



# Fourth Presbyterian Church

*Ninth Sunday after Pentecost*

July 21, 2024 • 10:00 a.m.

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## Gathering around the Word

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### Prelude

Passacaglia . . . . . Dieterich Buxtehude

Finale from “The Reformation” Symphony. . . . . Daniel Gawthrop

### Introit

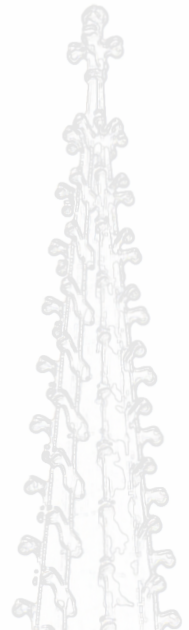
“Blessed Are They” . . . . . Eric DeLamarter

*Blessed are they who cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.*

### \*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.

### \*Gathering Prayer



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

**\*Hymn 386.** . . . . . “Come, Worship God”

Come, worship God, who is worthy of honor;  
enter God’s presence with thanks and a song!  
You are the rock of your people’s salvation  
to whom our jubilant praises belong.

Ruled by your might are the heights of the mountains;  
held in your hands are the depths of the earth.  
Yours is the sea, yours the land, for you made them,  
God above all gods, who gave us our birth.

We are your people, the sheep of your pasture;  
you are our Maker, and to you we pray.  
Gladly we kneel in obedience before you;  
great is the one whom we worship this day!

Now let us listen, for you speak among us;  
open our hearts to receive what you say.  
Peace be to all who remember your goodness,  
trust in your word, and rejoice in your way!

**Prayer of Confession**

*One: For failing to love others, as you have loved us,*

**All: God of grace, forgive us.**

*One: For wasting your gifts and hoarding our goods,*

**All: God of grace, forgive us.**

*One: For plundering the earth and abusing the planet,*

**All: God of grace, forgive us.**

*One: For fearing those who are strange to us and ignoring those in need,*

**All: God of grace, forgive us.**

*One: For losing heart and abandoning hope,*

**All: God of grace, forgive us.**

*One: For all the ways we turn from you,*

**All: God of grace, forgive us.**

*One: We offer our prayers in the name of the one who saves us, Jesus Christ.*

**All: 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**

“Listen, Sweet Dove” . . . . . Katherine Burk  
*Listen, sweet Dove, unto my song, and spread thy golden wings in me; hatching my tender heart so long, till it get wing and fly away with thee. The sun which once did shine alone hung down his head and wisht for night; when he beheld twelve suns for one, going about the world and giving light. Such glorious gifts thou didst bestow that the earth did like a heaven appear; the stars were coming down to know if they might mend their wages and serve thee. Lord, though we change, thou art the same, the same sweet God of love and light; restore this day for thy great name, unto his ancient and miraculous light.*

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Listening for the Word

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**Prayer for Illumination**

**First Lesson** . . . . . Proverbs 26:4–5

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.

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

**Second Lesson** . . . . .Matthew 13:24–30

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

**Sermon**

Wisdom Required . . . . .Tom Are Jr.

Responding to the Word

**\*Hymn 171** . . . . .“A Sower Came from Ancient Hills”

A Sower came from ancient hills and cast good seed abroad:  
his field, ten thousand human hearts; his seed, the word of God.  
And some who listened would not hear, and some who heard forgot.  
But some received in fertile soil the truth the Sower taught.

A Sower walked throughout the land and, everywhere he trod,  
he sowed his life because he was himself the Seed of God.  
But then, atop a barren hill, beneath a darkening sky,  
they threw God’s Seed on stony ground and left it there to die.

The Seed was buried deep in death beneath a blood-red sky,  
and deeper still was buried hope for those who watched him die.  
But then, in Joseph’s garden fair, as dawn broke o’er the land,  
the Seed, from three days’ silent sleep, awoke at God’s command!

O Christ, you come among us still, the Sower and the Seed.  
As once you sowed the truth of God in glowing word and deed,  
implant your Word in waiting hearts, and let it there take hold,  
until it bears in fruitful lives a harvest hundredfold.

**\*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;

*(continued on facing page)*

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.  
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.

## Offering

### Offertory Anthem

“Little David, Play on Yo’ Harp” . . . African American spiritual/arr. Adolphus Hailstork  
*Hey! Little David, play on yo’ harp. Little David was a shepherd boy. He killed Goliath an’ shouted for joy. Hey! Little David, play on yo’ harp. O, Joshua was the son of Nun; he never would quit till his work was done. Hey! Little David, play on yo’ harp.*

**\*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**

Bountiful God, we dedicate to you our gifts of time, talent, and resources  
in equal measures of gratitude.  
May your Spirit give increase to our seedling gifts  
that they may grow and flourish, bearing fruit in service of the gospel. Amen.

**Bearing the Word into the World**

**\*Hymn 714** . . . . . “God of the Fertile Fields”

God of the fertile fields, shaper of earth that yields our daily bread:  
forth from your bounteous hand come gifts your love has planned, that all in every land  
be clothed and fed.

We would be stewards true, holding in trust from you all that you give;  
help us in love to share, teach us like you to care for people everywhere,  
that all may live.

As grows the hidden seed to fruit that serves our need, so your reign grows.  
Let all our toil be used, no gift of yours abused, no humble task refused  
your love bestows.

God of the countryside, dear to the Christ who died to make us one:  
we pledge our lives anew in faithful love to you. Guide all we say and do.  
Your will be done.

**\*Charge and Benediction**

**Postlude ::** Fanfare and Processional . . . . . Keith Chapman

***About Today’s Sermon***  
Everyone knows that when there are weeds in the garden they should be pulled.  
But once again Jesus’ parable takes a surprising turn. When the farmhands offer  
to bring order to the garden, they are told, “No, you will only make things worse.”  
There are some wrongs that only God can make right.



## 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](https://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](https://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.

### Handcrafts

Knitting and Crocheting meets this morning at 11:00 a.m. in Room 5B.

### LGBTQIA+ Widen Our Welcome Brunch

All who would like to join the LGBTQIA+ Widen Our Welcome group for brunch today are invited to gather in the Commons after worship to walk across the street to Aster Hall (900 N. Michigan).

### Praying with a Deacon

If you would like to pray with a Deacon, 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; Rocky Supinger will be preaching.



## Get Connected

### Bible studies

Men's Bible Study meets via Zoom on Tuesdays at 7:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study meets on Wednesday, August 14 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. For details, email Simon ([scrow@fourthchurch.org](mailto:scrow@fourthchurch.org)).

### Deep Listening Dinner

Our next Deep Listening Dinner, a time to get to know one another through conversation over a shared meal, will be on Friday, August 2 at 6:00 p.m. in Anderson Hall. To join the dinner, register (*required*) at [bit.ly/deeplisting82024](http://bit.ly/deeplisting82024)

### Encore: The Art of Aging Well

This year's Center for Life and Learning benefit—"Encore: The Art of Aging Well"—takes place on Saturday, August 24 at 4:00 p.m. at the church and includes a time of refreshments as well as a presentation by Jeffrey Nigro, of the Art Institute of Chicago, on "Great Artists in Their Prime." For tickets, register at [fourthchurch.org/cll/encore](http://fourthchurch.org/cll/encore)

### Stay connected

For resources and information about connecting with one another and Fourth Church, see our website at [fourthchurch.org](http://fourthchurch.org) and our weekly email newsletter. Subscribe at [bit.ly/newsfromfpc](http://bit.ly/newsfromfpc); visit our news archive at [fourthchurch.org/news](http://fourthchurch.org/news).

## Prayer, Reflection, and Meditation

### Daily devotions

We invite you to use our daily devotions, written by Fourth Church members and staff, for your personal reflection. To receive them by email, subscribe at [bit.ly/fpcdevotions](http://bit.ly/fpcdevotions); you can also find them at [fourthchurch.org/devotions](http://fourthchurch.org/devotions) and on Facebook and Instagram.

## "Rhythm and Word"

This summer we invite you to reflect on the theme of sabbath, using our brief "Rhythm and Word" videos led by Amy Pagliarella. Receive weekly notice of the newest video by subscribing to our YouTube channel ([bit.ly/fpcvideos](http://bit.ly/fpcvideos)) or by signing up at [bit.ly/rhythmandword](http://bit.ly/rhythmandword)

## Caring for One Another

### School supply drive

Our School Supply Drive to collect items for the students of Chicago Lights Urban Farm, Tutoring, and Summer Day programs is underway! For details about donating supplies or funds for their purchase, see [bit.ly/schoolsupplydrivefpc](http://bit.ly/schoolsupplydrivefpc)

Volunteers are also needed to help assemble the backpacks following worship on Sundays, July 28 and August 4. If you can help, please register at [bit.ly/schoolsupplydrivefpc](http://bit.ly/schoolsupplydrivefpc)

### Prayer requests and pastoral care

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

### 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 [reploglecenter.org](http://reploglecenter.org)

## Calendar for July 21–July 27

<b>Sunday, July 21</b>	10:00 a.m. Worship . . . . .	Sanctuary / Online
	10:00 a.m. Infants/Parents Comfort Room . . . . .	Hospitality Suite
	10:00 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
	11:00 a.m. Knitting and Crocheting . . . . .	Room 5B
	11:00 a.m. LGBTQIA+ WOW Brunch . . . . .	Meet in Commons
	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
	4:00 p.m. Sunday Night Supper (until 5:30) . . . . .	Anderson Hall
	4:00 p.m. Meals Ministry Medical Service . . . . .	Borwell Dining Room

<b>Monday, July 22</b>	8:30 a.m. Chicago Lights Summer Day . . . . .	Fifth Floor
	10:30 a.m. CLL: Stronger Seniors . . . . .	Zoom
	11:30 a.m. CLL: Silver Taps . . . . .	Zoom
	1:00 p.m. CLL: Bridge . . . . .	Room 4J
	2:30 p.m. CLL: Yoga . . . . .	Room 4F / Zoom

<b>Tuesday, July 23</b>	7:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study . . . . .	Zoom
	7:45 a.m. Sacred Pause . . . . .	Online
	8:30 a.m. Chicago Lights Summer Day . . . . .	Fifth Floor
	9:30 a.m. CLL: Stronger Seniors . . . . .	Zoom
	9:30 a.m. SSC Drop-In Program . . . . .	Morse Lounge
	11:30 a.m. Meals Ministry Bag Lunch . . . . .	Anderson Hall
	1:00 p.m. CLL: Improv . . . . .	Room 4D
	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
	2:30 p.m. CLL: Intermediate Tai Chi . . . . .	Anderson Hall / Zoom
	4:00 p.m. Knitting and Crocheting . . . . .	Zoom
6:00 p.m. AA Meeting . . . . .	Room 4F	

<b>Wednesday, July 24</b>	8:30 a.m. Chicago Lights Summer Day . . . . .	Fifth Floor
	9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer . . . . .	Zoom
	9:30 a.m. SSC Drop-In Program . . . . .	Morse Lounge
	9:30 a.m. CLL: Tap Too . . . . .	Zoom
	10:30 a.m. CLL: Zing . . . . .	Zoom
	11:00 a.m. CLL: Meditation . . . . .	Room 4F

## Calendar for July 21–July 27

11:30 a.m.	Meals Ministry Bag Lunch	Anderson Hall
12:00 p.m.	CLL: Current Events	Room 4D
1:00 p.m.	English as a Second Language	Morse Conference Room
2:00 p.m.	CLL: Film Series	Room 4G
3:00 p.m.	CLL: Portraiture	Room 4F
6:00 p.m.	AA: LGBTQIA+	Room 4E

<b>Thursday, July 25</b>	8:30 a.m.	Chicago Lights Summer Day	Fifth Floor
	9:00 a.m.	Meals Ministry Sandwich-Making	Parish House Kitchen
	9:30 a.m.	SSC Drop-In Program	Morse Lounge
	9:30 a.m.	CLL: Silver Barre	Zoom
	10:00 a.m.	CLL: Supreme Court Decisions	Room 4D
	10:30 a.m.	CLL: Range of Motion	Zoom
	11:30 a.m.	CLL: Art Day	Room 4G
	11:30 a.m.	Meals Ministry Bag Lunch	Anderson Hall
	12:15 p.m.	AA Meeting	Room 4F
	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
	2:30 p.m.	CLL: Intermediate Tai Chi	Anderson Hall    Zoom

<b>Friday, July 26</b>	8:30 a.m.	Chicago Lights Summer Day	Fifth Floor
	9:30 a.m.	SSC Drop-In Program	Morse Lounge
	10:30 a.m.	CLL: Nia	Zoom
	11:30 a.m.	CLL: Grief Cafe	Room 4D
	12:10 p.m.	Music by the Fountain	Michigan Avenue Courtyard

<b>Saturday, July 27</b>	All day	Montreat Youth Conference	Offsite
	8:30 a.m.	Sacred Pause	Online

*(No other events are scheduled for Saturday)*

### Preaching on Sunday, July 28

10:00 a.m. • Tom Are Jr.  
2:00 p.m. • Nancy Benson-Nicol

## Worship Leaders

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Rocky Supinger, Lee Zacharias, Nancy Benson-Nicol, Tom Are Jr.

## The Music Today

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Women's Choir

Michael Rees, Acting Director of Music

## Worship Notes

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THE OPENING HYMN, “Come, Worship God,” is based on Psalm 95—often called Venite from its first word in Latin—which has long served as an opening canticle in the worship liturgy of Western Christianity. Protestant Reformer John Calvin found here two reasons to praise God: for sustaining the created world and for adopting the church into a gracious relationship.

THE ANTHEM “Listen, Sweet Dove” draws its text from an excerpt of the poem “Whitsunday” by English poet and priest George Herbert (1593–1633), which Katherine Burk set to music in 2021.

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

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**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

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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)

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