

Fourth Presbyterian Church

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 4, 2022 • 10:00 a.m.

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Symphonie Gothique in C Minor Charles Marie Widor
Andante sostenuto

Prelude, Fugue, and Variation César Franck

Introit :: “Steal Away” African American spiritual; arr. Malcolm Archer

*Steal away to Jesus, steal away home, I ain’t got long to stay here. My Lord he calls me,
he calls me by the thunder. The trumpet sounds within my soul, I ain’t got long to stay here.*

*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

Leader: *The heavens are telling the glory of God;*

People: **may our worship reflect God’s glory.**

Leader: *The firmament proclaims God’s handiwork.*

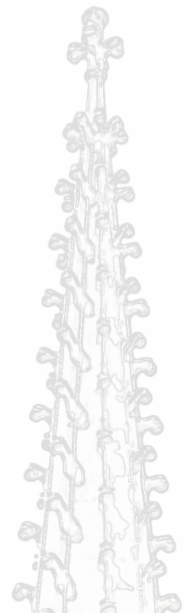
People: **May we see each other as the handiwork of God.**

Leader: *Let our prayer and praise,
our singing and proclamation project the love of God.*

People: **We commune with Christians around the world,
with Christians throughout time.**

Leader: *With Christians across geography and across time,*

All: let us worship God!



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

***Hymn 826** “Lift High the Cross”

Refrain: Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.

Come, Christians, follow where our Savior trod,
the Lamb victorious, Christ, the Son of God. (*Refrain*)

All newborn servants of the Crucified
bear on their brow the seal of Christ who died. (*Refrain*)

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
your death has brought us life eternally. (*Refrain*)

So shall our song of triumph ever be:
praise to the Crucified for victory. (*Refrain*)

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Almighty God,

we confess that we have taken your commandments
and turned them into rules.

We have criticized those who have fallen short
and selfishly proclaimed ourselves righteous.

We have failed to understand the spirit of the commandments
and the way that was shown by you to live,
loving God and loving our neighbors.

Forgive us for turning your law into burdens for others and ourselves,
instead of a way to love and freedom in you.

In the name of Christ,

who has given us the way and leads us on, we pray. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

Leader: *Friends, believe the good news:*

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Welcome and Announcements

Anthem :: “Simple Gifts” Shaker song; arr. Aaron Copland

*’Tis the gift to be simple, ’tis the gift to be free, ’tis the gift to come down where you ought to be;
and when we find ourselves in the place just right, ’twill be in the valley of love and delight.
When true simplicity is gained, to bow and to bend we shan’t be ashamed. To turn, turn,
will be our delight, ’til by turning, turning we come round right.*

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter Psalm 139:1–6, 13–18

*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.

Scripture Lesson Luke 14:25–33

Sermon Shannon J. Kershner

Responding to the Word

***Hymn 718**. “Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said”

Take up your cross, the Savior said, if you would my disciple be;
take up your cross with willing heart, and humbly follow after me.
Take up your cross; let not its weight fill your weak spirit with alarm;
Christ’s strength shall bear your spirit up and brace your heart and nerve your arm.
Take up your cross; heed not the shame, and let your foolish pride be still;
the Lord for you accepted death upon a cross, on Calvary’s hill.
Take up your cross, then, in Christ’s strength, and calmly every danger brave:
it guides you to abundant life and leads to victory o’er the grave.

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

***Affirmation of Faith** (*unison*) from *A Brief Statement of Faith* (PCUSA)

In a broken and fearful world, God’s Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth praying, “Come, Lord Jesus!”

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.

Call to Offering

Offertory Anthem :: “Let Us Love One Another” Michael Allen

Lord, hear our humble plea, “Pray let us love one another.” In all the things we can see, we see you love us. Lord, join our hearts and our minds that we may know one another. In love let each of us bind, so we may know you. And in the times that are gray, let us be grateful and say, “We know you’ll show us the way through love, and with each other, Lord. Lord, as we stand here today, let us embrace one another. Though we may not see your ways, we know and trust you. Combine our lives into one, let us complete one another. We know in each day to come we’ll grow together. And in the days yet to see, we hope together we’ll be a light for others to see your love, your light, through us, Lord.

***Offertory Response** The Hymnal, 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** *(unison)*

Gracious God, our hands were empty and you filled them.
Our bodies hungered and you fed them.
Our hearts ached and you healed them.
Accept, O Lord, these offerings, our sacrifice of praise for you.
Through them may the world witness the fullness of your compassion and care.
In Christ, through the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

***Hymn 432.** “How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord”

How clear is our vocation, Lord, when once we heed your call
to live according to your word and daily learn, refreshed, restored,
that you are Lord of all and will not let us fall.

But if, forgetful, we should find your yoke is hard to bear;
if worldly pressures fray the mind and love itself cannot unwind
its tangled skein of care: our inward life repair.

We marvel how your saints became in hindrances more sure:
whose joyful virtues put to shame the casual way we wear your name,
and by our faults obscure your power to cleanse and cure.

In what you give us, Lord, to do, together or alone,
in old routines or ventures new, may we not cease to look to you:
the cross you hung upon, all you endeavored, done.

***Charge and Benediction**

Worshippers who wish to do so are invited to sing along with the choir during the Benediction responses.

Postlude :: A Mighty Fortress Is Our God Martin Luther; arr. Jan Bender

*We invite you to enjoy the postlude. If you need to leave prior to the end of the postlude,
please do so quietly out of respect for those who choose to stay.*



We are glad to be worshipping with you today and hope you will explore the many opportunities for learning, serving, and community building at Fourth Church!

✳️ Inspired by the radical hospitality of Jesus Christ, we welcome everyone, without exception, into the life of this congregation. ✳️ We invite you to join us at this intersection of faith and life as we share God’s grace with one another and the world through worship and ministries of healing, reconciliation, and justice.



Although wearing a mask is not required at Fourth Church, we as a community have made a commitment to be **a mask-welcoming campus**, encouraging the wearing of masks by anyone who wants or needs to wear one. With the COVID risk level in Chicago at “medium,” we are going a step further to **not just encourage but to recommend** (*though not require*) **that individuals wear masks while on campus**. This is consistent with city health officials recommending that—in light of the “medium risk” level—individuals wear masks indoors when they are not certain of the vaccination status of others present. As a mask-welcoming—and now recommending—campus, we also remain committed to **ensuring no one will feel out of place should they choose to wear a mask while at Fourth Church**. ✳️ Since some populations are more vulnerable to COVID-19 than others, some programs on our campus choose to require masks. ✳️ Additionally, while we are continuing our practice of not checking vaccination status, **anyone coming on site certifies** by doing so that (a) they do not currently have COVID-19; (b) they are not experiencing COVID symptoms; (c) they have no reason to quarantine; and (d) they will **wear a mask and practice social distancing if they are not vaccinated** against COVID-19. ✳️ In the Sanctuary, the **front section on the pulpit side is for those required to or choosing to practice social distancing, and everyone sitting in that section is required to wear a mask**. The remainder of the Sanctuary is open seating.



For those who prefer to worship online or who are unable to join us in person, we livestream our morning service at 10:00 a.m. on our YouTube channel (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos), where the service is also available for viewing afterwards. ✳️ **Those without Internet access** are invited to listen to the morning service via phone by calling 888.916.9166 at the time of the service.

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

If you would like to join us for **in-person worship**, we gather each Sunday at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary and at 4:00 p.m. for our Jazz at Four service in Buchanan Chapel. (*Today's 4:00 service, originally planned for outdoors, will be held in the Chapel.*) ✨ On Sundays the **doors open for worship** a half hour prior to the service. For the morning service, access is by the Michigan Avenue doors to the Sanctuary and the Delaware doors to the Gratz Center. For the Jazz at Four service, access is only by the Delaware doors to the Gratz Center. ✨ **Sunday parking** is available at 900 N. Michigan (*access from Rush or Walton*) at the rate of \$9 for 6 hours between 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. (*and \$18 for up to 12 hours*) and at the Hancock garage (*875 N. Michigan, enter from Delaware or Chestnut*) at the rate of \$10 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Validation tickets for the garages must be picked up from an usher. ✨ **Nursery care** during worship will resume next Sunday on the fourth floor of the Gratz Center. ✨ **Worship can be heard** in the Sanctuary and Chapel through the "T" or "T-coil" setting of hearing aids. ✨ Please silence **electronic devices** during worship.



Following worship, Deacons are available in Stone Chapel (*through the door to the right of the pulpit*) to pray with **individuals who would like to offer prayers** of praise or concern. ✨ We also gather on Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. for **Morning Prayer via Zoom** and at 10:00 a.m. for **in-person Morning Prayer** in Buchanan Chapel. For Zoom details, email Nancy Benson-Nicol (*nbenson-nicol@fourthchurch.org*). ✨ The Chapel is also open for **opportunity to walk the labyrinth** between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. on Tuesdays; between 8:30 and 9:30 a.m. on Wednesdays; and between 9:00 and 10:00 a.m. on Thursdays. For information about the labyrinth, email Rocky Supinger (*rsupinger@fourthchurch.org*). ✨ A **Sacred Pause time of meditation** is hosted virtually by our Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being on Tuesdays (7:45 a.m.) and Saturdays (8:30 a.m.) at facebook.com/reploglecenterforcounselingandwellbeing ✨ We invite you to use our **daily devotions**, written by members and staff, as a resource for **meditation and reflection**. These devotions are posted at www.fourthchurch.org/devotions; to receive the meditation via email, simply subscribe online at www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions ✨ During the week we make the 10:00 a.m. Sunday **service and sermon available via podcast** on iTunes and Spotify (www.bit.ly/FPCpodcast). ✨ You can also receive the previous Sunday's **sermon text by email** by subscribing online at www.bit.ly/fpcsermons



In the pew racks you will find a **Connection Card, which we invite you to fill out** and place in the offering plate. It provides opportunity for you to let us know in what ways you would like to connect with Fourth Church, to update your contact information, and to share prayer concerns.

Those worshipping with us in person are invited to **greet one another during Coffee Hour** outdoors in the Michigan Avenue courtyard following the service. ✨ **For additional ways to connect** with one another and Fourth Church, whether in person or online, as well as for various **resources**, watch our **website** (www.fourthchurch.org) and **Facebook** (facebook.com/fourthchurch). ✨ Events are posted on our **church calendar**, accessible from our website's home page and at www.fourthchurch.org/calendar



For those facing life's challenges, **Stephen Ministers** provide a listening presence and regular spiritual support. To have a one-time phone conversation with a Stephen Minister or arrange for ongoing talks, please leave a confidential message at 312.573.3365. ✨ To explore options for teletherapy or in-person conversations with a counselor, call our **Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being** at 312.787.2729, ext. 2260. ✨ To **talk to a pastor** or **notify the pastoral staff** of personal concerns, illnesses, hospitalizations, or deaths, please email caringministries@fourthchurch.org; if the situation is an emergency or requires immediate attention, please call the church at 312.787.4570 to be connected to the Minister on Call. ✨ To **submit a prayer request** to our Morning Prayer or Deacon Prayer Ministries, please email caringministries@fourthchurch.org



The **Knitting and Crocheting group** will meet this Tuesday, September 6 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 5B as it does on the first Tuesday of every month. ✨ **Benevolent Guild**, which has counted among its projects making stuffed animals and taggies for children in the hospital, meets on Wednesday, September 7 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 5B. ✨ The **Prayer Shawl Ministry**, an initiative of the Caring Ministries Team and the Knitting and Crocheting group, combines the love of knitting or crocheting with reaching out to those in need of comfort and solace, providing them with a tangible expression of that caring in the form of a handcrafted shawl or lap blanket. Information about Prayer Shawl Ministry as well as basic **instructions are available** at app.vomo.org/project/prayer-shawl-ministry or by contacting Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org).



Men's Bible Study meets online on Tuesdays at 7:30 a.m. **Women's Bible Study**—which offers two Zoom gathering times (12:00 and 6:30 p.m.) on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month—next meets on Wednesday, September 14. For Zoom details for Bible studies, email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org).

Next Sunday, September 11 is Get Connected Sunday at Fourth Church, a day when we will kick off our autumn opportunities, from Sunday School to youth gatherings to adult education and more. We will also be hosting an **outdoor block party** in the courtyard between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. that day, with music by the Jazz at Four musicians, a pet blessing, photo booth, free ice cream, and other festivities. Plan to bring a friend and join us!



Sunday morning **youth gatherings resume** on September 11, with Junior High at 10:00 a.m. and Senior High at 11:00 a.m. in the Bumpus Room. ✨ **Sunday School also resumes** on September 11 at 10:00 a.m. ✨ **Eighth-grade Confirmation** begins with a fall retreat at the church September 23–24 and will meet Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. starting October 2. If your child is interested in participating, please register at www.bit.ly/confirmation2223 by Sunday, September 18.



Adult education classes begin again next Sunday, September 11 as well, with two four-week classes launching that morning in Borwell Dining Room. **“Ukraine and the Orthodox Church,”** which will be **taught by Dr. Bruce Rigdon** at 9:00 a.m., will look at what makes Eastern Orthodox Christians distinctly different from Roman Catholics and Protestants and examine the Orthodox Church’s role in the invasion of Ukraine. **“Sound of the Genuine,”** **taught by the Reverend Carol Allen** at 11:15 a.m., will explore the power of narratives to heal our lives, our communities, and our world as well as shape our identity, our sense of purpose, our desires and hopes, what we believe and value, and how we relate to others. You can **register online for these upcoming classes** at www.bit.ly/ukrainechurch922 and www.bit.ly/genuine922



The **First Tuesday Book Club** invites you to join them via Zoom this Tuesday, September 6 at 7:00 p.m. for a conversation about ***Father Abraham’s Many Children*** by Tyler D. Mayfield. In reframing religious diversity through the stories of Cain, Ishmael, and Esau, this book invites us to explore what that reframing might mean for Christians living in a world of religious difference today. To join the conversation, register at www.bit.ly/firsttuesday922 ✨ **Women at Fourth’s Books by Women** group invites you to join them in discussing ***Finding The Mother Tree: Discovering the Wisdom of the Forest*** by Suzanne Simard next Tuesday, September 13 at 6:00 p.m. in the Bumpus Room.

Our **“Rhythm and Word” video series** returns for four weeks on September Wednesdays on YouTube (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos) and by email (*subscribe at www.bit.ly/rhythmmandwordemail*).



The current needs of the Chicago Lights Social Service Center are blankets, sleeping bags, comforters, and sheets; towels and washcloths; adult-size backpacks; grocery push carts; athletic shoes in men’s sizes 9–13 and women’s sizes 8–12; men’s casual pants, jeans, or khakis; and men’s sweaters, hoodies, and coats in sizes L, XL, XXL, AND XXXL. Items can be dropped off at the church reception desk seven days a week between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. (*except on Labor Day, when the church campus is closed*) or shipped to the Chicago Lights Social Service Center, 126 E. Chestnut St., Chicago, IL 60611.2014. ✨ To purchase **fresh produce** and support the work of students and young adults gaining on-site job skills at the **Chicago Lights Urban Farm**, stop by their Farmstand on Fridays between 1:00 and 5:00 p.m. (*444 W. Chicago Ave.*).



The Officer Nominating Committee is gathering **recommendations of individuals to serve in leadership positions** opening in 2023 for Elder, Deacon, Trustee, Nominating Committee, and the Chicago Lights Board. **If you know any Fourth Church members—including yourself!**—who have demonstrated gifts for leadership and ministry, please offer your recommendations via the online form at www.bit.ly/nominating2023 or by using the paper forms in the Narthex, at the rear of the Sanctuary.



Cornerstones, a group for those fifty and over, will meet for fellowship and a program on the **recent Fourth Church choir tour to the Middle East**. Register (*required*) for this 5:30 p.m. Friday, September 9 program at www.bit.ly/cornerstones922 ✨ Opportunities to make music with Fourth Church resume this month, with **Chancel Choir** beginning rehearsals Thursday, September 8 at 6:00 p.m. Next Sunday, September 11 rehearsals resume for **Cherub and Children’s Choir** (*9:30 a.m.*); **Youth Choir** (*10:45 a.m.*); **Handbell Choir** (*11:15 a.m.*); and **Gospel Choir** (*1:30 p.m.*). The **Choral Society** will begin rehearsals on Thursday evenings in October in preparation for performing **Gustav Mahler’s Second Symphony “Resurrection”** with **organist David Briggs** on Friday, November 11. To learn more about these volunteer ensembles, see www.fourthchurch.org/music/choirs or contact John Sherer (jsherer@fourthchurch.org). ✨ Our **Friday Noonday Concert** series will feature organist Stephen Edwards this Friday, September 9. We hope you will join us at 12:10 p.m. in the Sanctuary or for the livestream on YouTube (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos).

As we continue to return to more on-site programming, Fourth Church and Chicago Lights earlier this summer implemented a new safety and security practice: **anyone present on the Fourth Church campus is required to wear a campus badge while on site**, *except on Sundays and for other worship opportunities, concerts, and Meals Ministry meals*. Anyone who does not already have a campus badge (*except for those exceptions noted above*) will be asked to pick up a single-day badge at the 126 E. Chestnut reception desk.

Reusable badges are being issued by some programs with regular, ongoing weekly programming, such as Chancel Choir. These reusable badges are only available from the staff of those programs, not from the reception desk. Anyone who does not bring their reusable campus badge is able to pick up a single-day badge.

To facilitate this process—as well as for safety and security reasons—**all access to the building is through the 126 E. Chestnut entrance only**, *except on Sundays and for other worship opportunities, concerts, and Meals Ministry meals*. Our ongoing commitment to the safety and security of all on our campus undergirds this practice, which was been under discussion since prior to the pandemic. (*Implementation was set aside while the campus was largely closed.*)

The campus badges and single-entry access point were strongly encouraged by our safety and security consultants and advisors and are also consistent with practices at other large, spread-out, multi-use buildings with spaces and uses like ours. They enable us to know who is in the building throughout the day. (*Previous unlimited access has at times resulted in unknown individuals hiding in corners of the campus.*) They also ensure that should we ever have to evacuate the buildings, we will know who was on site and needs to be accounted for.

As a congregation, **we value radical hospitality and welcome for all**, and we believe one expression of that is our care for the well-being of those who are present with us. **This safety and security practice is but one expression of that**. For those who will be joining us on site as programming on campus continues to expand, we look forward to seeing you!



The **scaffolding** over the Chestnut Street sidewalk and the Delaware entrance to the Gratz Center is to facilitate tuckpointing as well as maintenance and repair work on the 1914 building. The scaffolding will likely be in place throughout September.

Worship Leaders

Nancy Benson-Nicol, Briana Lee, Joseph L. Morrow, Shannon J. Kershner

The Music Today

The Women's Choir

Michael Rees, Organ Scholar

John W. W. Sherer, Organist and Director of Music

Worship Notes

WE ARE GRATEFUL TO THE WOMEN'S CHOIR for their musical leadership in worship for the past seven weeks. Among the opportunities for getting involved in making music at Fourth Church are the Choral Society, Chancel Choir, and Gospel Choir; the Cherub, Children's, and Youth Choirs for ages four and up; and the Handbell Choir and Drum Circle. For more information about these groups, contact John Sherer (jsherer@fourthchurch.org).

OFFERING GIFTS TO SUPPORT THE MINISTRY AND MISSION of Fourth Church can be placed in one of the offering plates at the time of the offering or, after the service, in one of the offering boxes at the exit from the Sanctuary. They also can be given via Venmo (@Fourth-Church) or online at www.fourthchurch.org/give-online (or via the "To Make a Gift" button at www.fourthchurch.org).



Shannon J. Kershner Pastor
Lucy Forster-Smith Senior Associate Pastor
Associate Pastors
Nancy Benson-Nicol Caring Ministries and Spiritual Formation
Matt Helms Children and Family Ministry
Joseph L. Morrow Evangelism and Community Engagement
Nanette Sawyer Discipleship and Small Group Ministry
Rocky Supinger Youth Ministry and Worship
John Buchanan Pastor Emeritus

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