



Fourth Presbyterian Church

Third Sunday after Pentecost

June 18, 2023 • 10:00 a.m.

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Vocalise Sergei Rachmaninoff/arr. Patricia Bird

Siciliano for a High Ceremony. Herbert Howells

Introit

“Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty” German chorale/arr. Norman J. Clayton

Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation! O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation! All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near; join me in glad adoration!

*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 adapted from Dr. King’s “I Have a Dream” speech

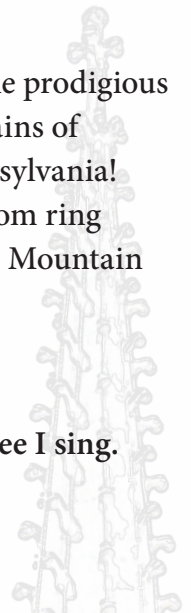
Leader: Some of you have come here out of great trials and tribulations.
You are the veterans of redemptive suffering.

People: We believe that if our God is for us then who can be against us!

Leader: With God before you, then, let freedom ring! Let freedom ring from the prodigious hilltops of New Hampshire! Let freedom ring from the mighty mountains of New York! Let freedom ring from the heightening Alleghenies of Pennsylvania! Let freedom ring from the snowcapped Rockies of Colorado! Let freedom ring from the curvaceous slopes of California! Let freedom ring from Stone Mountain of Georgia! Let freedom ring from Lookout Mountain of Tennessee! Let freedom ring from every hill and molehill of Mississippi! From every mountainside, let freedom ring!

People: Together we sing, “My country, ’tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing.
Land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrims’ pride,
from every mountainside, let freedom ring.”

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



Leader: When we allow freedom to ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual,

People: "Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!"

***Hymn 337** "My Country, 'Tis of Thee"

My country, 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing:
land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrims' pride,
from every mountainside let freedom ring.

My native country, thee, land of the noble free, thy name I love;
I love thy rocks and rills, thy woods and templed hills;
my heart with rapture thrills like that above.

Let music swell the breeze, and ring from all the trees sweet freedom's song.
Let mortal tongues awake; let all that breathe partake;
let rocks their silence break, the sound prolong.

Our fathers' God, to thee, author of liberty, to thee we sing.
Long may our land be bright with freedom's holy light;
protect us by thy might, great God, our King.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*) based on the Brief Statement of Faith (PCUSA)

We approach you in trust, God, you, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.
In sovereign love you created the world good
and made everyone equally in your image,
male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community.

But we have rebelled against you; we have hidden from you, our Creator.
Ignoring your commandments, we have violated the image of God in others and ourselves,
accepted lies as truth, exploited neighbor and nature,
and threatened death to the planet entrusted to our care.

(continued on facing page)

Forgive us, God. Act with justice and mercy to redeem creation.
In everlasting love, you delivered the children of Israel
from the house of bondage. Set us free to accept ourselves and
to love God and neighbor, and bind us together with all believers
in the one body of Christ, the Church.

Open our eyes to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
open our ears to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and open our hearts to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.
Trusting in your love, we pray through Christ Jesus our 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

“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.
Steal away to Jesus. Steal away home, I ain’t got long to stay here. Green trees bending,
poor sinner stands trembling. The trumpet sounds within my soul. I ain’t got long to stay here.
Steal away to Jesus. Steal away home, I ain’t got long to stay here.*

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson Numbers 20:1–13

*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 Revelation 7:9–10, 15–17

Leader: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Matt Helms

Responding to the Word

***Hymn 339** “Lift Every Voice and Sing”

Lift every voice and sing till earth and heaven ring,
ring with the harmonies of liberty.
Let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies;
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us.
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun, let us march on, till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,
felt in the days when hope unborn had died.
Yet, with a steady beat, have not our weary feet
come to the place for which our parents sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered;
we have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

(continued on facing page)

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

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
thou who hast by thy might led us into the light,
keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee;
lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee;
shadowed beneath thy hand may we forever stand,
true to our God, true to our native land.

***Affirmation of Faith** (*unison*) excerpts from the Belhar Confession (PCUSA)

We believe in the triune God,
who gathers, protects, and cares for the church through Word and Spirit.
We believe in one holy, universal Christian church,
the unity of the communion of saints of the entire human family.
We believe that this unity must become visible
so that the world may believe that separation, enmity, and hatred
between people and groups is sin which Christ has already conquered.
We believe that this unity of the people of God must be manifest and active,
in that we love one another;
that we give ourselves willingly and joyfully to one another to be of benefit
and blessing to one another;
that we are share one baptism together,
that we eat of one bread and drink of one cup together;
that together we know and bear one another's burdens, thereby fulfilling
the law of Christ that we need one another and upbuild one another.
We believe that God's lifegiving Word and Spirit has conquered the powers of sin
and death, and therefore also of irreconciliation and hatred, bitterness and enmity.
We believe that God's life-giving Word and Spirit will enable the church to live in
a new obedience and to open new possibilities of life for society and the world. 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

“Blessing” Katie Moran Bart

*May the road rise up to meet you,
may the wind be always at your back,
may the sun shine warm upon your face,
and the rain fall soft upon your fields,
and until we meet again,
may God hold you in the palm of his hand.*

***Offertory Response** Hymn 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*)

Good and holy God, for your steadfast love and faithfulness
we give you thanks and bless your name.
Let our whole lives become songs of gratitude, joy, and praise
so that all the earth may know that we are your people and you are our God;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

***Hymn 346** “For the Healing of the Nations”

For the healing of the nations, Lord, we pray with one accord;
for a just and equal sharing of the things that earth affords;
to a life of love in action help us rise and pledge our word.

Lead us forward into freedom; from despair your world release,
that, redeemed from war and hatred, all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness fear will die and hope increase.

All that kills abundant living, let it from the earth be banned:
pride of status, race, or schooling, dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice may we hallow life’s brief span.

You, Creator God, have written your great name on humankind;
for our growing in your likeness, bring the life of Christ to mind,
that by our response and service earth its destiny may find.

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

A Trumpet Minuet. Alfred Hollins

Commemorating and Celebrating Juneteenth

Fourth Presbyterian Church's Racial Equity Council invites the whole congregation to embrace and join in the commemoration and celebration of Juneteenth. To widen and deepen the celebration of this day by all members of Fourth Church, the Racial Equity Council presents this brief history and reflection.

Though the Emancipation Proclamation was issued January 1, 1863, it was not until more than two years later that the people of Texas, the most remote state of the former Confederacy, first learned of freedom for enslaved people, which they did when Union soldiers, following the end of the Civil War, traveled to Galveston where the pronouncement was publicly read on June 19, 1865. Celebrations of Juneteenth started in Texas, which declared Juneteenth a state holiday starting in 1980. By 2019, forty-seven states recognized Juneteenth, and it became a federal holiday in 2021.

In the immediate post-Civil War era, there was much hope that the formerly enslaved people would finally have peaceful and free lives. Families tried to reunite. The granting of land by the federal government promised to provide a means to live, and African American men were given the right to vote. During Reconstruction, 16 African Americans were elected to the U.S. Congress, 600 to state legislatures, and hundreds more to local offices. However, the backlash against these changes was swift, widespread, and ruthless. The land grants were taken back within a year. African Americans were depicted as little more than savages while Ku Klux Klansmen were depicted as saviors, as famously portrayed in the 1915 film *The Birth of a Nation*. Lynchings, Black Codes, and Jim Crow laws that only applied or were only enforced against Black people kept the formerly enslaved people subservient. One example was the practice of imprisoning formerly enslaved people for violations of vagrancy laws and using the resulting prison labor for profit.

Fourth Presbyterian Church is committed to racial equity, the purposeful inclusion of all people, the striving for radical hospitality, and the modeling of anti-racism. As we strive to be an anti-racist church, our observance of Juneteenth comes with the sobering recognition that racism today bears a striking resemblance to the Jim Crow era. Examples of this include voter suppression laws, disproportionate incarceration and killing of Black people, hate-filled lies, and inflammatory rhetoric. Indeed, white majority institutions of today unfortunately reflect the white supremacy values that have been embedded for centuries and passed down through the generations. Anti-racism goes beyond diversity. It is a spiritual practice of self-reflection that examines how we individually live out the truth that God created humanity in God's own image. It examines the structures that comprise our processes and practices to understand their impact on BIPOC people and works to identify and remove structural obstacles to full participation by all in the life of the church.

While this is a time for reflection, Juneteenth is also a time for celebration. Many people celebrate with family reunions and backyard parties. Many cities hold street fairs with music and dancing. Museums have special exhibits. The Racial Equity Council invites everyone to mark this holiday in their own way, which could be by visiting the websites of museums to learn more about African American history or by shopping at Black-owned businesses. The National Museum of African American History and Culture and the International African American Museum are two good places to start. The links below are to three Chicago Juneteenth events being held on Monday, June 19. (*The 360 Chicago event is across the street from the church.*)

360 Chicago Marketplace at the Observation Deck (*the John Hancock Building*) from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Details: www.bit.ly/360juneteenth2023

The DuSable Museum Juneteenth Community BBQ, including food, games, music, marketplace, and petting zoo from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. *Details:* www.bit.ly/dusablejuneteenth2023

Thank You Chicago Juneteenth Market from 2:00 to 7:00 p.m. *Details:* www.bit.ly/juneteenthmarket2023

News and Opportunities

June 18–24, 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 each Sunday at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. ✿ On Sundays the **doors open for worship** a half hour prior to the service. There are three fully accessible entrances, without steps, that lead to the Sanctuary: on Michigan Avenue (through the glass Loggia doors located between the courtyard and the main Sanctuary doors); at 126 E. Chestnut; and at 115 E. Delaware. ✿ **Sunday parking** is available at 900 N. Michigan (*access from Rush or Walton*) at the rate of \$9 for 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. ✿ In the Sanctuary **worship can be heard** through the “T” or “T-coil” setting of hearing aids. ✿ Please silence **electronic devices** during worship.



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 available on the fourth floor of the Gratz Center. ✿ **Sunday School** meets at 10:00 a.m. on the fourth floor as well.

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.**

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 our Juneteenth Coffee Hour** in Anderson Hall and the Commons following worship.



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 the front of the Sanctuary. ✨ Also following the service **Deacons are available in Stone Chapel** (*through the door to the right of the pulpit*) to pray with those 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 Stone 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). ✨ Our Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being hosts virtually a **Sacred Pause time of meditation** at facebook.com/reploglecenterforcounselingandwellbeing on Tuesdays (7:45 a.m.) and also on 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.

The church office is closed Monday, June 19 in observance of Juneteenth. ✨ **The Juneteenth-colored ribbons and sign** along Michigan Avenue bear public witness to this celebration of freedom and to the call to reflection and recommitment to racial equity and the purposeful inclusion of all people.



Next Sunday all are invited to join Fourth Church in taking part in the annual Chicago Pride Parade, as we again walk with the Chicago Coalition of Welcoming Churches. This year the parade takes place at noon on June 25. For details about when and where to meet, contact Nanette Sawyer (nsawyer@fourthchurch.org). ✨ **The Pride flag signs and rainbow ribbons** outside Fourth Church, along Michigan Avenue, are public witness to the inclusive hospitality we extend to all and to our welcome of all of God's children into the life of the church.



LGBTQIA+ Widen Our Welcome (WOW) Brunch takes place today at a nearby restaurant. All who would like to take part are invited to meet at the church reception desk following worship to walk to brunch together. ✨ Our free **Friday Noonday Concert** features pianists Katrina Sudman and Vincent Catalano this Friday, June 23 at 12:10 p.m. in the Sanctuary and livestreamed. ✨ **Knitting and Crocheting** meets Tuesday, June 27 at 4:00 p.m. via Zoom. For 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 and opportunities**, 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



We are in need of Sunday morning Cookie Table Hosts, Servers, and Hospitality Coordinators. If you are able to help, please sign up at app.vomo.org/project/coffeehour ✨ Our **Women's Choir** is singing during worship through July 9; the **Men's Choir** will sing the remainder of the summer. Those **interested in singing** with the choirs are asked to email John Sherer (jsherer@fourthchurch.org).



Our "Rhythm and Word" video series offers ten minutes of midweek music, scripture, and prayer. A new video is released each Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. on YouTube (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos); sign up at www.bit.ly/rhythmandwordemail to receive the videos by email. ✨ Our daily devotions (fourthchurch.org/devotions) are available as a **resource for your personal meditation and prayer**. To receive them by email, subscribe at www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions ✨ **Men's Bible Study** meets on Tuesdays at 7:30 a.m. For Zoom details, email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org).

Worship Leaders

Nancy Benson-Nicol, Carl Traynor, Matt Helms

The Music Today

The Women's Choir

Michael Rees, Organ Scholar

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

Worship Notes

THE HYMN “LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING” began as a poem written by James Weldon Johnson for a school assembly at which Booker T. Washington spoke on Abraham Lincoln’s birthday in 1900. Five years later Johnson’s brother, J. Rosamond Johnson, wrote the stirring music to go with the powerful words. Recognized as the Black National Anthem, this text and tune have gained widespread devotion, not only within the African American community but also among all who seek liberation from oppression.

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

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

SOURCES AND CREDITS: The Call to Worship was written by Charles B. Cotton Jr., with excerpts from Martin Luther King Jr.’s “I Have a Dream” speech, © theafricanamericanlectionary.org. The Prayer of Dedication was written by Kimberly Bracken Long in *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 2: Trinity Sunday through Reign of Christ* © Westminster John Knox Press. “For the Healing of the Nations” text © 1968 Hope Publishing Company. OneLicense.net. License A-712340. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO

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