



Fourth Presbyterian Church

Third Sunday of Easter
April 23, 2023 • 10:00 a.m.

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

- Partita in A Minor for Solo Flute Johann Sebastian Bach
 I. Allemande transcribed by Phil Pierick
- II. Corrente
- III. Sarabande
- IV. Bourrée angloise
- Bourrée from *Water Music Suite in D Major* George Frideric Handel/arr. Larry Sue
- Earth Prayers Augusta Read Thomas

Introit

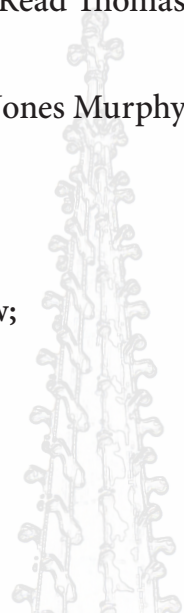
“Dwell in The House” Gale Jones Murphy
*One thing have I desired of the Lord and that will I seek after, that I may dwell
 in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord!*

*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 Lord is risen! Alleluia!*
 People: Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!



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

***Hymn 246.** “Christ Is Alive!”

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring. Love, drowned in death, shall never die.
Christ is alive! No longer bound to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now, and touching every place and time.
In every insult, rift, and war where color, scorn, or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more, and lives, where even hope has died.
Women and men, in age and youth, can feel the Spirit, hear the call,
and find the way, the life, the truth, revealed in Jesus, freed for all.
Christ is alive, and comes to bring good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring with joy, with justice, love, and praise.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave
you shattered the power of sin and death.
We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear,
bound by the ways that lead to death.
We overlook the poor and the hungry and pass by those who mourn;
we are deaf to the cries of the oppressed and indifferent to calls for peace;
we despise the weak and abuse the earth you made.
Forgive us, God of mercy.
Help us to trust your power to change our lives and make us new,
that we may know the joy of life abundant given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

Leader: *Friends, believe the good news:*
All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

***Exchange of Peace**

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 use this time to share your presence with us, using the online form.*

Welcome and Announcements

Anthem

“The Dawning” Richard Webster
Awake, sad heart, whom sorrow ever drowns; take up thine eyes, which feed on earth; unfold thy forehead gathered into frowns; thy Savior comes, and with him mirth. Awake, and with a thankful heart his comforts take. But thou dost still lament and pine and cry; and feel his death, but not his victory. Arise, sad heart; if thou dost not withstand, Christ’s resurrection thine may be: do not by hanging down break from the hand, which as it riseth, raiseth thee. Arise, and with his burial linen dry thine eyes. Christ left his graveclothes, that we might, when grief draws tears, or blood, not want a handkerchief.

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson Isaiah 2:1–5

***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 Lesson Matthew 25:31–46

Leader: *The Word of the Lord.*
People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Shannon Kershner

“I believe in Jesus Christ; . . . from thence he shall come to judge the living and the dead.”

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

Responding to the Word

***Hymn 351** “All Who Love and Serve Your City”

All who love and serve your city, all who bear its daily stress,
all who cry for peace and justice, all who curse and all who bless:

In your day of wealth and plenty, wasted work and wasted play,
call to mind the word of Jesus, “You must work while it is day.”

For all days are days of judgment, and the Lord is waiting still,
drawing near a world that spurns him, offering peace from Calvary’s hill.

Risen Lord, shall yet the city be the city of despair?
Come today, our judge, our glory. Be its name “The Lord is there!”

Confirmation and New Members

***Affirmation of Faith** (*unison*) Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People

The Lord’s Prayer (*unison*)

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Call to Offering

Offertory Anthem

“Have You Not Known? Have You Not Heard?” R. Webster
*Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning?
Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? The Lord is an everlasting God,
who does not grow faint or weary. The Lord gives power to the weak and strengthens the
powerless. Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings
like eagles and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint; they shall run and not be weary.*

***Offertory Response** Hymn 251, verse 1

Christ has arisen, alleluia. Rejoice and praise him, alleluia.
For our redeemer burst from the tomb, even from death, dispelling its gloom.
Let us sing praise to him with endless joy. Death’s fearful sting he has come to destroy.
Our sin forgiving, alleluia! Jesus is living, alleluia!

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

God, you have given each of us gifts to use as members of the body of Christ.
Here are our gifts — the work of our hands, our hearts, and our lives.
We pray that they may help to bring the good news of Jesus Christ to our world,
today and always, here and everywhere. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

***Hymn 248** “Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!”

Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna! Celebrate this day of days!

Christ is risen! Hush in wonder: all creation is amazed.

In the desert all-surrounding, see, a spreading tree has grown.

Healing leaves of grace abounding bring a taste of love unknown.

Christ is risen! Raise your spirits from the caverns of despair.

Walk with gladness in the morning. See what love can do and dare.

Drink the wine of resurrection, not a servant, but a friend.

Jesus is our strong companion. Joy and peace shall never end.

Christ is risen! Earth and heaven nevermore shall be the same.

Break the bread of new creation where the world is still in pain.

Tell its grim, demonic chorus: “Christ is risen! Get you gone!”

God the First and Last is with us. Sing Hosanna everyone!

***Charge and Benediction**

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

Postlude

Christ Is Risen! Alleluia. Aaron David Miller

Confirmation

TODAY THE 2023 CLASS of eighth-grade confirmands is being recognized and welcomed into the wider life of the congregation. Please keep these youth in prayer as they continue with us on their faith journey.

Franziska Amberg	Peyton McAdams
Avery Bossert	Siena Moore
Cece Burt	Evan Ocken
Lucy Chong	Samuel Picciola
Willa Crosby	Peter Pinto
Alex Cruise	Hugh Powers
Frances Fairman	Cole Raub
Rowan Foley	Ian Reatherford
Mia Grady	Alexander Robinson
Christopher Hutchison	Mack Schnabel
William Kerr	Evan Tax
Milo Koernig	Callie VanDerMeid
Eva Koshy	Audrey von der Sitt
Gigi Luban	Felix Vujasin

Please also join us in giving thanks for the faith-filled dedication of the confirmation leaders, who accompanied the youth on their journey this past year: Anne Stelle, Eric Wu, and Amy Pagliarella.

News and Opportunities

April 23–29, 2023



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. As a mask-welcoming campus, we remain committed to **ensuring no one will feel out of place should they choose to wear a mask while at Fourth Church.**

✳️ 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 via phone by calling 888.916.9166 at the time of the livestreamed service.



During the week we make the 10:00 a.m. Sunday **service and sermon available via podcast** on multiple podcast platforms and at www.fourthchurch.org/podcasts ✳️ You can also receive the previous Sunday’s **sermon text by email** by subscribing at www.bit.ly/fpcsermons ✳️ Available by podcast as well is Matt Helms and Rocky Supinger’s **“Bible Top Ten,”** a podcast exploring the Bible through a rotating series of top ten lists. ✳️ **Men’s Bible Study** meets via Zoom on Tuesdays at 7:30 a.m., and **Women’s Bible Study** offers two Zoom gathering times (12:00 and 6:30 p.m.) this Wednesday, April 26. For Zoom details, email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org).

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

We ask all who are worshipping with us to **let us know you are here by filling out an information form**, which also ensures we have current contact information. Those worshipping with us via livestream will find **a link to the online form—which takes only 20 seconds to complete!**—included in the descriptive text below the video (*if you are viewing full screen, you will need to briefly exit full-screen view to see the description and link*); a QR code is also displayed during the “Welcome and Announcements” that can be scanned with a phone camera to take you to the form. Those worshipping with us in person are asked to use the **information pads in the pews**, passing them down the pew so worshipers have opportunity to greet one another by name following the service.



Today we continue **the sermon series “I believe . . .”**—an opportunity for us to take a closer look at the Apostles’ Creed, which we use as one of our Affirmations of Faith, and to explore what we believe together. ✨ 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 (*with Communion*) 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. ✨ **Children** are always welcome in worship. **If you need to step out to comfort your child**, the Hospitality Suite, located on the second floor of the Gratz Center, is available as a quiet space for families where worship is livestreamed. During the morning service **nursery care** is also available on the fourth floor of the Gratz Center. ✨ **Worship can be heard** in the Sanctuary through the “T” or “T-coil” setting of hearing aids. ✨ Please silence **electronic devices** during worship.



Following worship, a **pipe organ tour** begins at 11:15 a.m. at the front of the Sanctuary. ✨ Also 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 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 open for **opportunity to walk the labyrinth** between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. For labyrinth details, email Rocky Supinger (*rsupinger@fourthchurch.org*). ✨ To **submit a prayer request** to our Morning Prayer or Deacon Prayer Ministries, please email caringministries@fourthchurch.org

As was announced in a congregational letter this past week, **Shannon Kershner has accepted the call to be pastor of Central Presbyterian Church in Atlanta.** Her last Sunday at Fourth Church will be **Sunday, May 28**, when we will have opportunity to express our gratitude and well wishes to Shannon and her family in a reception following the 10:00 a.m. service of worship. ✨ Notes, letters, memories, and photos for Shannon, thanking her for her ministry among us and wishing her well in her new call, are being collected through May 21. They can be mailed to the church (*Attn. Memory Box*), emailed to memorybox@fourthchurch.org, or dropped off at the church reception desk; these **private expressions of gratitude, shared memories, and well wishes will be presented to Shannon in a memory box** on Sunday, May 28.



If you did not receive the email announcement from Shannon last Sunday (*which you can read on our website at www.bit.ly/sjkletter*), we encourage you to subscribe to the Fourth Church email newsletter! We don't want you to miss out on updates about our honoring Shannon or about his time of transition for Fourth Church. The leadership of this congregation is hard at work planning for this season, and we want to make sure you see the latest information. To subscribe, **sign up at www.bit.ly/newsfromfpc or send your email address to news@fourthchurch.org**



Those worshiping in person are invited to **greet one another during Coffee Hour** in Anderson Hall and the Commons following the service. ✨ Those who are interested in being a **welcoming presence at Coffee Hour** are encouraged to sign up online at app.vomo.org/project/coffeehour to be a **Cookie Table Host, Server, or Hospitality Coordinator.** ✨ Those interested in **serving as a Youth Ministry Leader** can learn more at www.bit.ly/youthleaders2324 ✨ **Explore other volunteer opportunities** by visiting www.bit.ly/fpcvolunteers or by contacting Robert Crouch (*312.981.3382; rcrouch@fourthchurch.org*), Director of Volunteer Ministry.



The **World Mission and Social Justice Council** invites you to join them in **walking for hunger** with community partner Breakthrough Urban Ministries on Saturday, April 29. To learn more about Breakthrough's work partnering with people to build connections, develop skills, and open doors of opportunity in Garfield Park or **to sign up for the walk**, visit www.bit.ly/hungerwalk423



Borwell Dining Room and some other Gratz Center spaces are temporarily closed as we do some spring refreshing of those rooms, which have seen much use since we opened the Gratz Center in 2012!

The **“Aging and Spirituality”** class taught by Annette Mileski and HD Mitchell meets today at 11:15 a.m. in Room 5F and via Zoom. For Zoom details, register at www.bit.ly/aeaging ✨ A new class, led by Robert Crouch and Jeff Doane, will begin on Sunday, May 7 at 11:15 a.m. and will discuss the latest book by **Dr. Otis Moss III, *Dancing in the Darkness: Spiritual Lessons for Thriving in Turbulent Times***. This class will be in person only; register at www.bit.ly/aedancingdarkness



A new ten-minute video in our “Rhythm and Word” video series led by Shannon Kershner is released on our YouTube channel (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos) each Wednesday at 6:00 p.m.; to receive the videos by email, sign up at www.bit.ly/rhythmwordemail ✨ Our **daily devotions** (fourthchurch.org/devotions), written by Fourth Church members and staff, are available as a **resource for your personal meditation and prayer**. To receive them by email, subscribe at www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions



Cornerstones will be hosting an **intergenerational Deep Listening Dinner** on the evening of May 5 in Borwell Dining Room, with conversations centered around the theme of generations. There is no charge for the meal, to which all are invited; however, seating is limited to seventy-two people and thus advance registration is required at www.bit.ly/cornerstones523. ✨ **Women at Fourth** will gather via Zoom this Thursday, April 27 at 6:00 p.m. for a program on the **Chicago Children’s Advocacy Center**. For the Zoom link, register at www.bit.ly/wafpc423 ✨ **Knitting and Crocheting** meets this Tuesday, April 25 at 4:00 p.m. via Zoom; for Zoom details, email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org). ✨ 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). ✨ Events are posted on our **church calendar**, accessible from our website’s home page and at fourthchurch.org/calendar



The **Fourth Church Choral Society** will present a concert on May 21 with St. James Cathedral singers. **All who enjoy singing** are invited to Thursday rehearsals at 7:00 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel. ✨ Our **free Friday Noonday Concert series** will feature our **Organist John Sherer** this Friday, April 28 at 12:10 p.m. in the Sanctuary and on YouTube (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos).



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 requires immediate attention, please call the church at 312.787.4570 to be connected to the Minister on Call.

Worship Leaders

Rocky Supinger, Eric Wu, Nancy Benson-Nicol, Shannon J. Kershner

The Music Today

Phil Pierick, Saxophonist
The Handbell Choir; Briana Belding-Peck, Director
The Gospel Choir; Bryan Johnson, Director
The Morning Choir; Laura Perrett, Soloist
Michael Rees, Organ Scholar
John W. W. Sherer, Organist and Director of Music

Worship Notes

THE TEXT OF OUR OPENING HYMN, “Christ Is Alive!” was written by Brian Wren in 1968 to express an Easter hope while mindful of the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., which had happened that year just ten days before Easter. As noted in our hymnal, “buoyed by a triple-arched tune, the hymn affirms the presence of a wounded, risen Christ with all who suffer.”

TODAY’S OFFERTORY ANTHEM “Have You Not Known? Have You Not Heard?” was composed by Richard Webster and was premiered at Trinity Church in Boston on Sunday, April 14, 2013, the day before the Boston Marathon bombing. It has since been offered in memory of those who were killed and to honor those injured.

OFFERING GIFTS TO SUPPORT THE MINISTRY AND MISSION of Fourth Church can be placed in one of the offering plates, which will be passed 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

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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