on the memo line of a check payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church. Those worshipping in the Sanctuary can also use the offering envelopes found in the pew racks.

## 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](http://www.bit.ly/fpcgift) and must be received by next Sunday, December 10 for names to appear in the bulletin. For more information, contact Gloria Vicente (312.252.3571; [gvicente@fourthchurch.org](mailto:gvicente@fourthchurch.org)).

## Advent and Christmas worship

In addition to our worship services on Sundays at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., we 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 next Sunday, December 10 at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. ✨ On Sunday, December 17 the **Cookies-and-Cocoa reception** will take place during Coffee Hour, and the **Christmas Cantata**, by Daniel Pinkham, will be part of the morning services. ✨ For those for whom Christmas celebrations are made difficult by loss, grief, or loneliness, a **"Longest Night" Service** will be held on Wednesday, December 20 at 6:30 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel, preceded by a **labyrinth walk** in Anderson Hall. ✨ On the **morning of Sunday, December 24 we will have just one worship service: at 10:00 a.m.** (*which will also be livestreamed*). Then 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*).

## Today's opportunities

**"How (Not) to Build a School in Haiti: Conversation with Filmmakers"** is the topic of today's Adult Education class taking place at 11:00 a.m. in Borwell Dining Room and via Zoom (*for details register at [www.bit.ly/aehaitidocumentary](http://www.bit.ly/aehaitidocumentary)*). ✳ 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, features a breadth of musical expressions.

## Coming up this week

**Knitting and Crocheting** meets this Tuesday, December 5 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 5B. ✳ A **Chanticleer Christmas** takes place Tuesday and Wednesday, December 5 and 6 at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary (*for tickets, see [www.cso.org](http://www.cso.org)*). ✳ **Benevolent Guild** meets Wednesday, December 6 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 5B. ✳ An opening reception for the **art exhibition "Light in the Darkness,"** featuring the work of Jan Brandt and Amy Hanks, will be held this Friday, December 8 at 5:00 p.m. in the Loggia. ✳ On Friday, December 8, **Chicago a cappella** will perform **Holidays a cappella** at 7:30 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel (*for tickets, see [chicagoacappella.org](http://chicagoacappella.org)*). ✳ **LGBTQIA+ Widen Our Welcome** meets for brunch and games following the 9:30 a.m. service next Sunday, December 10. ✳ **"Conserving Historic Murals by Frederic Clay Bartlett: A Primer in Art Conservation"** will be the topic of a presentation Sunday, December 10 at 11:00 a.m. in Borwell Dining Room and via Zoom (*for the Zoom link, register at [www.bit.ly/aebartlett](http://www.bit.ly/aebartlett)*). ✳ 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](http://fourthchurch.org)**

## Our shared commitment. Our shared work.

If you have not yet made your **2024 Stewardship pledge** ([www.bit.ly/fpcpledging](http://www.bit.ly/fpcpledging)), please take a moment to do so to **help us reach our congregational goals!** As of this week, 562 of our households have made a pledge to Fourth Church for next year, with those totaling \$2,222,841, or **74 percent of our 2024 goal** of \$3,000,000. We are 93 percent of the way toward the 2024 Chicago Lights goal of \$750,000, with 324 of our households having pledged, in total, \$693,993.

## Pastoral care and a listening presence and witness

To **talk to a pastor** or **notify pastoral staff** of personal concerns, illnesses, hospitalizations, or deaths, 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. ✳ Our **Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being** facilitates **grief groups**. For details, email Sharon Crawford-Tucker ([stucker@fourthchurch.org](mailto:stucker@fourthchurch.org)). ✳ **To explore options for counseling**, call the Replogle Center at 312.787.2729, ext. 2260. ✳ **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.

## Worship Leaders

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Lucy Forster-Smith, the Gambell Family (9:30), the Celestino/Ugiyue family (11:00), Rocky Supinger, Tom Are Jr.

## The Music Today

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Morning Choir (9:30); Chancel Choir (11:00)

Michael Rees, Organ Scholar

John W. W. Sherer, Organist and Director of Music

## Worship Notes

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TODAY WE CELEBRATE THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER. The invitation to the table is not just for Presbyterians or "members of the church." Even those who doubt or whose trust is wavering are invited to partake of the Lord's Supper, in which we are assured of God's love and grace.

Those who are worshipping with us from home are encouraged to have bread and juice on hand so that we might share in this meal together, wherever we are.

THE TEXT OF THIS MORNING'S OPENING HYMN is one of the oldest in our hymnal. Written in the fourth century in Jerusalem, it was sung during the presentation of the bread and cup and was originally called "Prayer of the Cherubic Hymn." The text was set to a French folk tune in 1860 and published in France. It was then included in the English Hymnal of 1906 in its present form arranged by Ralph Vaughan Williams.

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

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**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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[www.fourthchurch.org](http://www.fourthchurch.org) [www.facebook.com/fourthchurch](https://www.facebook.com/fourthchurch)

312.787.4570 Voicemail: 312.787.2729 Fax: 312.787.4584

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