

January 28, 2024



# The Gathering

## Communion at 2:00

We Gather.

### Gathering Music

**Song** "There Is a Balm in Gilead" (Hymnal 792)

*Refrain:*

There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole;  
there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.

Sometimes I feel discouraged, and think my work's in vain,  
but then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again. *(Refrain)*

Don't ever feel discouraged, for Jesus is your friend,  
and if you lack for knowledge, he'll not refuse to lend. *(Refrain)*

If you cannot preach like Peter, if you cannot pray like Paul,  
you can tell the love of Jesus and say, "He died for all." *(Refrain)*

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*\*Please rise in body or spirit.*



**FOURTH**  
PRESBYTERIAN  
**CHURCH**  
A Light in the City

*Inspired by the radical hospitality of Jesus Christ, Fourth Church welcomes all of God's children into the life of the church regardless of sex, gender, sexual orientation, age, race, ethnicity, physical or mental ability, mental health, educational background, economic situation, religious background, or documentation status.*

**\*Song** "Blessed Assurance" (Hymnal 839)

Blessed assurance: Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

*Refrain:*

This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long;  
This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight;  
angels, descending, bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love. (*Refrain*)

Perfect submission, all is at rest, I in my Savior am happy and blest,  
watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love. (*Refrain*)

**\*Peace**

*The peace of Christ be with you.*

And also with you.

**Song** "Your Words Are Spirit and Life"

Three staves of musical notation in 3/4 time, key of B-flat major. The lyrics are: "Your words are spir - it and life, O Lord: rich - er than gold, strong - er than death. Your words are spir - it and life, O Lord; life ev - er - last - ing." The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final cadence on the third staff.

## We Hear.

**Scripture** 1 Corinthians 8:1–13

**Sermon** Nancy Benson-Nicol

## We Respond.

**Offering** “God Is So Good” (Hymnal 658)

God is so good; God is so good; God is so good; God’s so good to me.

God cares for me; God cares for me; God cares for me; God’s so good to me.

God loves me so; God loves me so; God loves me so; God’s so good to me.

God is so good; God is so good; God is so good; God’s so good to me.

*The gifts we share to support the ministry and mission of Fourth Church can be placed in the offering plate or, upon leaving today, in the offering boxes at the Sanctuary exits. Gifts also can be given online at [www.fourthchurch.org/give](http://www.fourthchurch.org/give) or via Venmo (@Fourth-Church).*

### Communion

*Communion will be served by intinction (dipping the bread into the juice).  
Gluten-free bread is available.*

### The Lord’s Prayer

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.

**Communion Song** (*solo*) “River in Judea” (Linda Marcus/Jack Feldman)

**\*Song** “He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands”

He’s got the whole world in his hands.

He’s got the wind and the rain in his hands . . .

He’s got the little bitty baby in his hands . . .

He’s got ev’rybody here in his hands . . .

**\*Blessing**

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**Worship Leaders**

Rocky Supinger, Nancy Benson-Nicol

**The Music Today**

Beena David, vocals; Bryan Doherty, bass; Amr Fahmy, piano; Neal Wehman, drums

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**Incorporating ancient and contemporary traditions in this service,** God is named corporately in a variety of ways that are gender neutral. This allows for your personal expressions as you are led to name the Holy in ways meaningful to you.

**Acknowledgments:** “There Is a Balm in Gilead” music arr. © 1990 Melva Wilson Costen. “Your Words Are Spirit and Life” © 1993 Bernadette Farrell, Published by Oregon Catholic Press (OCP). OneLicense.net. License A-712340. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

# You are invited!

January 28–February 3, 2024



*The following pages are our invitation to you—an invitation to explore 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](http://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](http://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. ✨ **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 an usher. ✨ **Worship can be heard** through “T” or “T-coil” settings 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](http://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 worshippers have opportunity to greet one another by name following the service.

## Worship podcasts and sermon text

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

## Prayer and meditation

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](mailto: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 on Tuesdays (7:45 a.m.) and Saturdays (8:30 a.m.) at [facebook.com/reploglecenterforcounselingandwellbeing](https://facebook.com/reploglecenterforcounselingandwellbeing)

## 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 video and future ones in this winter series—released on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.—**on our YouTube channel** ([www.bit.ly/fpcvideos](http://www.bit.ly/fpcvideos)). To receive the videos by email, sign up at [www.bit.ly/rhythmandwordemail](http://www.bit.ly/rhythmandwordemail); you can also subscribe to our YouTube channel. ✨ Our **daily devotions** ([fourthchurch.org/devotions](http://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](http://www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions)

## 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**, as the task force shares the **proposed strategic directions and goals** and **welcomes your feedback**. There is one remaining session: Sunday, February 4 at 12:30 p.m. (*in person*). To ensure group sizes enabling all to be heard, **registration is required**. For registration links and the summary of directions and goals (*which we encourage you to read in advance*), see [www.fourthchurch.org](http://www.fourthchurch.org); if you are unable to attend in person, please email your feedback to the summary directions and goals to the task force at [longrange@fourthchurch.org](mailto:longrange@fourthchurch.org)

## Get connected

“**The Hidden Roots of White Supremacy and the Future of American Democracy**” is the topic of our **Michigan Avenue Forum** being held this 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 be held that evening at 5:30 p.m. in the Commons. ✨ **Zoom Small Groups** are starting again, with six to ten people in each group, meeting via Zoom for four to six weeks to discuss various topics. One group will discuss Robert P. Jones’ *The Hidden Roots of White Supremacy*. Other groups will start after Easter. To express interest in joining a group, email Simon Crow ([scrow@fourthchurch.org](mailto:scrow@fourthchurch.org)). ✨ **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](http://www.bit.ly/cornerstones224)) is required. ✨ The Adult Education class “**Christians’ Role in Combating Antisemitism**” meets on Sundays at 11:00 a.m. in Borwell Dining Room and via Zoom. Register at [www.bit.ly/aeantisemitism](http://www.bit.ly/aeantisemitism)

## Walk the Camino de Santiago

This June an intergenerational group of members and friends of Fourth Church will **spend six days walking a portion of the Camino de Santiago**, following the Portuguese pilgrimage route to the historic Christian site in northwestern Spain. 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 opportunity, contact Associate Pastor Joe Morrow ([jmorrow@fourthchurch.org](mailto:jmorrow@fourthchurch.org)).

## 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](http://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](http://www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions) (*if you already receive our daily devotions, you will be sent the Lenten ones automatically*).

## 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, visit [one.bidpal.net/galaofhope2024](http://one.bidpal.net/galaofhope2024) by February 24 or email Caryn ([cblomquist@chicagolights.org](mailto:cblomquist@chicagolights.org))

## Stay connected

For **ways to connect** with one another and this congregation as well as for **resources and opportunities**, watch **our website: fourthchurch.org** ✨ To see all that is going on at Fourth Church, be sure to bookmark our **church calendar**, which is accessible from at **fourthchurch.org/calendar** and from our website's home page. ✨ To **learn more about this congregation or become a member of Fourth Church**, we invite you to a one-session Inquirers' Class on Wednesday, February 7 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom (*register at [www.bit.ly/inquirers207](http://www.bit.ly/inquirers207)*). For more information about joining, contact Associate Pastor Matt Helms (*[mhelms@fourthchurch.org](mailto:mhelms@fourthchurch.org)*). ✨ Look for **snapshots of life at Fourth Church** in our weekly email newsletter, to which you can subscribe at [ww.bit.ly/newsfromfpc](http://ww.bit.ly/newsfromfpc)

## Pastoral care and a listening presence and witness

To **talk to a pastor** or **notify pastoral staff** of personal concerns, hospitalizations, or deaths, email Gloria Fleming (*[gfleming@fourthchurch.org](mailto: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](mailto:gfleming@fourthchurch.org)*) or Nancy Benson-Nicol (*[nbenson-nicol@fourthchurch.org](mailto:nbenson-nicol@fourthchurch.org)*). ✨ Stephen Ministers provide a listening presence for **those facing life's challenges**. To talk with a Stephen Minister, please leave a confidential message at 312.573.3365. ✨ Our **Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being** facilitates **grief groups**. For details, email Sharon Crawford-Tucker (*[stucker@fourthchurch.org](mailto:stucker@fourthchurch.org)*). ✨ To **explore options for counseling**, call the Replogle Center at 312.787.2729, ext. 2260 or visit [www.reploglecenter.org](http://www.reploglecenter.org).

## 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**. *Details will be posted on our website closer to the meeting date.*



**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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