



Fourth Presbyterian Church

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 11, 2022 • 10:00 a.m.

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Prelude and Fugue in E-flat Major Johann Sebastian Bach

Introit

“Lord of All Hopefulness” Irish ballad; arr. Erik Routley

*Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy,
be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.*

*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: *Let us celebrate the bountiful love of God our Creator,*

People: **who prepares a feast for the lonely, lost, and least.**

Leader: *Let us rejoice in the love of God our Redeemer,*

People: **who welcomes home those who were far away.**

Leader: *Let us take comfort in the power of God our Sustainer,*

People: **who through small acts of faithfulness does mighty deeds of love.**



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

***Hymn 687** “Our God, Our Help in Ages Past”

Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home:

Beneath the shadow of thy throne thy saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is thine arm alone, and our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood, or earth received its frame,
from everlasting thou art God, to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in thy sight are like an evening gone,
short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever rolling stream, bears all our years away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the opening day.

Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
be thou our guard while life shall last, and our eternal home.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Patient God, you walk us through life in a way of beauty and love,
but we confess that we foolishly rush onto paths that crush the soul.

We have upheld our own interests first, to the detriment of others.

We have failed to lift up the downtrodden and abandoned efforts to bring about justice.

These sins weigh heavily upon our hearts, and we feel helpless to escape them.

Have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

Direct us back on your way so that we might live more faithfully as your servants
and declare your power and grace to others. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

Leader: *Friends, believe the good news:*

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Welcome and Announcements

Sacrament of Baptism

Anthem :: “We Wait for Thy Loving Kindness, O God” William McKie

*We wait for thy loving kindness, O God; in the midst of thy temple, alleluia.
O God, according to thy name, so is thy praise unto the world’s end.
Thy right hand is full of righteousness, alleluia. We wait for thy loving kindness, O God,
in the midst of thy temple. O Lord, send us now prosperity. Amen.*

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter Psalm 14

*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 15:1–10

Sermon Shannon J. Kershner

Responding to the Word

***Hymn 649** “Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.
’Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!
Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come.
’Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
The Lord has promised good to me; his word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.
When we’ve been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
we’ve no less days to sing God’s praise than when we’d first begun.

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

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

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.
In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image
male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community.
But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.
Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,
accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature,
and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.
We deserve God's condemnation.
Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.
In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah
chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth.
Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage.
Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.
Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.
With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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 :: "I Was Glad When They Said unto Me" C. Hubert H. Parry

*I was glad, glad when they said unto me we will go into the house of the Lord. Our feet
shall stand in thy gates, O Jerusalem. Jerusalem is builded as a city that is at unity in itself.
O pray for the peace of Jerusalem, they shall prosper that love thee. Peace be within thy walls
and plenteousness within thy palaces.*

***Offertory Response** The Hymnal, 609

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures high and low.
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one.
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

***Prayer of Dedication** (*unison*)

Holy One, receive these offerings as you receive our lives.
Gather our false starts and uncertain efforts, our generosity, and our reluctance.
Enliven us with your breath and make your purposes known
that our lives might show forth your glory.
For we pray in the name of Jesus and by the power of your Spirit. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

***Hymn 853** “We Are Marching in the Light of God”

We are marching in the light of God . . . (*repeat*)
We are dancing . . .
We are praying . . .
We are singing . . .

***Charge and Benediction**

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

Postlude ♪ Our God, Our Help in Ages Past. C. H. H. Parry

Baptized in Today’s Service
Caroline Hunter Humphrey, child of Rachel and Brian Humphrey
Grace Lanctot, child of John and Carolyn Lanctot
Jane Lanctot, child of John and Carolyn Lanctot
Catherine Wyatt Adams Reidy, child of Conor Reidy and Whitney Stevens
Logan Alan Nuehring Su, child of Devlin and Katharine Su
Cassian Woo Tian Xue Cornell Wilson, child of Cornell Wilson III and Samantha Woo



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. ✨ 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. ✨ During the morning service **nursery care** is available 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, Wednesdays, and 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



A new video in our **autumn “Rhythm and Word” series**—which includes the music of the Fourth Church Jazz Quartet—will be released on YouTube (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos) each Wednesday evening in September; the videos are also available weekly by email (*subscribe at www.bit.ly/rhythmwordemail*). ✨ We also invite you to use our **daily devotions**, written by members and staff, as a resource for **meditation and reflection**. These devotions are posted online at www.fourthchurch.org/devotions; to receive the meditation via email, simply subscribe 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

We ask that those of you worshiping with us in person **please take a moment to sign the pew information pads** so that we might know you are here. Then please pass the pad down your pew so that all worshipers have an opportunity to provide updated information and to greet one another by name following the service. ✨ Those worshiping in person this morning are also invited to **greet one another during Coffee Hour** in Anderson Hall and the Commons 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



Benevolent Guild, which has counted among its projects making stuffed animals and taggies for children in the hospital, meets this Wednesday, September 14 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 5B. ✨ The **Knitting and Crocheting group** will meet next Sunday, September 18 at 11:00 a.m. in Room 5B. ✨ The **Prayer Shawl Ministry** 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



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—meets this Wednesday, September 14. This autumn the women's study will explore "Celebrating Sabbath: Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight." For Zoom details for Bible studies, email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org).

Today is Get Connected Sunday at Fourth Church! On this day when we kick off our autumn opportunities, from Sunday School to youth gatherings to adult education and more, we invite you to stop by Anderson Hall to learn about the many ways you can connect with one another and this faith community. It is also the day of our festive **block party!** Join us and our neighbors in the courtyard (*weather permitting; in the Commons if not*) between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. today for music by the Jazz at Four musicians, a pet blessing, photo booth, free ice cream, and more.



Sunday morning **youth gatherings resume** today, with Junior High at 10:00 a.m. and Senior High at 11:00 a.m. in the Bumpus Room. ✨ **Sunday School also resumes** today at 10:00 a.m. on the fourth floor of the Gratz Center. ✨ **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 in Confirmation, please register at www.bit.ly/confirmation2223 by Sunday, September 18.



Adult education classes begin this morning as well, with two new four-week classes. **“Ukraine and the Orthodox Church,”** which will be **taught by Dr. Bruce Rigdon** at 9:00 a.m. in Borwell Dining Room, 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. in Room 5G, will examination 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. As part of that exploration we will hear and share stories, including those of Fourth Church members and authors Arlene Faulk on September 18 and Jim Garner on September 25. You can **register online for these two classes** at www.bit.ly/ukrainechurch922 and www.bit.ly/genuine922



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 this Tuesday, September 13 at 6:00 p.m. in the Bumpus Room. ✨ The **First Tuesday Book Club** invites you to join them via Zoom on Tuesday, October 4 at 7:00 p.m. for a conversation about ***Tears We Cannot Stop*** by Michael Eric Dyson. To join the conversation, register at www.bit.ly/firsttuesday1022

Save the date! On Tuesday, October 18 we will be hosting a special Michigan Avenue Forum:

“The 1619 Project Revisited: Race, History, and the Future—A Conversation with Nikole Hannah-Jones and Natalie Moore.” This 7:00 p.m. program in the Sanctuary will feature Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and author of the *New York Times*’ *1619 Project*, Nikole Hannah-Jones, together with WBEZ’s Natalie Moore, in a discussion moderated by D. Bradford Hunt, Professor and Chair in the Department of History at Loyola University. Please plan to join us for this important conversation.



The Chicago Lights Social Service Center is in need of blankets, sleeping bags, comforters, and sheets; towels and washcloths; adult-size backpacks; grocery push carts; athletic shoes (men’s sizes 9–13; women’s sizes 8–12); men’s casual pants, jeans, or khakis; and men’s sweaters, hoodies, and coats (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. 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 Coffee Hour today or visit the Farmstand (444 W. Chicago Ave.) on Fridays between 1:00 and 5:00 p.m.



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 pew racks.



Opportunities to make music with Fourth Church resume this month, with **Chancel Choir** rehearsing on Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. Rehearsing today are **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, contact John Sherer (jsherer@fourthchurch.org). ✨ Our **Friday Noonday Concert** series will feature Morning Choir **soprano Laura Perrett and pianist Talar Khosdeghian** this Friday, September 16. We hope you will join us at 12:10 p.m. in the Sanctuary or for the livestream on YouTube (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos).

Those who would like to learn more about this congregation or **become a member of Fourth Church** are invited to the Inquirers' Class next Sunday, September 18 at 9:00 a.m. in Room 5G. You can register for this one-session class at www.bit.ly/inquirers922



As we continue to return to more on-site programming this autumn, Fourth Church and Chicago Lights implemented this summer 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

Joseph L. Morrow, Lisa Stracks, Nanette Sawyer, Shannon J. Kershner

The Music Today

The Morning Choir

Michael Rees, Organ Scholar

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

Worship Notes

THIS MORNING WE WELCOME BACK THE MORNING CHOIR to Sunday morning musical leadership.

The Chancel Choir and Gospel Choir will also be singing in worship on future Sundays; if you are interested in joining one of these choirs, please 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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