



Fourth Presbyterian Church

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 16, 2023 • 10:00 a.m.

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Cantique Edward Elgar

Three African American Spirituals

 There Is a Balm in Gilead arr. Adolphus Hailstork

 Listen to the Lambs arr. A. Hailstork

 Every Time I Feel the Spirit arr. Carl Haywood

Introit

“Sing to the Lord of Harvest” German chorale/arr. Theodore Hoelty-Nickel

Sing to the Lord of harvest, sing songs of love and praise. With joyful hearts your alleluias raise.

By God the rolling seasons in fruitful order move; sing to the Lord of harvest a song of happy love.

*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: *This is the day that God has made,*

People: **Let us rejoice and be glad in God!**

Leader: *Into the wonder of this new day we come,*

People: **bringing with us our hopes, our fears, our very lives!**

Leader: *God of the morning, God of life,*

People: **we come into the company of pilgrims of faith. Let us worship God.**



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

***Hymn 32** “I Sing the Mighty Power of God”

I sing the mighty power of God that made the mountains rise,
that spread the flowing seas abroad and built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day.
The moon shines full at God’s command, and all the stars obey.

I sing the goodness of the Lord who filled the earth with food.
God formed the creatures through the Word, and then pronounced them good.
Lord, how thy wonders are displayed, where’er I turn my eye,
if I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky!

There’s not a plant or flower below but makes thy glories known.
And clouds arise, and tempests blow, by order from thy throne,
while all that borrows life from thee is ever in thy care,
and everywhere that we can be, thou, God, art present there.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Merciful and just God, we glimpse your presence in the world you have created:
its power, beauty, diversity, and fertility.
Yet, O God, we have misused power, marred beauty, sown seeds of hurt and division.
We long for peace but stake out absolutes;
we seek reconciliation with neighbor and nation
but step away when the cost is too great.
Give us a steady resolve to follow you,
O Christ, losing our lives to find them in you.
Mend our broken hearts and our broken world, by your grace.
Through Jesus, our companion and guide. 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

“Non Nobis, Domine” Roger Quilter

Non nobis, Domine. Not unto us, O Lord, the praise and glory be of any deed or word. For in thy judgement lies to crown or bring to nought all knowledge and device that man has reached or wrought. And we confess our blame, how all too high we hold that noise which some call fame, that dross which some call gold. For these we undergo our hot and godless days, but in our souls we know, O Lord, not unto us the praise. O Power, by whom we live, Creator, Judge and Friend, upholdingly forgive, nor leave us at the end, but grant us yet to see, in all our piteous ways, non nobis, Domine, O Lord, not unto us the praise.

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson Isaiah 55:10–13

Leader: *The Word of God for the people of God.*

People: Thanks be to God.

*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 13:1–9, 18–23

Leader: *Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.*

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Nanette Sawyer

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

Responding to the Word

***Hymn 171** “A Sower Came from Ancient Hills”

A Sower came from ancient hills and cast good seed abroad:
his field, ten thousand human hearts; his seed, the word of God.
And some who listened would not hear, and some who heard forgot.
But some received in fertile soil the truth the Sower taught.

A Sower walked throughout the land and, everywhere he trod,
he sowed his life because he was himself the Seed of God.
But then, atop a barren hill, beneath a darkening sky,
they threw God’s Seed on stony ground and left it there to die.

The Seed was buried deep in death beneath a blood-red sky,
and deeper still was buried hope for those who watched him die.
But then, in Joseph’s garden fair, as dawn broke o’er the land,
the Seed, from three days’ silent sleep, awoke at God’s command!

O Christ, you come among us still, the Sower and the Seed.
As once you sowed the truth of God in glowing word and deed,
implant your Word in waiting hearts, and let it there take hold,
until it bears in fruitful lives a harvest hundredfold.

***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

“Sovereign Lord, Creator, Righteous One” Gustav Holst/arr. Mary McDonald
Sovereign Lord, Creator, Righteous One, most high and holy King, my redeemer, Father, dearest friend, my praise to you I bring. I will praise your name forever, knowing that you loved me first; for you feed my every hunger and quench my every thirst. With my heart I'll ever worship you, my voice will sing your praise; for your everlasting mercy and grace for every day. All creation bows in humbleness before your heavenly throne, and I shall forever thank you for making me your own. You are higher than the highest and the God of all who live. You are worthy of all honor and praise that I can give. All my life shall be a witness of your majesty and grace, and in heaven I'll bow before you and see you face-to-face. Amen.

*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*)

God of all being, there is nothing we can do to surpass the gifts of life you offer us each day.
But we can respond to your grace with a gratitude that honors and values all you have made.
Receive these offerings of our time and labor.
Let them be for the healing and well-being of the world and its people,
so that all creation might praise your name. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

***Hymn 714** “God of the Fertile Fields”

God of the fertile fields, shaper of earth that yields our daily bread:
forth from your bounteous hand come gifts your love has planned,
that all in every land be clothed and fed.

We would be stewards true, holding in trust from you all that you give;
help us in love to share, teach us like you to care
for people everywhere, that all may live.

As grows the hidden seed to fruit that serves our need, so your reign grows.
Let all our toil be used, no gift of yours abused,
no humble task refused your love bestows.

God of the countryside, dear to the Christ who died to make us one:
we pledge our lives anew in faithful love to you.
Guide all we say and do. Your will be done.

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

Carillon. Louis Vierne

News and Opportunities

July 16–22, 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. ✨ Following the service, those worshipping in person are also invited to **greet one another during Coffee Hour**, which during the summer is held outdoors if weather and air conditions permit or in Anderson Hall and the Commons.



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 Buchanan Chapel. For Zoom details, email Nancy Benson-Nicol (nbenson-nicol@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.). ✨ In August, the Chapel will be open for **opportunity to walk the labyrinth** between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. (*It is not available for walking the remainder of July due to Chicago Lights Summer Day use of the Chapel.*)



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 School Supply Drive is underway! This annual effort organized by Women at Fourth gathers school supplies for children taking part in the **Chicago Lights Urban Farm, Summer Day, and Tutoring** programs. For lists of items needed, see www.bit.ly/schoolsupplydrivefpc; monetary contributions for the team to purchase supplies can be made by designating either a check (*payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church*) or online gift (www.fourthchurch.org/give) to School Supply Drive. For more information, contact Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org).



Come enjoy the outdoor concerts of our Music by the Fountain series on July and August Fridays at 12:10 p.m. in the Michigan Avenue courtyard! Wonderful musical artists from across the Midwest and beyond will treat us to an hour of great music, song, and joy throughout the summer. The **Elaine Dame vocal jazz ensemble** will perform this Friday, July 21, with **jazz vocalist Libby York** in concert the following week on July 28. A full concert listing is available at www.fourthchurch.org/concerts, with details posted weekly at facebook.com/fourthchurch. ✨ While the outdoor concerts are not livestreamed, those looking for online concerts during the summer are invited to **explore videos of our previous Noonday concerts** archived on our YouTube channel (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos).



Men's Bible Study meets via Zoom on Tuesdays at 7:30 a.m. For Zoom details, email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org). ✨ **Knitting and Crocheting** meets in person today at 11:00 a.m. in Room 5B and via Zoom next Tuesday, July 25 at 4:00 p.m. For Zoom details for the Bible study or Knitting and Crocheting, email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org). ✨ Bible study and Knitting and Crocheting are but two ways in which to build community with others through Fourth Church. For **additional ways to connect** with one another and this congregation, 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



Another way to connect with others at Fourth Church is through volunteering. Currently we are **in need of Cookie Table Hosts, Servers, and Hospitality Coordinators** for Coffee Hour. If you would be interested in being a welcoming presence at these Sunday morning fellowship gatherings, contact Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org) or sign up online at app.vomo.org/project/coffeehour or. ✨ We also invite you to **explore other volunteer opportunities** by visiting www.bit.ly/fpcvolunteers or by contacting Robert Crouch (rcrouch@fourthchurch.org; 312.981.3382), Director of Volunteer Ministry.

Encore! returns to Fourth Church on Saturday, August 26 at 4:00 p.m. This annual fundraising event for our Center for Life and Learning supports CLL programming and provides scholarships that make it possible for more adults sixty and over to participate in CLL activities. To join in this evening of fun, which will feature local singer performer Peter Oprisko and his jazz ensemble, make your reservations at www.fourthchurch.org/clk; for more information, call the Center at 312.981.3391.



The **Fourth Church Day School has openings in its preschool programs** this fall. For enrollment details, contact Kathy Hager (khager@fourthchurch.org).



Join Fourth Church conversations on Threads (www.threads.net/@fourthchurch) by following us at [@fourthchurch](https://www.threads.net/@fourthchurch). ✨ We also invite you to follow us on **Facebook** (facebook.com/fourthchurch) for news, updates, photos, and favorite quotes from recent devotions, sermons, and prayers. You can also find us on **Instagram** (instagram.com/fourthchurch) and **Twitter** (twitter.com/fourthchicago).



Our July “Rhythm and Word” video series, focusing on **the beauty of creation** and our relationship to it, offers ten minutes of midweek music, scripture, and prayer **led by Nanette Sawyer**. A new video, with music by the Fourth Church Jazz Ensemble, is released each Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. on YouTube, where you can also view videos from previous “Rhythm and Word” series; to receive the videos by email, sign up at www.bit.ly/rhythmwordemail; you can also subscribe to our YouTube channel (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos). ✨ Our **daily devotions** (fourthchurch.org/devotions), written by Fourth Church members and staff, are also available as a **resource for your personal meditation and prayer**. To receive them by email, subscribe at www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions



The scaffolding on the Fourth Church campus is to enable tuckpointing, flashing, and window repair over the next two months.

Two new 10-foot-long banners hang on the pillars in the back of the Sanctuary. Representing Illinois **prairie grasses and sky**, they are part of the Ordinary Time banner collection commissioned in 2021 for our 150th anniversary. Designed by Ellie Cotey, with additional sewing done by members of the Benevolent Guild, **the collection evokes this congregation's call to be a light in the city.** The pulpit parament, which **incorporates a map of Chicago**, is created from 150 pieces, one for each year of our sesquicentennial history. In it, the rays of light radiate from the church location and spread throughout Chicago's neighborhoods, representing an impact that stretches beyond the borders of our great city. The bright colors are inspired by and celebrate **Chicago's native landscape**: the blue of Lake Michigan and the green of prairie grasses encompass a city composed of both the colors of six native wildflowers and the colors present in Fourth Church's logo. The banners hanging from the balconies offer images of those local wildflowers.



This morning Shannon Kershner preaches for the first time at her new congregation, Central Presbyterian Church in Atlanta. As we shared in a letter to that congregation earlier this month (www.bit.ly/fpctocentral), **we hold Shannon and Central in our prayers** as they embark on their shared ministry.



The **Interim Pastor Nominating Committee (IPNC)** is at work identifying and having conversations with candidates to consider for the role of Interim Pastor. The Interim Pastor, who will be hired by Session, 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. You can read about the IPNC work and find the latest transition updates at fourthchurch.org/transition ✨ If you have **questions or comments about the transition**, please email them to transition@fourthchurch.org



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. Also on September 10 our afternoon service, which is currently taking a summer break, will resume. Until then, and through the summer, we will continue to worship at 10:00 a.m. on Sundays.

Worship Leaders

Lucy Forster-Smith, Roel Mason-Vivit, Joseph L. Morrow, Nanette Sawyer

The Music Today

The Men's Choir

Michael Rees, Organ Scholar

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

Worship Notes

THE FOURTH CHURCH MEN'S CHOIR is assisting in worship leadership this morning, as they will be for the remainder of the summer. Anyone interested in singing with a choir at Fourth Church is encouraged to contact John Sherer at jsherer@fourthchurch.org.

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

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THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO

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