

# Ash Wednesday

February 14, 2024 • 6:30 p.m.



## Prelude

Choral dorian . . . . . Jehan Alain  
Out of the Depths . . . . . Johann Sebastian Bach

## Introit

“The Glory of These Forty Days”. . . . . Josquin des Prez  
*The glory of these forty days we celebrate with songs of praise; for Christ, by whom all things were made, himself has fasted and has prayed.*

## Call to Worship . . . . . from Psalm 51:15–17

One: *God sent Christ into the world not to condemn the world,  
but that the world might be saved through him.*

All: **God’s love endures forever.**

One: *God is our refuge and strength, a present help in trouble.  
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,  
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;  
though the waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.*

All: **God’s love endures forever.**

**Prayer** (*unison*)

God of mercy and might, fierce is your love for all creation.  
Create in us new and contrite hearts,  
that truly repenting of our sins and acknowledging our brokenness  
we may receive from you the forgiveness which frees our souls and redeems our world.  
This we pray through your Son, Jesus Christ, our redeemer,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. Amen.

**\*Hymn 649.** . . . . . “Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.  
’Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved.  
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!  
Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come.  
’Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
The Lord has promised good to me; his word my hope secures.  
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.  
When we’ve been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,  
we’ve no less days to sing God’s praise than when we’d first begun.

**Prayer for Illumination**

**First Lesson** . . . . . Joel 2:12–17

**Second Lesson.** . . . . . Matthew 6:1–6, 16–18

**Homily** . . . . . Nancy Benson-Nicol

**\*Hymn 824.** . . . . . “There Is a Place of Quiet Rest”

There is a place of quiet rest, near to the heart of God,  
a place where sin cannot molest, near to the heart of God.

*Refrain:*

O Jesus, blest Redeemer, sent from the heart of God,  
hold us, who wait before thee, near to the heart of God.

There is a place of comfort sweet, near to the heart of God,  
a place where we our Savior meet, near to the heart of God. (*Refrain*)

There is a place of full release, near to the heart of God,  
a place where all is joy and peace, near to the heart of God. (*Refrain*)

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## An Invitation to Observe a Holy Lent

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### **Litany of Penitence** (*silence is kept after each petition*)

One: *Holy and merciful God, we confess to you and to one another,  
and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth,  
that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength.  
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.*

**All:** Have mercy on us, O God.

One: *We have not listened to your call to serve as Christ served us.  
We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.*

**All:** Have mercy on us, O God.

One: *We confess to you, O God, all our past unfaithfulness.  
For the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives,*

**All:** have mercy on us, O God.

One: *For our self-indulgent appetites and ways  
and our exploitation of other people,*

**All:** have mercy on us, O God.

(Continued on following page)

One: *For our anger at our own frustration  
and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,*

All: **have mercy on us, O God.**

One: *For our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts,  
and our dishonesty in daily life and work,*

All: **have mercy on us, O God.**

One: *For our negligence in prayer and worship,  
and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,*

All: **have mercy on us, O God.**

One: *Accept our repentance, O God, for the wrongs we have done.  
For our neglect of human need and suffering  
and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,*

All: **have mercy on us, O God.**

One: *For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors,  
and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,*

All: **have mercy on us, O God.**

One: *For our waste and pollution of your creation  
and our lack of concern for those who come after us,*

All: **have mercy on us, O God.**

One: *Restore us, O God of our salvation, and show us your steadfast love.*

All: **Turn to us in your mercy and redeem us.**

## **The Imposition of Ashes**

### **Offering**

### **Offertory Anthem**

“Give Me Jesus” . . . . . African American spiritual/arr. Brian Fairbanks

*Give me Jesus; you can have all this world, give me Jesus.*

*O when I come to die, give me Jesus.*

*Dark midnight was my cry, give me Jesus.*

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## The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

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### Invitation

### Great Thanksgiving

Leader: *The Lord be with you.*

People: And also with you.

Leader: *Lift up your hearts.*

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: *Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.*

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

### Prayer

Leader: *It is truly right and our greatest joy . . . forever singing to the glory of your name:*

### Sanctus *(sung)* . . . . . The Hymnal, 565

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 *(sung)* . . . . . The Hymnal, 566

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

### 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 Anthem

“Create in Me a Clean Heart” . . . . . Dan Locklair

*Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free Spirit. Then I will teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.*

### Prayer after Communion (unison)

God of compassion,  
through your Son, Jesus Christ, you brought us to this table of grace.  
Now that we have been fed by you,  
we ask that you continue to sustain us for the journey ahead,  
so that we might follow you with willing hearts,  
ready to love and serve all we meet. Amen.

**\*Hymn 167** . . . . . “Forty Days and Forty Nights”

Forty days and forty nights you were fasting in the wild;  
forty days and forty nights tempted, and yet undefiled.  
Shall not we your sorrow share and from worldly joys abstain,  
fasting with unceasing prayer, strong with you to suffer pain?  
Then if Satan on us press, flesh or spirit to assail,  
victor in the wilderness, grant that we not faint nor fail!  
So shall we have peace divine: holier gladness ours shall be;  
round us, too, shall angels shine, such as served you faithfully.  
Keep, O keep us, Savior dear, ever constant by your side,  
that with you we may appear at the eternal Eastertide.

### \*Charge and Benediction

—DEPART IN SILENCE—

## Welcome!

**We are grateful to be worshipping with you on this solemn day on the church calendar.** Inspired by the radical hospitality of Jesus Christ, we welcome everyone, without exception, into the life of this congregation and hope you will explore the many opportunities for learning, serving, and community building at Fourth Church. ✨ 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.

## Join our Lenten Journey

In this Lenten season of self-reflection and nurturing our spiritual growth, we invite you to use our daily **Lenten devotions as a resource for prayer and reflection.** They are available via email (sign up at [www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions](http://www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions) or send email addresses to [devotions@fourthchurch.org](mailto:devotions@fourthchurch.org)) and online ([www.fourthchurch.org/devotions](http://www.fourthchurch.org/devotions)). ✨ Also available for your reflection during the season is our **Lenten "Rhythm and Word" video series.** These ten-minute worship experiences are released on **our YouTube channel** ([www.bit.ly/fpcvideos](http://www.bit.ly/fpcvideos)) on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. To **receive them by email**, sign up at [www.bit.ly/rhythmandwordemail](http://www.bit.ly/rhythmandwordemail) ✨ Our **Lenten Path of Discipleship** series, which will explore James Martin's book *Jesus: A Spiritual Pilgrimage*, will gather on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. beginning February 20. The February 20 and March 26 sessions will be both in person and via Zoom; the February 27–March 19 sessions will meet via Zoom. To participate, please register online at [www.bit.ly/fpcpod24](http://www.bit.ly/fpcpod24) by Monday, February 18.

## Resources for worship, prayer, and meditation

A **Sacred Pause time of meditation** is hosted virtually by our Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being at [facebook.com/reploglecenterforcounselingandwellbeing](https://facebook.com/reploglecenterforcounselingandwellbeing) on Tuesdays at 7:45 a.m. and Saturdays at 8:30 a.m. ✨ On Wednesdays we gather for **Morning Prayer via Zoom** at 9:30 a.m. and for **in-person Morning Prayer** at 10:00 a.m. in Buchanan Chapel. The chapel is also open for **opportunity to walk the labyrinth** between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. ✨ **On Sundays we gather for worship** at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. and for The Gathering: Communion at 2:00; the 9:30 and 2:00 services are also livestreamed.

## Get Connected

**For resources and additional ways to connect** with Fourth Church and one another as well as to see **snapshots of life in this community**, see our **weekly email newsletter** (subscribe online at [www.bit.ly/newsfromfpc](http://www.bit.ly/newsfromfpc)) and watch our **website** ([www.fourthchurch.org](http://www.fourthchurch.org)). ✨ Online events are posted on our **church calendar**, accessible from the home page of our website and at [www.fourthchurch.org/calendar](http://www.fourthchurch.org/calendar) ✨ We also invite you to follow us on **YouTube** ([www.bit.ly/fpcvideos](http://www.bit.ly/fpcvideos)), **Facebook** ([facebook.com/fourthchurch](https://facebook.com/fourthchurch)), and **Instagram** ([instagram.com/fourthchurch](https://instagram.com/fourthchurch)).

## Worship Leaders

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Joseph L. Morrow, Nancy Benson-Nicol

## The Music Today

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Members of the Morning Choir

Michael Rees, Organ Scholar

## Worship Notes

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TODAY'S SERVICE INCLUDES THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES. These ashes serve as a sign of human mortality and penitence—and the eternal life that is ours by God's grace alone.

WE WILL ALSO BE CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER. Those joining us from home are invited to have bread and juice on hand as we share in this meal together. Communion is not only for Presbyterians or "members of the church." Those who doubt or whose trust is wavering are also invited to partake of the Lord's Supper, in which we are assured of God's love and grace.

WE ARE RECEIVING THE ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING throughout Lent. Gifts to this offering support Chicago Lights Tutoring and Elam Davies Social Service Center; Fourth Church Meals Ministry; and the work of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Hunger, and Self-Development of People Programs. To make a "One Great Hour of Sharing" gift, you can use the envelopes in the pew racks or designate "One Great Hour of Sharing" (OGHS) when giving at [fourthchurch.org/give](http://fourthchurch.org/give) or on the memo line of a check payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church.

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**Tom Are Jr.** Interim 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

**Amy Pagliarella** Parish Associate for Caring Ministries

**John Buchanan** Pastor Emeritus



**THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO**

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