

Fourth Presbyterian Church

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany February 4, 2024 • 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Gathering around the Word

Prelude	
Ascension Suite	Villis
I. Juba: SonRise	
II. Elegy: Lamentation	
III. Interlude: Prayer	
IV. March Triumphant: The Bridge	
Sonata No. 1	Price
II. Andantino	

Introit

*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: Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving!

All: How good it is to sing praises to our God.

One: For God is gracious, healing the brokenhearted, binding up their wounds.

All: God's understanding is beyond measure. Praise the Lord!

*Please rise in body or spirit. [†]Or "Father, Son, and Holy Ghost."

Praise, my soul, the God of heaven; glad of heart your carols raise; ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, who, like me, should sing God's praise? Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the Maker all your days!

Praise God for the grace and favor shown our forebears in distress; God is still the same forever, slow to chide, and swift to bless. Alleluia! Alleluia! Sing our Maker's faithfulness!

Like a loving parent caring, God knows well our feeble frame, gladly all our burdens bearing, still to countless years the same. Alleluia! Alleluia! All within me, praise God's name!

Angels, teach us adoration; you behold God face to face. Sun and moon and all creation, dwellers all in time and space: Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace!

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Gracious God, it's tempting to give up and give in,

to hide from the injustices of the world,

to protect ourselves and our own,

to turn off the evening news full of bad news.

Forgive our sins of escape, of ignoring, of turning our backs on those in need.

Forgive our sins of apathy when you call us to action.

Renew us, Holy God, by your grace.

Strengthen us to follow Christ's call. 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

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter
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.
Scripture Reading
One: The grass withers, and the flower fades,
All: but the word of our God shall stand forever.
Sermon
What about These Animals?
Responding to the Word
*Hymn 833
O Love that wilt not let me go, I rest my weary soul in thee;

I give thee back the life I owe, that in thine ocean depths its flow may richer, fuller be.

- O Light that followest all my way, I yield my flickering torch to thee; my heart restores its borrowed ray, that in thy sunshine's blaze its day may brighter, fairer be.
- O Joy that seekest me through pain, I cannot close my heart to thee; I trace the rainbow through the rain, and feel the promise is not vain that morn shall tearless be.
- O Cross that liftest up my head, I dare not ask to fly from thee; I lay in dust life's glory dead, and from the ground there blossoms red life that shall endless be.

*Affirmation of Faith (unison)
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.
Call to Offering

Offertory Anthem

"Obey the Spirit of the Lord" (9:30) . . . African American spiritual/arr. Robert De Cormier I'm gonna sing hallelujah when the Spirit says sing; I'm gonna obey the Spirit of the Lord. I'm gonna shout hallelujah when the Spirit says shout; I'm gonna obey the Spirit of the Lord. Let the earth be glad, O let the sea be moved, let the fields be filled with joy. Let the skies rejoice, *O let the mountains sing, let the heavens shout. I'm gonna pray when the Spirit says pray;* I'm gonna obey the Spirit of the Lord. For the earth is his, yes, he made the hills and he sits on a heavenly throne. I'm gonna sing when the Spirit says sing; I'm gonna obey the Spirit of the Lord. I'm gonna shout, pray, and obey the Spirit of the Lord. Amen.

"As We Gather at Your Table" (11:00) K. Lee Scott

As we gather at your table, as we listen to your word, help us know, O God, your presence; let our hearts and minds be stirred. Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own; teach us through this holy banquet how to make Love's victory known. Turn our worship into witness in the sacrament of life; send us forth to love and serve you, bringing peace where there is strife. Give us, Christ, your great compassion to forgive as you forgave; may we still behold your image in the world you died to save. Gracious Spirit, help us summon other guests to share that feast where triumphant Love will welcome those who had been last and least. There no more will envy blind us nor will pride our peace destroy, as we join with saints and angels to repeat the sounding joy.

*Offertory Response	. Hymn 712, verse 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.	

Sealing the Word

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Leader: Lift up your hearts.
People: We will lift them up to the Lord.
Leader: Let us give thanks to God.
People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.
Prayer
Leader: It is truly right and our greatest joy
We join with angels in singing your praise:
Sanctus (sung)
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power, God of might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.
Leader: Great is the mystery of faith:
Memorial Acclamation (<i>sung</i>)
Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again. (repeat)

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.

The Communion

Communion Anthems

"Let Us Break Bread Together". African American spiritual/arr. Craig Carnahan Let us break bread together on our knees. When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun, O Lord, have mercy on me. Let us drink wine together on our knees. When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun, O Lord, have mercy on me. Let us praise God together on our knees. When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun, O Lord, have mercy on me.

The Lord is my shepherd, I have all I need; she makes me lie down in green meadows, beside the still waters, she will lead. She restores my soul, she rights my wrongs, she leads me in a path of good things, and fills my heart with songs. Even though I walk through a dark and dreary land, there is nothing that can shake me. She has said, she won't forsake me, I'm in her hand. She sets a table before me, in the presence of my foes, she anoints my head with oil, and my cup overflows. Surely goodness and kindness will follow me all the days of my life, and I will live in her house forever and ever. Glory be to our Mother, and Daughter, and to the Holy of Holies, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

***Prayer after Communion** (unison)

O God, in deep gratitude for this moment, this meal, and all who partake in it, we give ourselves to you.

We know that because we have shared the living bread and the cup of salvation we cannot remain the same.

Ask much of us, expect much from us, enable much by us, encourage many through us. May we live to your glory, both as inhabitants of earth and citizens of your righteous reign. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 611	We Adore Thee"
Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love!	
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.	
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away.	
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.	
All thy works with joy surround thee; earth and heaven reflect thy rays;	
stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.	
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,	
chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.	
Mortals, join the happy chorus which the morning stars began.	
Love divine is reigning o'er us, joining all in heaven's plan.	
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife.	
Joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.	
*Charge and Benediction	
Postlude	
Sonata No. 1	Florence Price

 Sonata No. I

 Florence Price

 III. Finale

Today we celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

The invitation to the table is not just for Presbyterians or "members of the church." Even those who doubt or whose trust is wavering are invited to partake of the Lord's Supper, in which we are assured of God's love and grace. Those who are worshiping with us from home are encouraged to have bread and juice on hand so that we might share in this meal together, wherever we are.

You are invited!

February 4–February 10, 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 worshiping 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 worshiping 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 worshiping with us!

Please let us know you are here by filling out an information form. Those worshiping 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 worshiping 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. this Wednesday and Thursday. ***** 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 current "Rhythm and Word" video series, ten to fifteen minutes of 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 and what it means to rejoice and experience joy. 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

Joining Fourth Church

To **become a member of Fourth Church,** we invite you to a one-session Inquirers' Class via Zoom this Wednesday, February 7 at 6:30 p.m. (*for the Zoom link, register at www.bit.ly/inquirers207*). For more information about joining, contact Associate Pastor Matt Helms (*mhelms@fourthchurch.org*).

Sunday opportunities

Those worshiping 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 today's Adult Education class at 11:00 a.m. in Borwell Dining Room and via Zoom. For the Zoom link, register at www.bit.ly/aeantisemitism **#** A **long-range planning feedback session** will be held at 12:30 p.m. today in Borwell Dining Room. *See below for details*. **#** Following the 11:00 service a **pipe organ tour** begins at the front of the Sanctuary. **#** We invite you to join us this afternoon for **The Gathering: Communion at 2:00**, a casual, intimate service both in person and livestreamed.

Long-range planning: proposed strategic directions

If you have not yet taken part in a Long-Range Planning Task Force feedback session—a time to review proposed strategic directions and goals and provide feedback—please join us today for the final session 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*). Those who have been unable to participate in a session are asked to read the strategic plan summary at fourthchurch.org/about/long-range.html and then please email your responses to longrange@fourthchurch.org by Tuesday, February 6.

Annual meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held in the Sanctuary and via Zoom next Sunday, February 11 at 12:15 p.m. The Zoom link is posted on our website, as are the minutes from the 2023 meeting and three proposed amendments to the bylaws regarding the number of youth Elders and extending tenured officers past their full term to fulfill an unexpired term created by the early withdrawal of an officer in a different class. The congregation will be voting on those amendments as well as the recommended slate of officers that will be presented by the Nominating Committee. That slate will be posted online closer to the meeting date.

Souper Bowl of Caring

Next Sunday, February 11 is also the **Souper Bowl of Caring**, when our youth will be in Coffee Hour to collect your contributions of cans of soup, nonperishable food items, or monetary contributions to **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

Gala of Hope

The annual **Chicago Lights Gala of Hope** will be held on Friday evening, March 1. To **reserve tickets** for this evening of dinner, dancing, and silent and live auctions **in support of Chicago Lights programs** or to become an event sponsor, stop by Coffee Hour today or visit one.bidpal.net/galaofhope2024

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. **#** If you would like to **volunteer to impose ashes outside the Sanctuary and greet passersby** on Michigan Avenue between 8:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on Ash Wednesday, please sign up at app.vomo.org/opportunity/aotg **#** 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*)

Black History Month

An **opening reception for a new art exhibition** in observance of Black History Month—"The Boldness of Being: The work of Natalie Jackson and Natasha Giles Somerville"—takes place this Friday, February 9 at 5:30 p.m. in the Loggia. The exhibit will remain up through Women's History Month.

Get connected

A new Zoom Small Group will discuss Robert P. Jones' *The Hidden Roots of White Supremacy.* For details, email Simon Crow (*scrow@fourthchurch.org*). **** Men's Bible Study** meets via Zoom at 7:30 a.m. on Tuesdays. For details, email Simon Crow. **** Knitting and Crocheting** meets this Tuesday, February 6 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 5B. **** Books by Women** will discuss *West with Giraffes: A Novel* next Tuesday, February 13 at 6:00 p.m. in the Bumpus Room. ****** This June a 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. To learn more about this pilgrimage in Spain, contact Associate Pastor Joe Morrow (*jmorrow@fourthchurch.org*). Registration is due by February 14 at www.bit.ly/caminotrip24

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; a new group** will start in March. For details, email Sharon Crawford-Tucker (*stucker@fourthchurch.org*).

Worship Leaders

Nancy Benson-Nicol, Justin Epps (9:30), Jeanne Griffin (11:00), Joseph L. Morrow, Tom Are Jr.

The Music Today

Gianna Barone, soloist (9:30) Morning Choir (9:30); Chancel Choir (11:00) Michael Rees, Organ Scholar

Worship Notes

THE WORKS OF THE COMPOSER FEATURED in both the prelude and postlude today, Florence Price (1887–1953), are part of our worship services throughout the year. During this Black History Month we spotlight in particular that Ms. Price was the first African American woman to be recognized as a symphonic composer and to have a symphonic composition played by a major orchestra (the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, in 1933).

THIS MORNING'S FIRST COMMUNION ANTHEM was composed by prominent jazz singer and songwriter Bobby McFerrin (b. 1950), who dedicated the piece to his mother, Sara Cooper McFerrin, who was a voice professor at Fullerton College in California.

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 SOURCES AND CREDITS: The Call to Worship and the Prayer of Confession are both © 2024 by Presbyterian Outlook. "Praise, **Associate Pastors** My Soul, the God of Heaven" text adapt. © 1974 Ecumenical Nancy Benson-Nicol Caring Ministries and Spiritual Formation Women's Center. OneLicense.net. License A-712340. Matt Helms Children, Family, and Welcoming Ministries All rights reserved. Used by permission. Joseph L. Morrow Evangelism and Community Engagement Nanette Sawyer Discipleship and Small Group Ministry Rocky Supinger Youth Ministry and Worship THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO Church office: 126 E. Chestnut Street, Chicago, IL 60611.2014 Amy Pagliarella Parish Associate for Caring Ministries www.fourthchurch.org www.facebook.com/fourthchurch John Buchanan Pastor Emeritus 312.787.4570 Voicemail: 312.787.2729 Fax: 312.787.4584

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