

Fourth Presbyterian Church

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost August 31, 2025 • 10:00 a.m.

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Introit

*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 (responsively)

One: God calls us to service,

All: rather than honor.

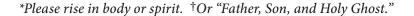
One: God call us to love the unknown,

All: rather than the familiar.

One: We come to this time of worship,

All: people trusting in the grace of Jesus Christ,

One: who is the same yesterday, today, and forever.



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.

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Merciful God, forgive us, for we exalt ourselves and mock the humble.

We choose to believe we are self-sufficient rather than to trust in your strength.

Open us to your spirit, that we might serve all people without regard to the outcome, devoting ourselves to your honor alone.

We pray in Jesus' name. 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 person and a digital form (use the link or QR code on screen) for those online.

Solo

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination
Psalter
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.
Scripture Reading
Sermon
Responding to the Word
Hymn 773
Heaven shall not wait for the poor to lose their patience, the scorned to smile, the despised to find a friend: Jesus is Lord; he has championed the unwanted; in him injustice confronts its timely end.
Heaven shall not wait for the rich to share their fortunes, the proud to fall, the elite to tend the least: Jesus is Lord; he has shown the master's privilege: to kneel and wash servants' feet before they feast.
Heaven shall not wait for the dawn of great ideas, thoughts of compassion divorced from cries of pain: Jesus is Lord; he has married word and action; his cross and company make his purpose plain.
Heaven shall not wait for triumphant Hallelujahs, when earth has passed and we reach another shore: Jesus is Lord in our present imperfection; his power and love are for now and then for evermore.

*Affirmation of Faith (unison) adapted from the Confession of Belhar

We believe that God has revealed God's self

as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people;

that God, in a world full of injustice and enmity,

is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor and the wronged;

that God calls the church to follow God in this;

for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry;

that God frees the prisoner and restores sight to the blind;

that God supports the downtrodden, protects the stranger,

helps orphans and widows and blocks the path of the ungodly;

that for God pure and undefiled religion

is to visit the orphans and the widows in their suffering. 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.

Offertory Anthem

"All My Hope"..... Dave Brubeck

All my hope is in you, O Lord. You are my rock and my strength.

Hope in darkness, my hope in light, you are my rock and my strength.

My hope, my light, my peace, my joy, my faith, everlasting.

A grateful heart is what I bring, a song of praise, my offering.

Among the saints I lift my voice: in you, O God, I will rejoice.

*Prayer of Dedication (unison)

God of grace, we give thanks for your faithfulness to us;

we give thanks for your hope in us;

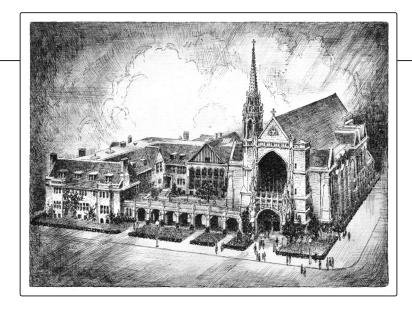
we rejoice in the knowledge of your unending grace.

In the light of your mercy, and confident in your love,

we dedicate these offerings, and ourselves, to you. Amen.

Bearing the World into the World

^k Hymn 543	"God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me"
God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to move my voice; God, be the strength to now uphold me: O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me	
Bind to myself the Name of Holy, great cloud of witnesses enfold; prophets, apostles, angels witness: O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me	·.
Brightness of sun and glow of moonlight, flashing of lightning, strength of wind, depth of the sea to soil of planet: O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me	·
Walking behind to hem my journey, going ahead to light my way, and from beneath, above, and all ways: O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me	·
Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that hear my voice, Christ in the hearts of all who know me: O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me	·•
Charge and Benediction	
Postlude	
Allegro Marziale	Frank Bridge



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 as we live out our calling to love God and love one another.

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, beginning next Sunday we will gather weekly at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Entering the building

A half hour prior to each service the doors open for worship. There is an entrance without steps leading to the Sanctuary on Michigan Avenue, through the glass Loggia doors There are also two fully accessible entrances: at 126 E. Chestnut and 115 E. Delaware.

Parking

Information on discounted parking is on the back cover. If you have not set up an online payment account for discounted parking at the 900 garage, ushers have information cards to help. Volunteers at the Coffee Hour Connection Corner are available to assist, as well.

Sound

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

Worshiping Online

Livestream

We are livestreaming this morning's service—and beginning next week will livestream our 9:30 a.m. service—at bit.ly/fpcvideos, which is also accessible from the home page of our website: fourthchurch.org

Worship can be viewed anytime after the service has begun. 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 9:30 a.m.

Podcasts

Podcast offerings from Fourth Church—available on multiple platforms and at fourthchurch.org/podcasts—include the Sunday worship service and sermon; weekly "Rhythm and Word" reflections; and "Bible Top Ten."

Caring for One Another

Pastoral care

If you would like to talk to a pastor or notify pastoral staff of personal concerns, illnesses, hospitalizations, or deaths, please email Gloria Fleming (gfleming@ fourthchurch.org). If the situation requires immediate attention, please call the church at 312.787.4570 to be connected to the Minister on Call.

Stephen Ministry

For a one-to-one listening presence through life challenges, consider being paired with a Stephen Minister. For information, leave a confidential message at 312.573.3365 or contact Associate Pastor Nancy Benson-Nicol (nbenson-nicol@fourthchurch.org).

Joining the Fourth Church Family

If you are interested in becoming a member of Fourth Church, join us for Inquirers' Class at 12:15 p.m. on Sunday, September 21 (register at bit.ly/inquirers92025).

Let Us Know You're Here!

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

In person

Those worshiping 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.

Online

Those worshiping via livestream will find a link to the online form in the 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.

Two Worship Services Next Sunday

Beginning Sunday, September 7, we return to gathering for two Sunday worship services: 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.

That Sunday will also be our annual Get Connected Sunday, when you will have opportunity to learn about the many groups and programs being offered this fall!

Welcoming Camille Cook Howe: Sept. 21

Be sure to mark Sunday, September 21 on your calendar, as that will be the day when the Reverend Dr. Camille Cook Howe, our next Pastor, preaches and leads us in worship for the first time.

Sunday, October 19 will also be a special day in our relationship with Camille: she will be officially installed as Pastor of the Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago during the 9:30 a.m. service that morning (we will only have one worship service that day). Please plan to be with us to celebrate this exciting new chapter in the life of our congregation!

Fourth Church's Antiracism Covenant

The Racial Equity Committee welcomes hearing from those who have questions or comments about our recently adopted Antiracism Covenant, which can be found at bit.ly/covenantfpc; the REC also invites those who would like to join them in supporting this important work to email the committee at rec@fourthchurch.org



Connections and Belonging

Come connect with others as we foster a welcoming and inclusive community where everyone feels supported in building meaningful relationships

In-Person Coffee Hour

All who are worshiping with us in person are invited to stop by Anderson Hall and the Commons after the service for our weekly Coffee Hour opportunity to greet each other and learn about ways to connect with one another and Fourth Church.

Online Coffee Hour

If you are worshiping with us via livestream, we would be delighted if you would also join us for opportunity to connect with one another in our online Coffee Hour. We gather via Zoom at 11:00 a.m., following the livestream of worship, for a time of fellowship.

Zoom link: bit.ly/coffeehourfpc; passcode: 676359

Purposeful Retirement

The "Purposeful Retirement" program, which begins Wednesday, September 10, invites you to join a new cohort of people who will collaborate and support each other in planning or retooling their retirement to combine passions and service for greater impact.

Learn more about this opportunity—and register for the series—at bit.ly/purposeful2025

Center for Life and Learning Membership

A new session of fitness classes along with lectures and arts courses for adults sixty and over kicks off Monday, September 8, when the Center for Life and Learning begins their autumn programming. For details and to register for CLL membership, see fourthchurch.org/cll

Friday Noonday Concerts

Our free Friday Noonday Concerts return to the Sanctuary (and via livestream) this Friday at 12:10 p.m. with a piano-and-flute program by Paula Gudmundson and Diana Shapiro. To receive our weekly "Music Notes" newsletter about upcoming concerts at Fourth Church, subscribe at bit.ly/fpcmusicnotes

Get Connected Sunday: September 7!

We hope you wil be with us next Sunday, September 7 when we kick off a new program year with our annual Get Connected Sunday!

A new season of Sunday School classes, youth groups, and Adult Education will begin that day, and a festive Coffee Hour will offer opportunity to reconnect with one another and with Fourth Church, as our ministries highlight programs and events for you to explore this fall.

Opportunities to Connect

Knitting and Crocheting

Knitting and Crocheting, which supplies partners in the city with handcrafted items for warmth and comfort, meets Tuesday, September 2 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 5B.

Cornerstones

The Cornerstones fellowship group for those fifty and over will gather for dinner and a program featuring Joe Ferguson, President of the Civic Federation, talking about "The Case for a City Charter" on Friday, September 5 at 5:30 p.m. in Anderson Hall. Register (required) at bit.ly/cornerstones2509

Books by Women

Books by Women, which invites readers into a monthly conversation about a selected work, will discuss *The Guns of August* by Barbara W. Tuchman on Tuesday, September 9 at 6:00 p.m. in the Bumpus Room.

Benevolent Guild

Benevolent Guild, which creates items for those in need, resumes meeting on Wednesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. in Room 5B on September 10.

New Zoom Small Group: "The Wisdom Pattern"

A new Zoom Small Group will begin on Thursday, September 11 at 6:00 p.m. Meeting for six weeks, the group will discuss *The Wisdom Pattern: Order, Disorder, Reorder* by Richard Rohr while exploring the journey of embracing disruption as we move toward deeper wisdom, compassion, and a more integrated faith. For details, contact Katie (kpatterson@fourthchurch.org).



Faith Formation

Join us on our journey to grow spiritually through worship, educational opportunities, and programs that nurture faith across all ages

Children, Youth, and Family

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.

Also during morning worship, nursery care is available on the fourth floor of the Gratz Center for infants through two-year-olds.

Sunday School

Sunday School resumes next Sunday, September 7 at 9:30 a.m., with classes for three-year-olds through fifth-graders meeting on the fourth floor of the Gratz Center.

To celebrate our new Sunday School year, families will also gather for "Family Donut Sunday" in the 4C Lounge following the 9:30 a.m. service next Sunday.

Youth groups

Youth groups also resume next Sunday, September 7, with Junior High (grades 6-8) at 9:30 a.m. and Senior High (grades 9-12) meeting at 11:00 a.m., both in the Bumpus Room.

Confirmation

Eighth-grade Confirmation will begin with a gathering on Friday, September 19 and meet monthly. Youth can register at bit.ly/fpcconfirmation25 or contact Nance Bartell (nbartell@fourthchurch.org) for more information.

Prophetic Wisdom for a Hurting World

Sunday morning Adult Education classes will resume next Sunday, September 7 at 11:00 a.m. in Borwell Dining Room and online.

The first class of the fall will be "Prophetic Wisdom for a Hurting World." Using Richard Rohr's book *The Tears of Things* and the teaching of the Hebrew prophets as a guide, our discussions will be led by Dr. Maisha Handy, President, McCormick Theological Seminary (Sept. 7); Vicky Curtiss, Program Director, Siena Retreat Center (Sept. 14); and Amy Pagliarella Parish Associate (Sept. 21). Register at bit.ly/prophetic2509

The Bible in 100 Passages

On Sunday, September 14 we will launch a new devotional series: "The Bible in 100 Passages," in which we will cover all thirty-nine books in the Old Testament through 100 key texts.

Our weekly "Rhythm and Word" video reflections will also focus on these same passages, and a monthly in-person Bible study beginning in October will be part of this congregational journey through the Old Testatment books.

If you do not already receive our daily devotions, subscribe at bit.ly/fpcdevotions to join in reading the Bible "in 100 passages" beginning September 14—and watch for details about the in-person monthly study.

Bible Studies via Zoom

Men's Bible Study

Men's Bible Study gathers via Zoom weekly on Tuesday mornings at 7:30 a.m. For details, email Katie Patterson (kpatterson@fourthchurch.org).

Women's Bible Studies

Beginning September 10, the fall *Horizons* Women's Bible Studies—with the theme "Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ"—will meet via Zoom on second and fourth Wednesdays, with a midday and evening study at 12:00 and 6:30 p.m.

For Zoom details, contact Katie Patterson (kpatterson@fourthchurch.org).

"Rhythm and Word" Videos and Podcast

Each week we share a five-minute video and podcast reflection by one of the pastors. To receive them in your inbox on Wednesday evenings, sign up at bit.ly/rhythmandword or subscribe to our YouTube channel (bit.ly/fpcvideos).

You can also listen to these reflections via podcast: fourthchurch.org/podcasts

Beginning on Wednesday, September 17, these reflections will be offered by Matt Helms and will be part of the "Bible in 100 Passages" series (see above).

Prayer

Sunday Morning Prayer with Deacons

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

Wednesday Morning Prayer

On Wednesdays we gather for Morning Prayer via Zoom at 9:30 a.m. to remember in prayer members of the congregation, all those who are in need, and mission partners around the world. Email Nancy Benson-Nicol (nbenson-nicol@fourthchurch.org) for Zoom details.

Prayer requests

If you would like to submit a prayer request to our Deacon and Morning Prayer Ministries, please email Gloria Fleming (gfleming@fourthchurch.org).

News, Views, and Updates

News @ Fourth Church

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

Calendar

Looking for a calendar of Fourth Church events?

- See the facing page for this week's opportunities
- Scroll to the bottom of fourthchurch.org
- Tap on the website menu option for calendar: fourthchurch.org/calendar, where you can add events to your digital calendar

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



Community Engagements and Partnerships

Come alongside us as together, through programs and collaboration with partners, we advocate for social and community needs

Volunteer Training

Our Volunteer Ministry Team encourages anyone who volunteers with Fourth Church—or is interested in doing so in the coming year—to attend a one-hour emergency response training program on Sunday, September 14 at 12:15 p.m. in Room 4G. Register at bit.ly/training202509

Serving with Meals Ministry

Fourth Church Meals Ministry has openings for volunteers to serve between now and September 30. You can sign up for them at bit.ly/fpcvolunteers

For more information about how you can support this program, contact Mike Usiak (musiak@fourthchurch.org), Meals Ministry Manager.

Mud Theatre Presents Jabril's Chains

As part of Fourth Church's commitment to restorative justice, on Thursday, October 16, we are honored to be hosting the premiere of the play *Jabril's Chains* by Mud Theatre Project.

Mud Theatre's nationally recognized plays are written and performed by incarcerated persons and returning citizens. Their director, Brian Beals, having served thirty-five years on a wrongful conviction, was inspired to create the project as he witnessed the power of the arts to give voice to the voiceless and empower those who have been in troubling situations.

The 6:30 p.m. performance in Buchanan Chapel will be preceded by a 5:30 p.m. reception in Anderson Hall. Tickets *(required)* are available at bit.ly/jabrilschains; a portion of the price will be donated to Restore Justice.

Calendar for August 31–September 6, 2025

Sunday August 31	10:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 4:00 p.m.	Worship Sanctuary / Online Infants/Parents Comfort Room Hospitality Suite Nursery Room 4A A Time of Prayer Stone Chapel Coffee Hour Anderson Hall Online Coffee Hour Zoom Sunday Night Supper (until 5:30) Anderson Hall
Monday	, September	1 • Labor Day • Church Offices and Campus Closed
Tuesday	7:30 a.m.	Men's Bible Study Zoom
September 2	9:00 a.m.	Heartland Alliance Medical Clinic Randolph Room
	9:30 a.m.	SSC: Drop-In Program
	10:00 a.m.	Knitting and Crocheting Room 5B
	11:30 a.m.	Meals Ministry Bag Lunch Anderson Hall
	1:00 p.m.	Labyrinth Available to Walk (until 3:00) Buchanan Chapel
	1:00 p.m.	Shower Ministry Showers
	6:00 p.m.	AA Meeting
	6:30 p.m.	Deacon Executive Committee Zoom
Wednesday	7:30 a.m.	Men's Faith Study Offsite
September 3	9:30 a.m.	Morning Prayer Zoom
	9:30 a.m.	SSC: Drop-In Program
	11:30 a.m.	Meals Ministry Bag Lunch Anderson Hall
	1:00 p.m.	Labyrinth Available to Walk (until 3:00) Buchanan Chapel
	6:00 p.m.	AA: LGBTQIA+Room 4F
Thursday	9:00 a.m.	Meals Ministry Sandwich-Making Borwell Dining Room
September 4	9:30 a.m.	SSC: Drop-In Program
	11:30 a.m.	Meals Ministry Bag Lunch Anderson Hall
	12:15 p.m.	AA Meeting
	1:00 p.m.	Labyrinth Available to Walk (until 3:00) Buchanan Chapel
	5:30 p.m.	Day School Parent Orientation Anderson Hall
	6:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Friday	9:30 a.m.	SSC: Drop-In Program
September 5	12:00 p.m.	Noonday Concert
	5:30 p.m.	Cornerstones
	No events a	are scheduled for Saturday, September 6.
	Sunday, Se	ptember 7 • 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. • Rocky Supinger preaching

SSC = Chicago Lights Social Service Center (chicagolights.org)

Worship Leaders

Matt Helms, Barbara Pearce, Rocky Supinger

The Music Today

The Summer Choir and Quartet; Sarah Van der Ploeg, soloist Ross Updegraff, Guest Organist

Worship Notes

WE ARE GRATEFUL TO ROSS UPDEGRAFF, our guest organist today, for sharing his musical gifts with us. Dr. Updegraff holds a Doctor of Music in Organ Performance from Northwestern University and is an accomplished organist and active performer in the Chicagoland area.

THE OPENING HYMN, "The Lord Is God," paraphrases the Shema: the text of Deuteronomy 6:4–9, which our hymnal notes is "an ancient and central affirmation of Jewish monotheistic faith that observant Jews still recite twice a day. Jesus knew it well and called it the first and great commandment (Matthew 22:38/Mark 12:28–29/Luke 10:26–28)."

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

Rocky Supinger Senior Associate Pastor

Nancy Benson-Nicol Associate Pastor
Matt Helms Associate Pastor
Joseph L. Morrow Associate Pastor
Nanette Sawyer Associate Pastor

Amy Pagliarella Parish Associate for Caring Ministries

SOURCES AND CREDITS: The Call to Worship, the Prayer of Confession, and the Prayer of Dedication are by Kimberly Bracken Long in Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 2. "The Lord Is God" text © 2011 David Gambrell (admin. Presbyterian Publishing Corp. "Heaven Shall Not Wait" text © 1987 WGRG, Iona Community (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.), "music © 1987 WGRG, Iona Community (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.). "God Be the Love to Search and Keep Me" text © 2004 This Here Music, Worldmaking.net; music © 2004

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THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO

Church office: 126 E. Chestnut Street, Chicago, IL 60611.2014 www.fourthchurch.org • www.facebook.com/fourthchurch 312.787.4570 Voicemail: 312.787.2729

Those attending a Fourth Church worship service in person are entering an area where photography, video, and audio recording may occur on behalf of Fourth Church. By entering the worship service, you consent to the non-commercial use of the resulting visual and audio records; you waive all rights you may have to any claims of compensation for the use of these records; you release Fourth Church from any liability for the use of these records; and you waive the right to inspect or approve any of these records.



Sunday parking is available at 900 N. Michigan (access from Rush or Walton; online payment only) for \$10 for up to 6 hours between 7:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. when using the Metropolis Parking app (*iPhone*) or metropolis.io/join (*Android*) to scan the discount QR code at left no more than 10 minutes before leaving the garage. The code is also available on cards from the ushers; you might leave a card in your car for future Sunday use.

Sunday parking is available at the Hancock garage (*enter from Delaware or Chestnut*) for \$10 between 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. by using a validation ticket from the ushers.