

June 16, 2024



The Gathering

Communion at 2:00

We Gather.

Gathering Music

Song "All Creatures of Our God and King" (Hymnal 15, v. 1, 4, 6)

All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us sing,

Alleluia! Alleluia!

O brother sun with golden beam, O sister moon with silver gleam,

sing praises! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

All who for love of God forgive, all who in pain or sorrow grieve,

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Christ bears your burdens and your fears; so, even in the midst of tears,

sing praises! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

O sisters, brothers, take your part, and worship God with humble heart.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

All creatures, bless the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Three in One!

Sing praises! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Psalm Psalm 92:1–4, 12–15

**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 "Every Praise"

Every praise is to our God;
every word of worship, with one accord;
every praise, every praise is to our God.

Sing hallelujah to our God.
Glory hallelujah is due our God;
every praise, every praise is to our God

[Bridge]

God my Savior, God my Healer, God my Deliverer.
Yes, he is! Yes, he is!

[Ending]

Every praise, every praise ...
Every praise, every praise ...
Every praise, every praise is to our God

***Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Song "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.

We Hear.

Scripture Reading Isaiah 40:28–31

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 online at www.fourthchurch.org/give or via Venmo (@Fourth-Church)

Song “Showers of Blessing”

**There shall be showers of blessing:
this is the promise of love;
there shall be seasons refreshing,
sent from the Savior above. (Refrain)**

Refrain:

**Showers of blessing,
showers of blessing we need:
mercy-drops round us are falling,
but for the showers we plead.**

**There shall be showers of blessing:
O that today they might fall,
now as to God we’re confessing,
now as on Jesus we call! (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 "Meditation and Oseh Shalom" (Malcolm Singer)

We Go.

*Song "Peace Like a River (Hymnal 623)

I've got peace like a river; I've got peace like a river;
I've got peace like a river, in my soul.
I've got peace like a river; I've got peace like a river;
I've got peace like a river, in my soul.

I've got joy like a fountain . . .
I've got love like an ocean . . .

*Blessing

Worship Leader

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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Commemorating and Celebrating Juneteenth

Fourth Presbyterian Church's Racial Equity Council invites the whole congregation to embrace and join in the commemoration and celebration of Juneteenth.

Juneteenth is a time for celebration. Many people celebrate with family reunions and backyard parties. Many cities hold street fairs with music and dancing. Museums have special exhibits. The Racial Equity Council invites everyone to mark this holiday in their own way, which could be by visiting the websites of museums to learn more about African American history or by shopping at Black-owned businesses. The DuSable Black History Museum, the National Museum of African American History and Culture, and the International African American Museum are three good places to start. Links for two Chicago Juneteenth events being held on Wednesday, June 19 are also listed here:

- The DuSable Museum Juneteenth Celebration, honoring Black creativity and expression, with live performances, food, shopping, exhibits and much more, from 10:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. June 19 at 740 E. 56th Place. Details: www.dusablemuseum.org
- Juneteenth Freedom Market, an all-ages celebration of Black creativity and entrepreneurship, from 4:00 to 10:00 p.m. June 19, Free (\$10 donations appreciated) at The Salt Shed, 1357 Elston Ave. qrco.de/salt-shed
- To support minority-owned businesses, peruse the vendors on Refine Collective: www.refinecltv.com

Juneteenth is also a time of reflection. To widen and deepen the celebration of this day by all members of Fourth Church, the Racial Equity Council presents this brief history and context:

Though the Emancipation Proclamation was issued January 1, 1863, it was not until more than two years later that the people of Texas, the most remote state of the former Confederacy, first learned of freedom for enslaved people, which they did when Union soldiers, following the end of the Civil War, traveled to Galveston where the pronouncement was publicly read on June 19, 1865. Celebrations of Juneteenth started in Texas, which declared Juneteenth a state holiday starting in 1980. By 2019, forty-seven states recognized Juneteenth, and it became a federal holiday in 2021.

In the immediate post-Civil War era, there was much hope that the formerly enslaved people would finally have peaceful and free lives. Families tried to reunite. The granting of land by the federal government promised to provide a means to live, and African American men were given the right to vote. During Reconstruction, 16 African Americans were elected to the U.S. Congress, 600 to state legislatures, and hundreds more to local offices. However, the backlash against these changes was swift, widespread, and ruthless. The land grants were taken back within a year. African Americans were depicted as little more than savages while Ku Klux Klansmen were depicted as saviors, as famously portrayed in the 1915 film *The Birth of a Nation*. Lynchings, Black Codes, and Jim Crow laws that only applied or were only enforced against Black people kept the formerly enslaved people subservient.

Fourth Presbyterian Church is committed to racial equity, the purposeful inclusion of all people, the striving for radical hospitality, and the modeling of anti-racism. As we strive to be an anti-racist church, our observance of Juneteenth comes with the sobering recognition that racism is still a powerful force in our country. Persistent and pervasive racist practices have created social injustices that have enduring repercussions in our society. Extensive racial property covenants in existence during the lifetimes of many of our members have left a legacy of profound segregation in our city that is visible to all today. Throughout our nation there is an increase of voter suppression laws, disproportionate incarceration and more severe sentencing of Black people, violent policing in Black and Brown neighborhoods, and unequal application of medical support and health care for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC). In the face of all these things, Fourth Church remains committed to anti-racism.

Anti-racism goes beyond diversity; it is a spiritual practice of self-reflection that examines how we individually live out the truth that God created humanity in God's own image. This Juneteenth, let us redouble our efforts at building unity, mutual care and compassion, honoring our shared identity as children of God, and celebrating the gift of our exuberant diversity.



You belong here!

This may be your first time in worship at Fourth Presbyterian Church, or perhaps you worship here so often you call Fourth Church “home”; in either case, **we are grateful for your presence** today. Inspired by the radical hospitality of Jesus Christ, we welcome everyone—without exception—into the life of this congregation. No matter where you may be in your faith journey, no matter what questions or burdens you may bring to this place, we take seriously that God loves everyone, so you belong here.

Every Sunday we read the old biblical stories and sing hymns (some of which our grandparents sang), while also engaging the world we live in this minute through liturgy, prayers, and sermons. **By connecting the story of our lives to the story of Christ’s life**, we discover hope and even joy, and are inspired to reflect the light of Christ to the city.

If you are new to us, stick around after worship. Join us for Coffee Hour, or speak to one of our pastors. We have many programs to expand your spirit and enrich your life. We would love to tell you more. **Give us a try; soon you too might be calling Fourth Church “home.”**

Worshipping in Person at Fourth Church

Each Sunday our worshipping body is a wonderful mix of those online, on the phone, and in the pews. If you like to worship with us in person, **during the summer we gather on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.**

Entering the building

A half hour prior to each service the doors open for worship, with 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*) as well as at 126 E. Chestnut—where the reception desk is located—and 115 E. Delaware.

Sound

- Worship can be heard through “T” or “T-coil” settings of hearing aids.
- Please silence electronic devices during worship.

Parking

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*) for \$10 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Validation tickets for the garages must be picked up from ushers.

Ensure you receive the latest updates, stories, and snapshots from Fourth Church by adding your email address to our distribution list. Simply sign up at www.bit.ly/newsfromfpc

Get Connected

Bible studies

Men's Bible Study, which focuses on Sunday's scripture readings from the pulpit, meets weekly on Tuesdays at 7:30 a.m.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer's *Life Together* is the focus of this summer's monthly Women's Bible Study, which next meets via Zoom on Wednesday, July 10 at 6:30 p.m.

For Zoom details for either study, email Nanette Sawyer (nsawyer@fourthchurch.org).

Pride breakfast

You are invited to the Pride Breakfast "Why We Celebrate—and Keep On Keeping On" hosted on Sunday, June 23 at 11:30 a.m. in Borwell Dining Room by Fourth Church's LGBTQIA+ Widen Our Welcome (WOW) group. To ensure we have plenty of food, please register at bit.ly/wow624

Pride parade

On Sunday, June 30 at 11:00 a.m. we will walk in the Pride Parade along with fellow members of the Chicago Coalition of Welcoming Churches. Because the number of walking slots allocated to Fourth Church is limited, if you would like to join us at the parade, please reach out to Nanette Sawyer (nsawyer@fourthchurch.org) to put your name on the list of interested walkers.

Knitting and Crocheting

Knitting and Crocheting meets via Zoom on Tuesday, June 25 at 4:00 p.m. Email Nanette Sawyer (nsawyer@fourthchurch.org) for details.

Women at Fourth Paint-and-Sip

Join Women at Fourth on Thursday, June 27 when they gather at 5:30 p.m. in Borwell Dining Room for Paint-and-Sip, a fun-filled evening of painting with a professional artist while enjoying fellowship, snacks, and drinks. Space is limited, so RSVP early at bit.ly/waf62024

Walk for peace

Our World Mission and Social Justice Council invites you to join them for this summer's Friday night Peace Walks at Saint Sabina Church in the Auburn Gresham neighborhood. We will be walking on Fridays, June 28, July 12, August 2, and August 16. To learn more, email Nancy Davis (ndavis@fourthchurch.org).

Civil rights pilgrimage

Fourth Church is cosponsoring an October 18–27 Civil Rights Trail Pilgrimage to New Orleans, Jackson, Montgomery, and Birmingham. To learn more about this opportunity, see the trip description at bit.ly/civilrightstrailinfo2024

Caring for One Another

Stephen Ministry

For those facing life's challenges, Stephen Ministers provide a listening presence. To talk with a Stephen Minister, leave a confidential message at 312.573.3365.

Prayer requests and pastoral care

To submit a prayer request to our Deacon and Morning Prayer Ministries, please email Gloria Fleming (gffleming@fourthchurch.org).

Also email Gloria if you would like to talk to a pastor or notify pastoral staff of personal concerns, illnesses, hospitalizations, or deaths; if the situation requires immediate attention, please call the church at 312.787.4570 to be connected to the Minister on Call.

Counseling and well-being

To explore options for counseling or well-being offerings, including our grief groups, call our Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being at 312.787.2729, ext. 2260 or visit reploglecenter.org

“Rhythm and Word”

This summer we invite you to pause midweek to reflect on the theme of renewal, as explored by Rocky Supinger and the Gathering musicians in our June “Rhythm and Word” videos. These ten minutes of music, scripture, and prayer are released on Wednesdays. To receive them in your inbox, sign up at bit.ly/rhythmmandword; to receive notice of them via YouTube, subscribe to our channel: bit.ly/fpcvideos

Honoring John Sherer

Next Sunday, June 23 will be John Sherer’s last Sunday as our Organist and Director of Music Director. Join us as we give thanks for his ministry among us!

- Friday, June 21 at 7:00 p.m.: John plays an Organ Recital (also livestreamed).
- Sunday, June 23 at 10:00 a.m.: John’s last Sunday leading us in worship music. If you would like to sing with the choir that day, please come for an 8:45 a.m. rehearsal that morning. After worship we will gather for a festive Coffee Hour in John’s honor.

Gifts in honor of John

We invite you to make a gift in honor of John’s dedicated leadership of music ministry at Fourth Church. Gifts given in honor of John will support key areas of this ministry, including the Director of Music and Organ Scholar positions as well as the Morning Choir. Gifts can be made online at bit.ly/jwwshonorgift

Memory book

As an expression of gratitude for John Sherer and his ministry among us, we invite you to share your well-wishes, notes, photos, and thank-yous with John through our online memory book at bit.ly/sherermemories

Stay Connected

You can find details about ways to connect with one another and this congregation as well as discover various resources and opportunities on our website: fourthchurch.org

Weekly newsletter

Look for information, updates, and snapshots of life at Fourth Church in our weekly email newsletter. Subscribe at bit.ly/newsfromfpc and visit our news archive at fourthchurch.org/news

Tom Are Jr. Interim 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



Fourth Presbyterian Church • 126 E. Chestnut Street, Chicago, IL 60611.2014 • 312.787.4570 • www.fourthchurch.org

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