



Fourth Presbyterian Church

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

January 28, 2024 • 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Triptych Stephen Paulus

I. Like an Ever-Rolling Stream

II. Still Be My Vision

III. As if the Whole Creation Cried

The Gift of Love English folk tune/arr. Jason W. Krug

Introit

“Walk in the Light” Thomas Whitfield/arr. Bryan Johnson

*Walk in the light, beautiful light. Come where the dew drops of mercy shine bright,
shine all around us by day and by night. Jesus, the Light of the world, he’s shining in my soul.
Jesus, the King of glory, he’s shining in my soul.*

*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

One: *Holy God, we live in the beauty of your shalom,*

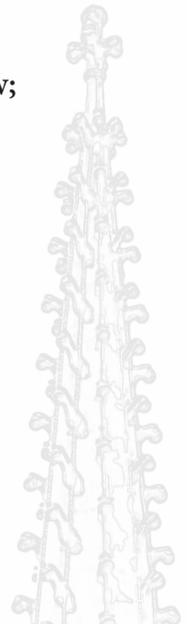
All: **and in the glory of your presence.**

One: *In your presence, all that divides us fades*

All: **and your unconditional love enwraps us all.**

One: *Now we come to worship you and revere our glorious God,*

All: **who enriches the lives of all people and
speaks peace to those near and far.**



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

***Hymn 81.** “Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken”

Glorious things of thee are spoken, Zion, city of our God.
God, whose word cannot be broken, formed thee for a blest abode.
On the rock of ages founded, what can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation’s walls surrounded, thou may’st smile at all thy foes.
Round each habitation hovering, see the cloud and fire appear
for a glory and a covering, showing that the Lord is near.
Thus deriving from their banner light by night and shade by day,
safe they feed upon the manna which God gives them when they pray.
See, the streams of living waters, springing from eternal love,
well supply thy sons and daughters and all fear of want remove.
Who can faint while such a river ever flows, their thirst to-assuage?
Grace, so like the Lord the giver, never fails from age to age.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Holy One, you are our provider, and yet we never cease from wanting more.
We seek comfort in what we have and own rather than courageously extending your grace.
We refuse to break bread with those who oppose us or to offer it sufficiently to those in need.
We see scarcity where you see abundance and hesitate when you call us to act boldly.
But let your goodness and mercy move us toward repentance,
so that we might dwell with you and all people might flourish. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

One: *Believe this 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 Rune of Hospitality” (9:30) Alf Houkom

I saw a stranger yestere'en; I put food in the eating place, drink in the drinking place, music in the listening place; and in the sacred names of the Triune he blessed me and my house, my cattle and my dear ones. And the lark said in her song: often goes the Christ in the stranger's guise.

“Of Hospitality” (11:00) Jane Marshall

I saw a stranger yestere'en; I put food in the eating place, drink in the drinking place, music in the listening place; and in the sacred name of the Triune he blessed myself, he blessed my house, my cattle and my dear ones. And the lark said in her song: often goes Love in the stranger's guise.

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson Jonah 3:1–9

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

All: 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 Jonah 3:10–4:5

One: *The grass withers, and the flower fades,*

All: *but the word of our God shall stand forever.*

Sermon

Grace Can Be a Problem Tom Are Jr.

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

Responding to the Word

***Hymn 435.** “There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

There’s a wideness in God’s mercy, like the wideness of the sea.
There’s a kindness in God’s justice, which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth’s sorrows are more felt than up in heaven.
There is no place where earth’s failings have such kindly judgment given.
For the love of God is broader than the measures of the mind.
And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful, we would gladly trust God’s Word,
and our lives reflect thanksgiving for the goodness of our Lord.

Stephen Ministry Leadership Commissioning (9:30)

***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.

Offering

Offertory Anthem

“Clear Our Heart, O God” (9:30) Tom Trenney
Clear our heart, O God, that we may see you. Clear our heart, O God, that we may truly see ourselves. Clear our heart, O God, that we may know the sacredness of this moment and in every moment seek you, serve you, strengthen you as the living presence in every presence. Clear our heart, O God, that we may see.

“Do Not Be Afraid” (11:00) Philip Stopford
Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by your name; you are mine. When you walk through the waters, I'll be with you; you will never sink beneath the waves. When the fire is burning all around you, you will never be consumed by the flames. Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by your name; you are mine. When the fear of loneliness is looming, then remember I am at your side. When you dwell in the exile of a stranger, remember you are precious in my eyes. Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by your name; you are mine, O my child. I am your Father, and I love you with a perfect love. Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by your name; you are mine.

***Offertory Response.** Hymn 712, v. 3

In gratitude and humble trust we bring our best today,
to serve your cause and share your love with all along life's way.
O God who gave yourself to us in Jesus Christ your Son,
help us to give ourselves each day until life's work is done.

***Prayer of Dedication**

O God of beauty, love, and truth,
we pray that these gifts may be infused with your grace and loving-kindness
through the power of the Holy Spirit.
May the hungry be fed, the thirsty be refreshed,
the lonely find kinship, the seekers find insight, and the downtrodden be raised up,
in witness to the gospel. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

***Hymn 39** “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;*
there is no shadow of turning with thee.
Thou changest not; thy compassions they fail not.
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Refrain:

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning, new mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. (*Refrain*)

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow:
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! (*Refrain*)

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude :: Processional March Alexandre Guilmant

6 *Or “Great is thy faithfulness, O God, Creator.”

You are invited!

January 28–February 3, 2024



The following pages are our invitation to you—an invitation to explore in the coming year the many opportunities for learning, serving, and community building at Fourth Church as well as an invitation to connect with one another, our staff, and the varied resources available to you here. We hope you will spend a few minutes looking over the opportunities and identifying those that interest you!

Welcome!

We are glad to be worshipping with you today and invite you to continue 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. ✨ Inspired by the radical hospitality of Jesus Christ, we welcome everyone, without exception, into the life of this congregation!

Joining us online

Each Sunday our worshipping body is a wonderful mix of those online, on the phone, and in the pews. For those who prefer to worship online or who are unable to join us in person, we **livestream our 9:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. services** on our YouTube channel (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos), where they can be viewed any time after the services begin. (For tips on how to watch—from the beginning—a service that is already in progress, see fourthchurch.org/watch-from-the-beginning) ✨ Those without Internet access are invited to listen via phone by calling 888.916.9166 at 9:30 a.m.

Joining us in person

If you like to join us for **in-person worship**, we gather on Sundays at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. ✨ The **doors open for worship** a half hour prior to each service. There are three fully accessible entrances, without steps, that lead to the Sanctuary: on Michigan Avenue (*through the glass Loggia doors between the courtyard and the main Sanctuary doors*); at 126 E. Chestnut; and at 115 E. Delaware. ✨ **Children** are always welcome in worship! If you need **to step out to comfort your child**, the Hospitality Suite, on the second floor of the Gratz Center, is a quiet space for families where worship is livestreamed. During the morning services **nursery care** is available on the fourth floor of the Gratz Center for infants through two-year-olds. ✨ **Worship can be heard** through “T” or “T-coil” settings of hearing aids. ✨ Please silence **electronic devices** during worship. ✨ **Sunday parking** is available at 900 N. Michigan (*access from Rush or Walton*) at the rate of \$9 for 6 hours (*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 ushers.

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

Let us know you're worshipping with us!

Please 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.

Worship podcasts and sermon text

During the week the Sunday morning **service and sermon is available via podcast** on multiple podcast platforms and at fourthchurch.org/podcasts ✨ You can also receive the previous Sunday morning's **sermon text** (fourthchurch.org/sermons) **by email** by subscribing at www.bit.ly/fpcsermons.

Prayer and meditation

Those who would like to **offer individual prayers of praise or concern with a Deacon today** are invited to do so in Stone Chapel (*through the door to the right of the pulpit*) following the 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. services. ✨ On Wednesdays we gather 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). ✨ Buchanan Chapel is open for **opportunity to walk the labyrinth** between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. ✨ A **Sacred Pause time of meditation** is offered virtually by our Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being at facebook.com/reploglecenterforcounselingandwellbeing on Tuesdays (7:45 a.m.) and Saturdays (8:30 a.m.).

Resources for personal reflection

Tom Are invites us to reflect on joy as he leads our new “**Rhythm and Word**” video series, ten to fifteen minutes of midweek music, scripture, and prayer created for your viewing at home. In the most recent video we look at Paul's letter to the church in Philippi, asking what it tells us about **how we are to live out our faith**. You can find the videos—released on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.—**on our YouTube channel** (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos). To receive the videos by email, sign up at www.bit.ly/rhythmandwordemail; you can also subscribe to our YouTube channel. ✨ 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

Annual meeting

The **Annual Meeting of the Congregation** will be held in person and via Zoom following the 11:00 a.m. service on **Sunday, February 11**. Posted on the website closer to the date of the meeting will be the Zoom link and recommended slate of officers that will be presented by the Nominating Committee.

Sunday opportunities

Those worshipping in person are encouraged to greet one another during **Coffee Hour** in Anderson Hall and the Commons following worship, where there is also opportunity to learn about ways to get connected with one another and Fourth Church. ✨ **“Christians’ Role in Combating Antisemitism”** is the topic of a three-week Adult Education class beginning this morning at 11:00 a.m. in Borwell Dining Room and via Zoom. Today’s presenter will be Rabbi Michael Weinberg of Chicago Sinai Congregation. For the Zoom link, register at www.bit.ly/aeantisemitism ✨ An information session about this June’s intergenerational **pilgrimage walking the Camino de Santiago in Spain** takes place today at 12:00 p.m. in Room 5F. *See below for details.* ✨ **LGBTQIA+ Widen Our Welcome** gathers at 12:15 p.m. today in the Bumpus Room for pizza and a movie: **State of Pride**. ✨ A **long-range planning feedback session** will be held at 12:30 p.m. today in Borwell Dining Room. *See below for details.* ✨ **Sunday School** for children from three years old to fifth grade meets at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. on the fourth floor of the Gratz Center. ✨ **Eighth-grade Confirmation** meets at 9:30 a.m. in Room 5G. **Junior High** (grades 6–7) gathers at 9:30 a.m. in the Bumpus Room; **Senior High** meets at 11:00 a.m. in the Bumpus Room. ✨ Following the 11:00 service a **pipe organ tour** begins at the front of the Sanctuary. ✨ On exhibit in the Loggia is **“Light in the Darkness,”** featuring the artwork of Jan Brandt and Amy Hanks. ✨ We invite you to join us this afternoon for **The Gathering: Communion at 2:00**, a casual, intimate service featuring a breadth of musical expressions (*also livestreamed*).

Long-range planning: proposed strategic directions

Your continued input is essential to the long-range planning process! Thus we encourage you to join the **Long-Range Planning Task Force** for one of their **upcoming feedback sessions**—a time to review **proposed strategic directions and goals** and **provide feedback**. There will be identical sessions held **today** at 12:30 p.m. in Borwell Dining Room (*in person; if you did not preregister for this session, please know that space for walk-ins may be limited*) and next **Sunday, February 4** at 12:30 p.m. (*in person*). To ensure group sizes enabling all to be heard, **registration is required**. To register, see www.fourthchurch.org, where you can also **read the strategic plan summary in advance**. **If you are unable to join us in person** (*the remaining Zoom session has reached capacity*), please email the task force (longrange@fourthchurch.org) your questions, ideas, or reactions to the proposed directions and goals found in the summary materials.

Walk the Camino de Santiago

This June an intergenerational group from Fourth Church will **spend six days walking a portion of the Camino de Santiago**, one of Christianity’s oldest and most popular pilgrimage routes. We will walk eight to seventeen miles a day on a route that accommodates walkers with a wide range of experience and ability. To learn more about participating in this pilgrimage, attend an information session today at 12:00 p.m. in Room 5F or contact Associate Pastor Joe Morrow (jmorrow@fourthchurch.org).

Learn with us

“**The Hidden Roots of White Supremacy and the Future of American Democracy**” will be the topic of our next **Michigan Avenue Forum**, which will be held Wednesday, January 31 at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Our speaker will be **Robert P. Jones**, author of the *New York Times* bestseller *The Hidden Roots of White Supremacy and the Path to a Shared American Future*. A **book signing** with Robert Jones will also be held that evening at 5:30 p.m. in the Commons.

Get connected

A new **Zoom Small Group** will discuss Robert P. Jones’ *The Hidden Roots of White Supremacy*. To express interest in joining that group or others that will start after Easter and meet for four to six weeks to discuss various topics, email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org). ✨ **Men’s Bible Study** meets via Zoom on Tuesday mornings at 7:30 a.m. For details, email Simon Crow. ✨ **Cornerstones**, a fellowship group for those fifty and over, meets for dinner and a program on “**Do You Hear What You’re Saying?: A Discussion of Microaggressions**,” led by Robert Crouch and Regan Burke, this Friday, February 2 at 5:30 p.m. in Borwell Dining Room. Registration (www.bit.ly/cornerstones224) is required. ✨ **Knitting and Crocheting** meets on Tuesday, February 6 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 5B. ✨ **Books by Women** will discuss *West with Giraffes: A Novel* on Tuesday, February 13 at 6:00 p.m. in the Bumpus Room.

Joining Fourth Church

To **become a member of Fourth Church**, we invite you to a one-session Inquirers’ Class via Zoom on Wednesday, February 7 at 6:30 p.m. (*for the Zoom link, register at www.bit.ly/inquirers207*) or in person on Sunday, March 24 at 12:15 p.m. in Room 5F (*register at www.bit.ly/inquirers324*). For more information about joining, contact Associate Pastor Matt Helms (mhelms@fourthchurch.org).

Music tour to India

Please join us in keeping in prayer those from Fourth Church who depart for India this Thursday, February 1 to participate in our **music tour to India**.

Pastoral care and a listening presence

To **talk to a pastor** or **notify pastoral staff** of personal concerns, illnesses, hospitalizations, or deaths, please email Gloria Fleming (gfleming@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, email Gloria Fleming (gfleming@fourthchurch.org) or Nancy Benson-Nicol (nbenson-nicol@fourthchurch.org). ✨

To **explore options for counseling**, call our **Replogle Center Center for Counseling and Well-Being** at 312.787.2729, ext. 2260 or visit www.reploglecenter.org. ✨ The Replogle Center facilitates **grief groups** as well. For details, email Sharon Crawford-Tucker (stucker@fourthchurch.org).

Gala of Hope

This year the annual **Chicago Lights Gala of Hope** will be held on Friday, March 1, beginning at 6:00 p.m., at a fun new venue—the **Old Post Office** (433 W Van Buren)! This annual event supports the life-changing work of Chicago Lights, the nonprofit community outreach arm of Fourth Church, which includes the **Tutoring and Summer Day, Urban Farm, and Social Service Center** programs. To **reserve tickets** for this evening of dinner, dancing, and silent and live auctions or to become an event sponsor, stop by Coffee Hour today or visit one.bidpal.net/galaofohope2024 by February 24. For more information, contact Caryn Blomquist (cblomquist@chicagolights.org)

Souper Bowl of Caring

You can **help score a victory in the Souper Bowl of Caring** on Sunday, February 11 by bringing cans of soup, nonperishable food items, or monetary contributions if you will be worshipping with us in person that day. Our youth will be on hand that morning to collect the donations, which will **support Fourth Church Meals Ministry and the Chicago Lights Social Service Center Food Pantry**. You can also **make a Souper Bowl of Caring gift online** at www.fourthchurch.org/give-online

Observing Lent

This year Lent begins on Wednesday, February 14, when we will gather for **Ash Wednesday services at 12:10 and 6:30 p.m.** Both services will include Communion and the imposition of ashes, and the 6:30 service will also be livestreamed. ✨ Our annual **Path of Discipleship** is an invitation to six weeks of **spiritual growth in Lent**. This year our time will be grounded in **James Martin's book *Jesus: A Pilgrimage***; we will gather on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. beginning February 20. Registration required at www.bit.ly/fpcpod24 ✨ We also invite you to use our **Lenten devotions** as a resource for **personal reflection** during the upcoming season. To receive those meditations daily via email beginning on Ash Wednesday, simply subscribe online at www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions (*if you already receive our daily devotions, you will be sent the Lenten ones automatically*).

Stay connected

You can find details about **additional ways to connect** with one another and this congregation, whether in person or online, on our website: www.fourthchurch.org, where you will also discover various **resources and opportunities**. ✨ To see all that is going on at Fourth Church, we encourage you to bookmark our **online church calendar**, which is accessible from our website's home page and at fourthchurch.org/calendar ✨ We also invite you to **follow us** on YouTube (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos), Facebook (facebook.com/fourthchurch), and Instagram (instagram.com/fourthchurch). ✨ Look for information, updates, and **snapshots of life at Fourth Church** in our weekly email newsletter, to which you can subscribe at ww.bit.ly/newsfromfpc

Worship Leaders

Joseph L. Morrow, James Garner (9:30), Briana Lee (11:00), Nancy Benson-Nicol,
Tom Are Jr.

The Music Today

The Handbell Choir; Briana Belding-Peck, Director
Voices of Light; Cicely Perry, Director
Morning Choir (9:30); Micah Dinger, Soloist
Chancel Choir (11:00)
Michael Rees, Organ Scholar
John W. W. Sherer, Organist and Director of Music

Worship Notes

THIS MORNING WE COMMISSION ROBERT CROUCH to serve as a Stephen Leader. He joins Cathy Flaa, Colleen Mraz, Arlene Raine, and Deborah Zak in that role as they work with fellow Stephen Ministers Blake Anderson, Martha Brown, Kathleen Cleary, Rebecca Dixon, Kat Evans, Jean Joslyn, Vivien Lee, Kelley Lynch, Melanie Oh Pierce, and Sam Psimoulis as lay Christian caregivers. Please join us as we pray for and show our support for those God has called and equipped for this important role. To learn more about Stephen Ministry, please stop by Coffee Hour today, which is being hosted by the Stephen Ministers, or leave a confidential message on the Stephen Ministry voicemail: 312.573.3365.

GIFTS TO SUPPORT THE MINISTRY AND MISSION of Fourth Church can be placed in the plates passed during the service, or, afterwards, in an offering box at the exit from the Sanctuary. They also can be given via Venmo (@Fourth-Church) or online at fourthchurch.org/give

Tom Are Jr. Interim Pastor

Associate Pastors

Nancy Benson-Nicol Caring Ministries and Spiritual Formation

Matt Helms Children, Family, and Welcoming Ministries

Joseph L. Morrow Evangelism and Community Engagement

Nanette Sawyer Discipleship and Small Group Ministry

Rocky Supinger Youth Ministry and Worship

Amy Pagliarella Parish Associate for Caring Ministries

John Buchanan Pastor Emeritus

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THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO

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