



Fourth Presbyterian Church

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 14, 2023 • 10:00 a.m.

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Concerto in F Major George Frideric Handel

Allegro – Andante – Adagio – Allegro

Introit

“Here I Am, Lord” Daniel Schutte

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry. All who dwell in deepest sin my hand will save. I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright. Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send? Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night. I will go Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people’s pain. I have wept for love of them. They turn away. I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone. I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send? Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night. I will go Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

*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: *We come to this place for refuge.*

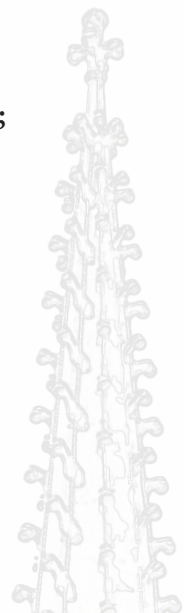
People: **God is our rock and our fortress.**

Leader: *We come to this hour for guidance.*

People: **God is our rock and our fortress.**

Leader: *We come together for courage, and we wait for the Lord.*

People: **God is our rock and our fortress.**



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

***Hymn 730** “I Sing a Song of the Saints of God”

I sing a song of the saints of God, patient and brave and true,
who toiled and fought and lived and died for the Lord they loved and knew.
And one was a doctor, and one was a queen, and one was a shepherdess on the green:
they were all of them saints of God, and I mean, God helping, to be one too.

They loved their Lord so dear, so dear, and God’s love made them strong;
and they followed the right, for Jesus’ sake, the whole of their good lives long.
And one was a soldier, and one was a priest, and one was slain by a fierce wild beast:
and there’s not any reason, no, not the least, why I shouldn’t be one too.

They lived not only in ages past; there are hundreds of thousands still;
the world is bright with the joyous saints who love to do Jesus’ will.
You can meet them in school, or in lanes, or at sea,
in church, or in trains, or in shops, or at tea;
for the saints of God are just folk like me, and I mean to be one too.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Almighty God, you love us, but we have not loved you.
You call, but we have not listened.
We walk away from neighbors in need, wrapped in our own concerns.
We condone evil, prejudice, warfare, and greed.
God of grace, help us to admit our sin, so that as you come to us in mercy,
we may repent, turn to you, and receive forgiveness;
through Jesus Christ our redeemer. 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.*

Fifth-Grade Bible Presentation

Welcome and Announcements

The Sacrament of Baptism

Anthem

“Let Nothing Disturb You” John Warren
Let nothing disturb you, nothing affright you; all things are passing, God never changes. Patient endurance attains unto all things. Who God possesses in nothing is wanting; alone God suffices.

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter Psalm 31:1–5, 23–24
Children age three through grade five are invited to come forward during the singing of the Gloria Patri.

***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.
Children depart for Sunday School with their teachers.

Scripture Lesson Romans 12:4–18

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

Sermon Matt Helms

“I believe . . . in the communion of saints”

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

Responding to the Word

***Hymn 727** “Will You Let Me Be Your Servant”

Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?

Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.

We are pilgrims on a journey; we’re together on the road.

We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christ-light for you in the nighttime of your fear.

I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh I’ll laugh with you.

I will share your joy and sorrow till we’ve seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven, we shall find such harmony,

born of all we’ve known together of Christ’s love and agony.

Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?

Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.

***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

“Rejoice in the Lord Alway” Anonymous
Rejoice in the Lord alway, and again I say rejoice. Let your softness be known unto all men; the Lord is e’en at hand. Be careful for nothing, but in all prayer and supplication, let your petitions be manifest unto God with giving of thanks. And the peace of God which passeth all understanding keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesu. Amen.

***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*)

Holy God, we give you thanks and praise for light and life and love,
and—above all—the presence of the living Lord among us.
By your Spirit who breathes within us, strengthen our faith,
use our gifts, and work in our lives
to bear witness to the resurrection of Christ our Lord,
in whose name we pray. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

***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)*

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

March upon Handel’s “Lift Up Your Heads” Alexandre Guilmant

Baptized in Today’s Service

Colette Reese Drake, child of Steve and Nikki Drake
Moname Sheila Lucey, child of Patrick and Jennifer Lucey
Serena Rose Reimer, child of Clint and Melissa Reimer
Gregory Park Schmidt, child of Troy and Gillian Schmidt
Walter Bates Schmidt, child of Troy and Gillian Schmidt
Taylor Kathryn Traynor, child of Brian and Emily Traynor
Ollie Patrick Vostry, child of Tyler and Kaity Vostry

News and Opportunities

May 14–20, 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.



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.



If you would like to join us for **in-person worship**, we gather on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary and, this Sunday and next (May 21), at 4:00 p.m. for a 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 afternoon 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.

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 for you. 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 (*after exiting full-screen view*); 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 ✨ Those worshipping in person are also invited to **greet one another during Coffee Hour** in Anderson Hall and the Commons following the 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.



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). ✨ **A Sacred Pause time of meditation** is hosted virtually by our Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being at facebook.com/reploglecenterforcounselingandwellbeing on Tuesdays (7:45 a.m.) and also Saturdays (8:30 a.m.).



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. ✨ To **submit a prayer request** to our Morning Prayer or Deacon Prayer Ministries, please email caringministries@fourthchurch.org ✨ **For those facing life’s challenges**, Stephen Ministers provide a listening presence. To talk with a Stephen Minister, 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.

Today we continue the sermon series “I believe . . .”—an opportunity for us to take a closer look at the Apostles’ Creed, one of our Affirmations of Faith, and to explore what we believe together.



On Wednesday **Shannon Kershner**, who is away today for daughter Hannah’s college graduation, will be **preaching at the Festival of Homiletics** preaching conference in Minneapolis. Shannon will be back in our pulpit next Sunday for her final two Sundays at Fourth Church.



If you have not yet contributed a card, note, or letter for Shannon Kershner, thanking her for her ministry among us and wishing her well in her new call to Atlanta’s Central Presbyterian Church, **please take a moment to do so by next Sunday, May 21** so we might add them to the Memory Box we will present to Shannon on May 28. These private expressions of gratitude, memories, and well wishes can be **mailed** to the church office (*Fourth Presbyterian Church, Attn. Memory Box, 126 E. Chestnut, Chicago, IL 60611.2014*), **dropped off** at the church reception desk or in Coffee Hour, or **emailed** to memorybox@fourthchurch.org.



Shannon’s last Sunday at Fourth Church will be Sunday, May 28. She will lead us in worship that morning at 10:00 a.m. Immediately following that service we will hold a **congregational meeting**, which Session has called for the purpose of formally dissolving the pastoral relationship between Shannon and Fourth Church. The meeting will be both in person in the Sanctuary and livestreamed. Afterwards we will gather in Anderson Hall and the Commons for a festive **reception honoring Shannon**. We hope you will join us for this time of expressing gratitude and well wishes to her and her family as they prepare for the move to Atlanta.



During the upcoming transition season that will follow Shannon Kershner’s move to Atlanta, the **Interim Pastor Nominating Committee (IPNC)** will be searching for an Interim Pastor candidate to recommend to the Personnel Council. The Interim Pastor will not be our next Senior Pastor. Rather they will be **someone to guide us during the year or more when we are searching for the next Pastor.** ✨ To ensure you **receive updates about the transition**, subscribe to the Fourth Church email newsletter if you do not already receive it. **Sign up at www.bit.ly/newsfromfpc** or send your email address to news@fourthchurch.org ✨ If you have **questions or comments** about the transition, please email them to transition@fourthchurch.org; you can also find **transition updates and information** at www.fourthchurch.org/transition

The adult education class discussing ***Dancing in the Darkness: Spiritual Lessons for Thriving in Turbulent Times*** by Dr. Otis Moss III meets today at 11:15 a.m. in Borwell Dining Room (*in person only*). Register for this class, led by Robert Crouch and Jeff Doane, at www.bit.ly/aedancingdarkness

✳ Opportunities to engage in Bible study include **Men's Bible Study**, which meets via Zoom on Tuesdays at 7:30 a.m., and **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 and next meets Wednesday, May 24. For Zoom details for either Bible study, email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org) ✳

Another opportunity for biblical study is offered by Matt Helms and Rocky Supinger through their "**Bible Top Ten**," a lively, informative, and occasionally funny **podcast about the Bible** as explored through a rotating series of top ten lists: www.fourthchurch.org/podcasts



A new ten-minute video in our "**Rhythm and Word**" video series led by Joe Morrow and drawing on the poetry of Mary Oliver is released on our YouTube channel (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos) each Wednesday at 6:00 p.m.; sign up at www.bit.ly/rhythmandwordemail to receive the videos by email. ✳ 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



LGBTQIA+ Widen Our Welcome (WOW) gathers for brunch next Sunday morning, May 21; those joining in this time of fellowship will meet at the reception desk following worship to walk together to a nearby restaurant. ✳ **Knitting and Crocheting** also meets next Sunday, May 21 at 11:00 a.m. in Room 5B and on Tuesday, May 23 at 4:00 p.m. via Zoom. For Zoom details, email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org). ✳ **Women at Fourth** will gather for fellowship and a neighborhood field trip across the street to the 360 Chicago Observation Deck next Sunday, May 21 at 11:30 a.m. Registration is required by this Thursday, May 18 at www.bit.ly/waf523 ✳ **Cornerstones**, a fellowship group of those fifty and over, will meet for dinner and a program on Friday evening, June 2 in Borwell Dining Room. **Jeanne Bishop will be present to speak on "Writing about Mercy,"** as she talks about the books she has written and is currently writing. Register (*required*) at www.bit.ly/cornerstones623 ✳ 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

Those graduating from eighth grade, high school, college, or a graduate or professional program in 2023 are asked to email their names to Katie Patterson (kpatterson@fourthchurch.org) no later than Sunday, May 28. Graduate names received by May 28 will appear in the worship bulletin on June 4, which is **Baccalaureate Sunday** at Fourth Church.



The Fourth Church Choral Society and St. James Cathedral choirs invite you to their festival concert “Orb and Sceptre: Music for the Coronation” next Sunday, May 21 at 6:30 p.m. at St. James Cathedral (*65 E Huron*). The combined choirs will perform regal and celebrative works by Handel, Parry, and Vaughan Williams. ✨ Our free **Friday Noonday Concert series** will feature the Renoir Trio (*strings*) this Friday, May 19 at 12:10 p.m. in the Sanctuary and also livestreamed on YouTube (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos).



We continue to do spring refreshing of some spaces in the Gratz Center, all of which have seen much use since we opened the Gratz Center in 2012! We are delighted to share that the work on Borwell Dining Room is complete. Some spaces on the fourth and fifth floors remain temporarily closed while we continue work there.



The Chicago Lights Social Service Center is in need of the following items, which can be dropped off at the church reception desk (*enter at 126 E. Chestnut*) on weekdays and Sundays between 8:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. **Men’s clothing:** jeans/casual pants/khakis (*sizes 30–40*), sweatshirts/hoodies (*sizes S–3XL*), and T-shirts (*sizes S–3XL*). **Men’s and women’s items:** spring coats (*all sizes*), sneakers/athletic shoes (*all sizes*), and new underwear (*sizes S–2XL*). **Carrying items:** backpacks, suitcases, push or pull roller bags, and large cloth bags/sturdy shopping bags.



Next Sunday, May 21 will be our last afternoon worship service until after Labor Day. Shannon Kershner will be the preacher at next week’s service. During the summer, a team will be preparing to relaunch the service when it **resumes on Sunday, September 10.**



After Labor Day we will be adding a second Sunday morning worship service. Beginning Sunday, September 10, we will be worshipping at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings. Until then, and through the summer, we will continue to worship at 10:00 a.m. on Sundays.

Worship Leaders

Rocky Supinger, Grant Hodges, Nanette Sawyer, Matt Helms

The Music Today

The Cherub, Children's, and Youth Choirs; Katy Sinclair, Director; Hsing-Huei Huang, Pianist

The Morning Choir

Michael Rees, Organ Scholar

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

Worship Notes

TODAY THE YOUTH CHOIR honors graduating senior Chiara Gustafson and thanks her for sharing her musical gifts over the years by singing in the Children's and Youth Choirs.

THE PORTATIVE ORGAN HEARD IN TODAY'S PRELUDE is dedicated in memory of James P. Baughman, a longtime Fourth Church member and generous supporter of Fourth Church music, and was given by Deborah Baughman and their family.

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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THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO

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