

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

SEPTEMBER 6, 2026 • 10:00 A.M.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

Prelude

Elegy George Thalben-Ball

Introit

Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises. trad. S. African
Hallelujah! We sing your praises; all our hearts are filled with gladness. Hallelujah! We sing your praises; all our hearts are filled with gladness. Christ the Lord to us said: I am wine, I am bread. I am wine, I am bread: give to all who thirst and hunger.

*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: Praise be to you, O Lord. In your path we promise to walk.

All: We rejoice in following your way as one rejoices in great riches.

One: We long for your salvation, O Lord, and your law our delight.

All: May your unfailing love come to us, O Lord, Your salvation according to your promise.

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

***Hymn #14 For the Beauty of the Earth**

**For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies:**

Refrain:

Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

**For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light: (Refrain)**

**For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight: (Refrain)**

**For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild: (Refrain)**

**For thyself, best gift divine to the world so freely given;
for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven: (Refrain)**

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

**In your love, O God, the night of distress is gone, and the dawn of hope is near.
And yet we live as those who prefer to hide in the shadows. We fear your wrath
forgetting your mercy. In turn, we hold others in contempt and with suspicion.
So, when justice is demanded, we plead ignorance. When mercy is required,
we refuse. When courage is needed to live in your way, we give up. Forgive us.
Let your grace, place our feet on the path of truth and goodness, one step at a time.**

Declaration of Pardon

One: Friends, believe the good news.

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

***Sharing the Peace of Christ**

One: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

All: 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.

Children from age three through 5th grade are invited to come forward during the passing of the peace.

Time with Children

Following the Time with Children, children will return to sit with their families, as there is no Sunday School today.

Welcome

Please let us know if you are worshiping in person or online with us today. If you're in the Sanctuary, scan the QR code on page 7 of your bulletin or sign in using the pew pad. If you're worshiping online, scan the QR code displayed on your screen.

LISTENING FOR THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Lesson Psalm 119: 33-40

One: The Word of the Lord.

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.

Second Scripture Lesson Romans 13: 8-14

Sermon Rocky Supinger

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***Hymn #744** Arise, Your Light Has Come

Arise, your light is come! The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God, which shines on you today.

Arise, your light is come! Fling wide the prison door;
proclaim the captives' liberty, good tidings to the poor.

Arise, your light is come! All you in sorrow born,
bind up the brokenhearted ones and comfort those who mourn.

Arise, your light is come! The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.

Offering

Offertory Anthem

I Choose Love Mark Miller

In the midst of pain, I choose love. In the midst of pain, sorrow falling down like rain, I await the sun again, I choose love. In the midst of war, I choose peace. In the midst of war, hate and anger keeping score, I will seek the good once more, I choose peace. When my world falls down, I will rise. When my world falls down, explanations can't be found, I will climb to holy ground, I will rise. In the midst of pain, I choose love. In the midst of pain, sorrow falling down like rain, I await the sun again, I choose love.

***Offertory Response Hymn #33 Praise the Lord! God's Glories Show**

Praise the Lord! God's glories show, Alleluia!

Saints within God's courts below, Alleluia!

Angels round the throne above, Alleluia!

All who see and share God's love. Alleluia!

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

One: *The Lord be with you.*

All: And also with you.

One: *Lift up your hearts.*

All: We lift them to the Lord.

One: *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

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

One: *... forever singing to the glory of your name:*

Sanctus (*sung*) The Hymnal, #565

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power, God of 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.

One: ... *Great is the mystery of faith.*

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

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.
Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

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

Eat This Bread Jacques Berthier

*Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and never be hungry. Eat this bread, drink this cup,
trust in me and you will not thirst.*

Let Us Break Bread Together. Moses Hogan

*Let us break bread together on our knees. When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun, oh Lord,
have mercy on me. Let us drink wine together on our knees. When I fall on my knees with my face to the
rising sun, oh Lord, have mercy on me. Let us praise God together on our knees. When I fall down on my
knees with my face to the rising sun, oh Lord, have mercy on me.*

Prayer after Communion

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

***Hymn #377 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light**

I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.

God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.

Refrain:

In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.

The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus.

Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path, and show me the way to the Father.

(Refrain)

I'm looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus.

When we have run with patience the race, we shall know the joy of Jesus.

(Refrain)

***Charge and Benediction**

Choral Benediction

God Be with You Till We Meet Again Jeremiah Rankin

Postlude

Tuba Tune C.S. Lang

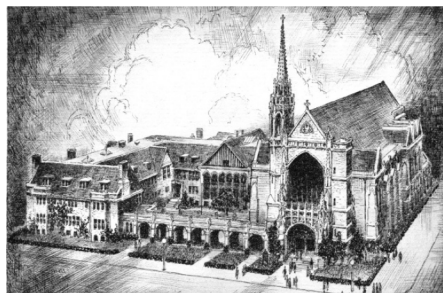
YOU BELONG HERE

Whether this is your first time worshipping at Fourth Presbyterian Church or you worship here regularly and call Fourth Church “home,” we are grateful you are here today. Inspired by the **radical hospitality of Jesus Christ**, we welcome everyone—without exception—into the life of this congregation.

Wherever you are in your faith journey, and whatever questions or burdens you carry, we affirm that God’s love is for everyone.

You belong here.

Each Sunday we gather to hear biblical stories, sing hymns of faith, and engage the world around us through prayer, worship, and preaching. As we connect the story of our lives with the story of Christ’s life, we discover



hope and joy and are inspired to reflect the light of Christ in our city as we live out our calling to love God and love one another.

Guided by our Antiracism Covenant, we seek to embrace values and practices that help us experience **Beloved Community**, where

differences are recognized as assets, celebrated, and experienced as strengths.

WORSHIPING IN PERSON AT FOURTH CHURCH



Let Us Know You’re Here!

All worshipers are invited to check in through the Church Center app (our church’s app for staying connected, exploring events, and checking in).

Please check in through Church Center to let us know you’re worshipping with us today. It’s an easy way to stay connected with our faith community. If you’re checking in for the first time, you can download the Church Center app from the Apple or Android app store or access it through our website homepage at FourthChurch.org

Sound

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

FIRST-TIME VISITOR



If you’re a first-time visitor at Fourth Church, we want to get to know you. Scan this QR code to complete our first-time visitor form or add your name to one of the pew pads.

WORSHIPING ONLINE

Livestream

Watch the 10:00 a.m. Service live or anytime on our YouTube channel: bit.ly/fpconline

Online Giving

Make an offering online at FourthChurch.org/giving

Phone Access (10:00 a.m.)

Listen to worship by phone for those without internet access: 888-916-9166.

Online Coffee Hour (following worship)

Join us via Zoom for conversation and connection: bit.ly/coffeehourfpc

CONNECT WITH US

Discover more opportunities to connect with us online at FourthChurch.org/online/connections

News at Fourth

Stay up to date on the latest news, events, and opportunities at Fourth Church. Subscribe to the News at Fourth weekly newsletter, delivered to your inbox every Friday. bit.ly/newsfromfpc

Follow Fourth Church

Connect with Fourth Church on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn at [@FourthChurch](https://www.facebook.com/FourthChurch) for updates, stories, and ways to engage with our community.

GUEST LECTURE – DR. ERIC BARRETO

Guest Lecture

Join Dr. Eric Barreto, Associate Professor of New Testament at Princeton Theological Seminary, for a thought-provoking public lecture: *The Story Continues: The Early Church and the Power of Holy Imagination*. Together, we'll explore how the courage, creativity, and faith of the early Christians can inspire the church's mission today.



Saturday, September 19 | 11:00 a.m.

Free admission, registration required
Scan the QR code to register

Dr. Eric Barreto will also preach during worship on Sunday, September 20.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Grief Support Series at Fourth Church

If you are grieving the loss of a loved one, you don't have to walk through it alone. Circle of Support is a compassionate, grief support group offering community, encouragement, and hope. The four-week series meets on Sundays, September 13–October 4, from 12:15–1:45 p.m. in the Parish Manse at the church. Whether your loss is recent or occurred some time ago, all are welcome. Space is limited. For more information, please contact Pastor Nancy Benson-Nicol at nbenson-nicol@FourthChurch.org

FOURTH CHURCH DAY SCHOOL

Day School Enrollment

The Day School is now accepting enrollment for fall classes. Five Morning Preschool Class for children 3–4 years old, Monday–Friday, 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Twos Program for 2-year-olds, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30–11:15 a.m.

For more information, please contact Fourth Church Day School Director Kathy Hager at khager@FourthChurch.org

GET CONNECTED SUNDAY

Get Connected Sunday, September 13

Starting Sunday, September 13, we return to two worship services at 9:30 and 11 a.m. It's also Get Connected Sunday, our annual celebration of community and connection at Fourth Church.

Following each worship service, join us in Anderson Hall and the Garth courtyard to discover the many ways to get connected, meet others, and find your place in the Fourth Church community.

Outside, the Garth courtyard will have lots of fun activities for kids including a bouncy house, balloon artist, live music, corn dogs, popcorn, and more.

For more information, contact Rocky Supinger, rsupinger@FourthChurch.org

CHANCEL CHOIR AND HANDBELL CHOIR

Sing with Chancel Choir and Ring with Handbell Choir

Chancel Choir

Do you love to sing? The Chancel Choir welcomes new singers as rehearsals begin this fall. No prior choir experience is necessary—just bring your love of music!

First rehearsal:

Thursday, September 10 | 6:00–7:30 p.m.

Buchanan Chapel

Handbell Choir

Have you ever wanted to try handbells? The Handbell Choir welcomes new ringers this fall. Come make music and discover the joy of ringing together!

First rehearsal:

Sunday, September 20 | 12:15–1:15 p.m.

Buchanan Chapel Loft

Interested in joining either group? Contact Andrew Herbruck at aherbruck@FourthChurch.org

NOMINATE A CHURCH LEADER

Know a member at Fourth Church who would make a meaningful contribution by serving as an Elder, Deacon, or Trustee? Learn how to nominate a fellow church member by scanning this QR code.



Nominations are due by October 5.

Questions? Email nominate@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

CONCERTS AT FOURTH

Join us for live music each Friday in our sanctuary. This week's concert on September 11 at 12:10 p.m. will feature pianist Mio Nakamura.

For a full list of upcoming concerts, please visit FourthChurch.org/concerts

EUROPEAN CHOIR TOUR 2027

Register for Choir Trip

Registration is open for the Fourth Church Choir Tour, taking place February 24–March 9, 2027. The tour is open to both singers and non-singers for a musical and cultural journey through Slovenia, Hungary, and Croatia. Choir members will perform in historic churches and cathedrals from the Slovenian mountains to the Dalmatian Coast, while all participants will enjoy the rich history, culture, and scenic beauty of the region.

Registration is open through September 13, 2026.



To learn more and register, scan this QR code or contact Fourth Church Organist and Director of Music Andrew Herbruck at aherbruck@FourthChurch.org

CORNERSTONES

Join Cornerstones for a presentation on Budget Busters, Immigration, and Elections: A New Look at Federalism from Illinois.

David Greising, President & CEO, Better Government Association, will discuss the issue of state versus federal rights, arguably as consequential today as it was during the peak of the Civil Rights Movement.



Friday, October 2 | 5:30–7:30 p.m.
Borwell Dining Room
Cost: Dinner and Speaker \$30
Speaker Only \$10
To register, scan here.

WOMEN AT FOURTH PAINT & SIP

Unwind, connect, and get creative! Join Women at Fourth for a relaxing evening of painting, conversation, snacks, and sips. No painting experience necessary.



Thursday, October 8 | 5:30 p.m.
Borwell Dining Room
Cost: \$38 (includes supplies, snacks and drinks)
To register scan the QR code

CENTER FOR LIFE & LEARNING

CLL Open House

The Center for Life & Learning (CLL) Open House is an opportunity for people to sample a few of our regular classes as well as meet our staff, instructors, and members while enjoying some light refreshments. The CLL offers weekly classes, events, and opportunities for adults 60+ to learn and connect with one another as they discover new ways to age well.



Center for Life & Learning Open House
Wednesday, September 9
1:30–3:00 p.m.
Gratz Center, 4th Floor
Free
To register, scan the QR code.

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 a quieter space, the Hospitality Suite (2nd floor, Gratz Center) offers a place where the service is livestreamed.

Nursery Care

Nursery care is available during morning worship for infants through age two on the 4th floor of the Gratz Center.

Please note: Sunday School will resume on Sunday, September 13.

Sunday School and Jr. High Volunteers Needed

Help nurture the faith of our children and youth this year.

As we prepare for a new program year, we're looking for volunteers to serve as Sunday School teachers and Jr. High Youth leaders on Sunday mornings.

Volunteers serve from September through May and are part of a supportive team of teachers and leaders.

Whether you've volunteered before or are considering it for the first time, we'd love to have you join us!

To explore this opportunity, please email Matt Helms (mhelms@FourthChurch.org) for Sunday School, or Nance Bartell (nbartell@FourthChurch.org) for Jr. High.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH CHOIRS

Children and Youth Choirs Resume September 13

Children's Choir (grades K–5) resumes Sunday, September 13, at 9 a.m. in 4G Gratz. All young singers are welcome!

Youth Choir (grades 6–12) begins Sunday, September 13, at 10:30 a.m. in 4G Gratz. All youth are welcome!

Questions or interested in joining? Contact Katy Sinclair at ksinclair@FourthChurch.org.

DAILY DEVOTIONS



Start your day with reflections written by our pastors and church members. Subscribe to receive daily devotions by email at bit.ly/fpcdevotions or scan this QR code.

ZOOM BIBLE STUDIES

To receive the Zoom link to join the Bible studies below, email Katie Patterson, kpatterson@FourthChurch.org

Men's Bible Study

Tuesdays at 7:30 a.m.

Women's Horizons Bible Study

2026–2027 Series: United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other

Join us on Zoom at noon or 6:00 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month, beginning this week, September 9.

This year, we'll explore Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians and consider what it means to trust in Christ's saving love—and to reflect that love in the way we live and care for one another. All are welcome.

ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES RESUME SEPT. 13

Shame of Chicago: Unequal Neighborhoods, Unfair Property Taxes, and What We Do About It

Why does Chicago look the way it does? In this two-week series, explore how housing policy has shaped neighborhood inequality and consider ways to advocate for fairer policies and support communities affected by generations of wealth extraction.

Session 1: Church member Margy LaFreniere leads a screening and discussion of Shame of Chicago, a documentary exploring how housing policies of the 1960s extracted wealth from Black neighborhoods.

Sunday, September 13 | 11:00 a.m.

Borwell Dining Room

All are welcome.

Community Engagements and Partnerships

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

AN EVENING WITH KATE BOWLER

Spend an evening with New York Times bestselling author and Duke University professor Kate Bowler (*Joyful, Anyway*), in conversation with bestselling Chicago author Shelby Van Pelt (*Remarkably Bright Creatures*).

Together, they'll explore joy that doesn't require us to pretend everything is fine. Expect laughter, honesty, and a refreshing reminder that we can't always be happy—but we can be joyful, anyway.

Thursday, November 5 | 7:00–8:00 p.m.

Fourth Church Sanctuary | 126 East Chestnut Street



Tickets: \$25 includes one ticket + signed copy of *Joyful, Anyway*
\$35 includes two tickets + signed copy of *Joyful, Anyway*

Hosted by Fourth Presbyterian Church with support from The Presbyterian Outlook.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Coffee Hour Hosts

Following Sunday worship, Coffee Hour in Anderson Hall offers a time for connection and community. Hosts help prepare and serve refreshments, welcome guests, and assist with light setup and cleanup. We are especially in need of additional volunteers this summer

Ushers

We are in need of more ushers for our 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. worship services this fall. Ushers greet and seat worshipers each Sunday.

You do not need to be a member of Fourth Church to volunteer and serve—all are welcome.

To learn more or sign up, please contact Robert Crouch, Director, Volunteer Ministry, at rcrouch@FourthChurch.org or 312-981-3382.

CHICAGO LIGHTS TUTORS NEEDED

Help a Student Shine: Become a Volunteer Tutor

Chicago Lights Tutoring is looking for caring volunteers to support students one night a week through one-to-one tutoring, mentoring, homework help, and academic skill-building. Choose between virtual tutoring on Monday evenings or join us in person on Tuesdays or Wednesdays, with opportunities to participate in enrichment activities before tutoring. Ready to help a student shine? Scan here to sign up.



Beginning September 28, 2026
Mondays: Virtual, 6:00–7:30 p.m.
Tuesdays & Wednesdays: In person, 6:00–7:30 p.m.
Fourth Presbyterian Church
126 East Chestnut Street

For more information, contact Mark Dennison, tutor@chicagolights.org

VOLUNTEERS FOR MAG MILE ARTS FESTIVAL

Help Fourth Church offer hospitality during The Magnificent Mile Arts Festival by inviting festival attendees in for a cool drink and a look around the sanctuary.

Magnificent Mile Arts Festival Greeters

Saturday, September 19 | 9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 20 | 1:00–4:00 p.m.



Scan here to sign up to volunteer. For more information, contact Rocky Supinger, rsupinger@FourthChurch.org

VOLUNTEER AT THE URBAN FARM

The Chicago Lights Urban Farm is looking for volunteers to support Community Farm Days. We welcome individual volunteers on Saturdays and group experiences during the week.



Find upcoming dates, times, volunteer requirements, and sign-up information by scanning here. For more information, contact Deja Stout, dstout@ChicagoLights.org

Worship Leaders

Rocky Supinger, Joe Morrow, Camille Cook Howe, Matt Helms, Nancy Benson-Nicol

Beadle: Cheri Lundin

Liturgist: Kat Evans

The Music Today

Andrew Herbruck, Organist and Director of Music

Summer Choir

Bill McMurray, soloist

Fourth Church Calendar



Stay up to date with worship services, programs, and special events by visiting the full Fourth Church online calendar. Scan the QR code or visit the link below to view upcoming events.

FourthChurch.org/calendar

Giving to Support the Ministry of Fourth Church



GIFTS TO SUPPORT THE MINISTRY AND MISSION OF FOURTH CHURCH can be placed in the plates passed during the service or afterward in an offering box at the exit from the Sanctuary. They can also be given online (FourthChurch.org/give), or via Venmo (@Fourth-Church).

Camille Cook Howe Pastor

Rocky Supinger Senior Associate Pastor

Nancy Benson-Nicol Associate Pastor

Matt Helms Associate Pastor

Joseph L. Morrow Associate Pastor

Amy Pagliarella Parish Associate for Caring Ministries

THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO

126 East Chestnut Street, Chicago, IL 60611

FourthChurch.org | facebook.com/FourthChurch

312-787-4570 | Voicemail 312-787-2729

SOURCES AND CREDITS: Call to Worship: PrayAdapted from Reformed Worship <https://reformedworship.org/resource/gods-pattern-life-ten-commandments-service-rededication>.
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Sunday parking is available at 900 N. Michigan (access from Rush or Walton; online payment only) for \$11 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.