



Fourth Presbyterian Church

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

June 30, 2024 • 10:00 a.m.

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Psalm Interpretations Emma Lou Diemer

Psalm 127: “Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain”

Psalm 130: “Out of the depths I cry to thee, O Lord!”

Psalm 91: “Those who dwell in the shelter of the Most High”

Psalm 128: “Blessed is everyone who fears the Lord, who walks in his ways!”

Introit

“Christ Is Our Cornerstone” John Darwall / arr. Theodore Hoelty-Nickel

Christ is our cornerstone, on him alone we build; with his true saints alone the courts of heaven are filled. On his great love our hopes we place of present grace and joys above.

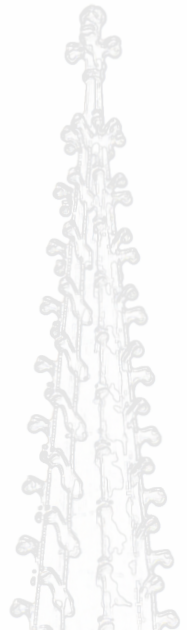
*Doxology

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

*One: Children of God, as we gather for worship today, listen!
God calls us to open our hearts and our hands
to one another in need and in abundance.*

All: May our worship open our hearts and our hands
as we learn to share with one another in all seasons,
for we are all one in the body of Christ. Amen.



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

***Hymn 343.** “Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life”

Where cross the crowded ways of life, where sound the cries of race and clan,
above the noise of selfish strife, we hear your voice, O Son of Man.

In haunts of wretchedness and need, on shadowed thresholds fraught with fears,
from paths where hide the lures of greed, we catch the vision of your tears.

From tender childhood’s helplessness, from human grief and burdened toil,
from famished souls, from sorrow’s stress, your heart has never known recoil.

The cup of water given for you still holds the freshness of your grace;
yet long these multitudes to view the sweet compassion of your face.

O Master, from the mountainside, make haste to heal these hearts of pain;
among these restless throngs abide; O tread the city’s streets again;

Till all the world shall learn your love, and follow where your feet have trod;
till glorious from your heaven above shall come the city of our God.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Bountiful God,
We fill our lives with the fear of scarcity,
assuming there is not enough money, time, patience, or love.

We turn away when a stranger asks for nourishment,
claiming there isn’t enough even for ourselves.

Forgive us when we doubt your abundance
and ignore the possibilities in what we have been given.

Open our eyes to the wonders that surround us.

Help us surrender to the loving embrace that enfolds us. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

One: *Friends, believe the good news.*
All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

***Sharing the Peace of Christ**

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 text or email someone to let them know you are thinking of them.

Welcome and Announcements

Please take a moment to let us know you are with us today! There are information pads in the pews for those in the Sanctuary and a digital form (use the link or QR code on screen) for those online.

Anthem

“Shall We Gather at the River?” Robert Lowry/arr. Heather Graves
Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod, with its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God? Yes, we’ll gather at the river, the beautiful river, gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God. Here we part from one another, I’m leaving strife and sorrow, soon I’ll reach that shining harbour, walking tall into tomorrow.

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson James 1:22–25

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.

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

Second Lesson Luke 10:25–37

One: *The grass withers, and the flower fades,*
All: but the word of our God shall stand forever.

Sermon

The Right Question Makes All the Difference Tom Are Jr.

Responding to the Word

***Hymn 63.** “The Lord Is Good”

The Lord is God, the Lord alone! Give honor, thanks, and praise
to God, the maker of all things and giver of our days.
With all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and might,
O people, love the Lord your God, the source of truth and light.
At night or day, at home, away, together and apart,
O children, take these holy words and keep them in your heart.
The Lord is God, the Lord alone! Give honor, thanks, and praise
to God, the maker of all things and giver of our days.

Affirmation of Faith *from A Brief Statement of Faith*

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.
In sovereign love God created the world good
and makes everyone equally in God’s image,
male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community.
In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah
chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth.
Hearing their cry,
God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage.
Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.
Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,
God is faithful still. 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.

Offering

Offertory Anthem

"This Little Light of Mine" African American Spiritual/arr. John Leavitt
*This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine; all the time, let it shine, hallelujah! Everywhere I go,
I'm gonna let it shine, O children, everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine, hallelujah!*

***Offertory Response.** Hymn 717

For the life that you have given, for the love in Christ made known,
 with these fruits of time and labor, with these gifts that are your own:
 here we offer, Lord, our praises; heart and mind and strength we bring;
 give us grace to love and serve you, living what we pray and sing.

*Prayer of Dedication

Loving God, as we bring our offerings, we bring also a renewed commitment
 to interrupting prejudice and practicing solidarity.
We press on together until people of every sexual orientation and gender identity
 can live freely and without fear,
 receiving the love and support all people deserve. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

***Hymn 707** “Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord”

Take thou our minds, dear Lord, we humbly pray;
give us the mind of Christ each passing day;
teach us to know the truth that sets us free;
grant us in all our thoughts to honor thee.

Take thou our hearts, O Christ; they are thine own;
come thou within our souls and claim thy throne;
help us to shed abroad thy deathless love;
use us to make the earth like heaven above.

Take thou our wills, Most High! Hold thou full sway;
have in our inmost souls thy perfect way;
guard thou each sacred hour from selfish ease;
guide thou our ordered lives as thou dost please.

Take thou ourselves, O Lord, heart, mind, and will;
through our surrendered souls thy plans fulfill.
We yield ourselves to thee: time, talents, all;
we hear, and henceforth heed, thy sovereign call.

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

Fanfare Percy Whitlock

About Today's Sermon

“Who is my neighbor?” It’s an important question, and an old question as well.

We can all develop the criteria to answer that question.

It is worth noting, however, that it is not a question Jesus is interested in.

He asks, “Who was the neighbor?” Notice the difference?



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.”**

Worshiping in Person at Fourth Church

Each Sunday our worshiping body is a wonderful mix of those online, on the phone, and in the pews. If you like to worship with us in person, **throughout 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.

Worshipping Online

We livestream our 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. services on our YouTube channel: bit.ly/fpcvideos

Accessing the services

Worship can be viewed anytime 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

Online extras

Links to make an online offering gift, view or print the worship bulletin, and more can be found in the descriptive text below the worship video (*after exiting full screen*) as well as on our website.

For those without Internet

Those without Internet access are invited to listen via phone by calling 888.916.9166 at 10:00 a.m.

Let Us Know You're Here

We are grateful to be worshipping with you today and would welcome knowing you are here. Please take a moment to fill out an information form.

In person

Those worshipping with us in person are asked to add their names to the pads in the pews, passing the pads to the center of the row and then back again so worshipers have opportunity to greet one another by name following worship. Please also indicate if your contact information has changed.

Online

Those worshipping via livestream will find a link to the online form included in the descriptive text below the video (*after exiting full-screen view*); a QR code is also displayed during the “Welcome” that can be scanned with a phone camera to take you to the form.

Children in Worship

Children in worship

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.

Nursery care

During the morning service nursery care is available on the fourth floor of the Gratz Center for infants through two-year-olds.

Sunday Opportunities

Sunday school

Summer Sunday school meets at 10:00 a.m. in Room 4D for three-year-olds through fifth graders.

An invitation to Coffee Hour

If you are worshipping with us in person, please take a moment to stop by Anderson Hall following the service to join us for Pride Coffee Hour, hosted by our LGBTQIA+ WOW (Widen Our Welcome) group. You will find opportunity there to greet one another and learn about ways to connect with Fourth Church and each other.

Praying with a Deacon

If you would like to offer individual prayers of praise or concern with a Deacon today, you are invited to do so in Stone Chapel (*through the door to the right of the pulpit*) following worship.

Afternoon worship service

We invite you to join us for The Gathering: Communion at 2:00, a casual, intimate service. Beena David and the Gathering Ensemble lead our music; Nancy Benson-Nicol will be preaching.

Celebrating Pride Month

The Pride flag and rainbow ribbons along Michigan Avenue bear public witness to the inclusive hospitality we extend to all and to our welcome of all of God's children into the life of the church. As further witness, this morning a group from Fourth Church is walking in the Pride Parade along with fellow members of the Chicago Coalition of Welcoming Churches.

Caring for One Another

Prayer requests and pastoral care

To submit a prayer request to our Prayer Ministries, please email Gloria Fleming (gffleming@fourthchurch.org). Also email Gloria if you would like to talk to a pastor or notify them 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.

Wednesday Morning Prayer

We gather via Zoom on Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. for Morning Prayer. Email Nancy Benson-Nicol (nbenson-nicol@fourthchurch.org) for details.

Our next monthly in-person Morning Prayer, which will not take place in July, will be on Wednesday, August 7 at 10:00 a.m.

A listening presence

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.

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

Get Connected

Civil rights pilgrimage

This Monday, July 1 is the deadline to sign up for our October Civil Rights Trail Pilgrimage. For details, see bit.ly/civilrightstrailinfo2024

Bible studies

Men's Bible Study meets on Tuesdays at 7:30 a.m. via Zoom. Women's Bible Study meets via Zoom on Wednesday, July 10 at 6:30 p.m. Email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org) for details.

Knitting and Crocheting

Knitting and Crocheting meets on Tuesday, July 2 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 5B.

Music by the Fountain

Our free Friday Noonday concert series moves outside during July and August! The Music by the Fountain concerts begin this Friday, July 5 at 12:10 p.m. in the Michigan Avenue courtyard.

Sermon discussion

Next Sunday, July 7, join us at 11:10 a.m. in Borwell Dining Room for a discussion of the day's sermon. This time of table conversation provides opportunity to deepen our understanding of the text and sermon topic by listening to what others have heard. It is also an occasion to build fellowship with one another.

CLL summer session

The summer session of Center for Life and Learning programming for adults sixty and over begins on Monday, July 8. Learn more and register at fourthchurch.org/cll

Church picnic

You're invited to a church picnic! Join us for food and fellowship on Sunday, July 14 in our Michigan Avenue courtyard following the morning service.

Calendar for June 30–July 6

Sunday, June 30	All day	Senior High Mission Trip	Youngstown, NY
	10:00 a.m.	Worship	Sanctuary / Online
	10:00 to 11:15 a.m.	Infants/Parents Comfort Room	Hospitality Suite
	10:00 to 11:15 a.m.	Nursery Room 4A
	10:00 a.m.	Summer Sunday School	Room 4D
	11:00 a.m.	A Time of Prayer	Stone Chapel
	11:00 a.m.	Coffee Hour	Anderson Hall
	11:15 a.m.	Organ Tour	Sanctuary
	11:15 a.m.	World Mission Social Justice Council.....	Room 5E
	2:00 p.m.	The Gathering: Communion at 2:00	Sanctuary / Online
	3:00 p.m.	Coffee Hour	Narthex
	4:00 p.m.	Sunday Night Supper (until 5:30)	Anderson Hall
	4:00 p.m.	Meals Ministry Medical Service	Borwell Dining Room

Monday, July 1	All day	Senior High Mission Trip	Youngstown, NY
	8:30 a.m.	Summer Day	Room 5C

Tuesday, July 2	All day	Senior High Mission Trip	Youngstown, NY
	7:30 a.m.	Men's Bible Study	Zoom
	7:30 a.m.	Summer Day	Borwell Dining Room
	7:45 a.m.	Sacred Pause	Online
	8:30 a.m.	Summer Day	Room 5C
	9:30 a.m.	Social Service Center Drop-Ins	Morse Lounge
	10:00 a.m.	Knitting and Crocheting.....	Room 4F
	11:30 a.m.	Meals Ministry Bag Lunch	Anderson Hall
	1:00 p.m.	English as a Second Language	Morse Conference Room
	1:00 to 3:00 p.m.	Labyrinth Available to Walk	Buchanan Chapel
	1:00 p.m.	Shower Ministry	Showers
	6:00 p.m.	AA Meeting	Room 4F

Wednesday, July 3	8:30 a.m.	Summer Day	Room 5C
	9:00 a.m.	Meals Ministry Sandwich-Making	Parish House Kitchen
	9:30 a.m.	Social Service Center Drop-Ins	Morse Lounge
	9:30 a.m.	Morning Prayer (via Zoom)	Zoom
	11:30 a.m.	Meals Ministry Bag Lunch	Anderson Hall
	1:00 p.m.	English as a Second Language	Morse Conference Room
	1:00 to 3:00 p.m.	Labyrinth Available to Walk	Buchanan Chapel
	6:00 p.m.	AA: LGBTQIA+	Room 4E

Calendar for June 30–July 6

Thursday, July 4 • Independence Day • Church Offices and Campus Closed

Friday, July 5 9:30 a.m. Social Service Center Drop-Ins Morse Lounge
12:10 p.m. Music by the Fountain Garth

Saturday, July 6 8:30 a.m. Sacred Pause Online
(No other events are scheduled for Saturday)

Stay Connected with Fourth Church!

You can find details about ways to connect with one another and
this congregation—whether in person or online—
as well as discover resources and opportunities at 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

YouTube, Facebook, and Instagram

We invite you to follow us on various platforms.

- YouTube: bit.ly/fpcvideos
- Facebook: facebook.com/fourthchurch
- Instagram: instagram.com/fourthchurch

Preaching on Sunday, July 7

10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. • Tom Are Jr.

Worship Leaders

Nancy Benson-Nicol, Marcus Mason, Joseph L. Morrow, Tom Are Jr.

The Music Today

Men's Choir; Craig Palmer, soloist

Michael Rees, Acting Director of Music

Worship Notes

THE PRELUDE this morning is selected from several volumes of "psalm interpretations" by Emma Lou Diemer, longtime professor of composition and theory at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Among her wide range of compositions for organ, choir, orchestra, and many other instrumentations are these pieces that reflect the spirit of verses from selected psalms. Dr. Diemer died four weeks ago today at the age of ninety-six.

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

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

SOURCES AND CREDITS: The Call to Worship and Prayer of Confession are from umcdiscipleship.org (sixth Sunday after Pentecost in Year B). "The Lord Is God" text © 2011 David Gambrell (admin. Presbyterian Publishing Corp.). The Prayer of Dedication is from www.enfleshed.com/liturgy/lgbtqi-related. OneLicense.net. License A-712340. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO

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