



Fourth Presbyterian Church

Second Sunday in Lent

February 25, 2024 • 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

- Pavane William Byrd
- Adagio Frank Bridge
- Ah, Holy Jesus / Herzliebster Jesu arranged by Jason W. Krug

Introit

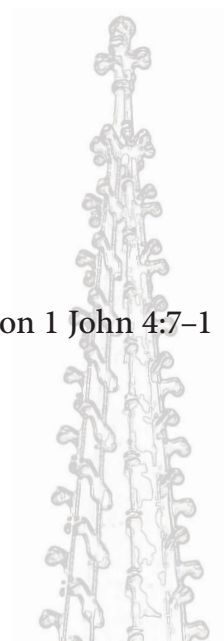
“God Is” Robert Fryson
*God is the joy and the strength of my life. He moves all pain, misery and strife.
 He promised to keep me, never to leave me. He’s never ever come short of his word.
 I’ve got to fast and pray, stay in the narrow way. To keep my life clean every day.
 I want to go with Him when he comes back, I’ve come too far and I’ll never turn back.
 God is, God is, God is my all and all!*

*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

. based on 1 John 4:7-1
 One: *No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another,*
 All: **God abides in us and God’s love is perfected in us.**
 One: *Come into community; come as you are, whoever you are.*
 All: **Let us love one another, for love is from God, and God is love.
 Let us worship God!**



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

***Hymn 310** “I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord”

I love thy kingdom, Lord, the house of thine abode,
the church our blest Redeemer saved with his own precious blood.
I love thy church, O God. Her walls before thee stand,
dear as the apple of thine eye, and graven on thy hand.
For her my tears shall fall; for her my prayers ascend;
to her my cares and toils be given, till toils and cares shall end.
Beyond my highest joy I prize her heavenly ways:
her sweet communion, solemn vows, her hymns of love and praise.
Sure as thy truth shall last, to Zion shall be given
the brightest glories earth can yield, and brighter bliss of heaven.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Holy God, we have tried to love as you love, but we are not you.
Forgiveness is hard. Honesty is vulnerable. Our failures are embarrassing.
Help us to believe that you love us anyway.
Help us to turn around our hearts and lives and do better.
Help us to forgive ourselves and to love you more,
so that we can love our neighbors with joy and grace. Amen.

Extinguishing the Second Lenten Candle

Kyrie Hymn 551

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.

Declaration of Pardon

One: *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

“Hear My Prayer” Moses Hogan
O Lord, please hear my prayer, in the morning when I rise. It’s your servant bound for glory, O dear Lord, please hear my prayer. Keep me safe within your arms. When my work on earth is done, and you come to take me home, just to know I’m bound for glory, and to hear you say well done. Done with sin and sorrow, have mercy. Amen.

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lesson 1 John 4:7–12

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.

Psalter Psalm 137

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

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

Sermon

A Safe Place for Hatred Tom Are Jr.

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

Responding to the Word

***Hymn 72.** “By the Babylonian Rivers”

By the Babylonian rivers
we sat down in grief and wept,
hung our harps upon the willow,
mourned for Zion when we slept.

There our captors in derision
did require of us a song;
so we sat with staring vision,
and the days were hard and long.

How shall we sing the Lord’s song
in a strange and bitter land;
can our voices veil the sorrow?
Lord God, hold your holy band.

***Affirmation of Faith** (*unison*) . . . from the people at Patmos Abbey, Order of Saint Columba

We believe that our lives are held within the encircling love of God,
who knows our names and recognizes our deepest needs.
We believe that Christ is the divine Child of the living God
and that his grace is like living waters that can never be exhausted.
We believe in the birthing, renewing, enabling Spirit of God,
who yearns over our welfare as a mother yearns for her child.
We believe that God is in the arid desert as well as in green pastures
and that hard times and disciplines are also loving gifts.
We believe that our journey has a purpose and a destination
and that our path leads to a human glory we cannot yet imagine.
We believe that in the church we are fellow pilgrims on the road
and that we are called to love one another as God loves us.
This is our faith, and we are humbled to profess in Jesus the Christ. Amen

Welcome of New Members (9:30)

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

“Steal Away” (9:30) African American spiritual /arr. Dale Adelman
Steal away to Jesus, steal away home. I ain’t got long to stay here. My Lord, he calls me, he calls me by the thunder; the trumpet sounds within my soul. O green trees bending, poor sinner stands trembling; the trumpet sounds within my soul.

“Elijah Rock” (11:00) African American spiritual /arr. Jester Hairston
Elijah rock, shout, shout! Elijah rock, coming up, Lord. Satan’s a liar and a conjurer too, if you don’t mind out, he’ll conjure you. If I could, I surely would just stand on the rock where Moses stood.

***Offertory Response**. Hymn 224, v. 4

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
 that were a present far too small;
 love so amazing, so divine,
 demands my soul, my life, my all.

***Prayer of Dedication**

God of grace, you provide for us in amazing ways.
May our offerings provide for others
 and be used to further Christ’s ministry and mission. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

***Hymn 79** “Light Dawns on a Weary World”

Light dawns on a weary world
when eyes begin to see
all people’s dignity.
Light dawns on a weary world:
the promised day of justice comes.

Refrain:

The trees shall clap their hands;
the dry lands, gush with springs;
the hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!
We shall go out in joy,
and be led forth in peace,
as all the world in wonder echoes shalom.

Love grows in a weary world
when hungry hearts find bread
and children’s dreams are fed.
Love grows in a weary world:
the promised feast of plenty comes. (*Refrain*)

Hope blooms in a weary world
when creatures, once forlorn,
find wilderness reborn.
Hope blooms in a weary world:
the promised green of Eden comes. (*Refrain*)

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

Allegro Ludwig van Beethoven

You are invited!

February 25–March 2, 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), 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. ✨ Each Wednesday we gather at 9:30 a.m. for **Morning Prayer via Zoom**; on the first Wednesday of the month we also gather at 10:00 a.m. for **in-person Morning Prayer** in Buchanan Chapel. (March 6 will be the next in-person gathering.) 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 on Tuesdays (7:45 a.m.) and Saturdays (8:30 a.m.) by our Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being at facebook.com/reploglecenterforcounselingandwellbeing

Pastoral care and a listening presence

New grief groups start March 13 and May 15 and are facilitated by our **Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being**. For details, email Sharon Crawford-Tucker (stucker@fourthchurch.org). ✨ To **submit a prayer request** to our Morning Prayer or Deacon Prayer Ministries, please email Gloria Fleming (gflaming@fourthchurch.org) or Nancy Benson-Nicol (nbenson-nicol@fourthchurch.org). ✨ Also email Gloria if you would like to **talk to a pastor or notify pastoral staff** of personal concerns, illnesses, hospitalizations, or deaths; if the situation requires immediate attention, please call the church at 312.787.4570 to be connected to the Minister on Call. ✨ **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 counseling**, call the Replogle Center at 312.787.2729, ext. 2260 or visit www.reploglecenter.org

Welcome, New Members!

This morning **we are delighted to welcome the newest members of our Fourth Church family:** Carol Ackerberg, Karen Canham, Janell Cardinal, Matt Gauen, Mark Greenwood, Shane Hackenberg, Kate Hall, John Hofteig, Paul Talley, and Jane Zimmer. We are grateful you have chosen to join us in our life together and look forward to continuing to welcome and connect with you in the days ahead!

Observing the season of Lent

Each Sunday during Lent we are extinguishing a candle at the front of the Sanctuary. Just as we lit candles on the Advent wreath to symbolize the light coming into the world through the birth of Christ, so now our extinguishing of candles points to the Lenten progression from light to the shadows of Good Friday and the crucifixion. ✨ We invite you to use our **Lenten devotions** as a resource for **personal reflection** during this season. To receive those meditations daily via email, simply subscribe online at www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions ✨ Also available for your reflection during the season is a **Lenten “Rhythm and Word” video series**. These brief worship experiences (*approximately ten minutes each*)—led by Rocky Supinger, Matt Helms, and the Gathering musicians—weave together scripture, prayer, and music and are released on our YouTube channel (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos) on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. To receive them by email, sign up online at www.bit.ly/rhythmandwordemail

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 opportunity to learn about ways to get connected with one another and Fourth Church. ✨ This morning’s Adult Education is based on **Jon Meacham’s *And There Was Light: Abraham Lincoln and the American Struggle***. Led by Jeff Doane, the class meets at 11:00 a.m. in Borwell Dining Room (*in person only*) and looks at how spirituality influenced Lincoln’s decision on the Emancipation. ✨ This morning Women at Fourth is hosting “**Dementia 101: Understanding Cognitive and Behavioral Changes, along with Effective Communication Strategies**,” presented by Jeannine Forrest, Ph.D., R.N., at 11:00 a.m. in Room 5G. For Zoom details, register at www.bit.ly/fpcwaf224 ✨ **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, where **Senior High** meets at 11:00 a.m. ✨ Rehearsing on Sundays are **Children’s Choir** (*kindergarten–grade 5*) at 9:00 a.m. in Room 4G; **Cherub Choir** (*ages 3 and 4*) at 10:15 a.m. in Room 4B; **Youth Choir** (*grades 6–12*) at 10:30 a.m. in Room 4G; the **Handbell Choir** at 12:15 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel Loft; and **Voices of Light**, our gospel choir, at 12:15 p.m. in Room 4G. ✨ 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 (*also livestreamed*).

Black History Month

Among the ways we celebrate **Black History Month** is the **art exhibition** “The Boldness of Being: The work of Natalie Jackson and Natasha Giles Somerville,” two African American women artists. Their work will be on display in the Loggia through March, which is Women’s History Month. ✨ The **flag and signage** along Michigan Avenue bear public witness to the Black history that we honor this month.

The gift of music

The **Morehouse College Glee Club**, whose distinguished 113-year history includes singing at the funeral of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., will present a concert on Monday, March 11 at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. A suggested \$20 freewill donation will be received at the door. ✨ Cellist Geirthrudur Gudmundsdottir will present this week’s free **Friday Noonday Concert** at 12:10 p.m. in the Sanctuary (*also livestreamed*).

Youth summer trips

Registration has begun for our summer youth mission trips! Register for the **Senior High trip to Youngstown**, New York (June 26–July 2) at www.bit.ly/shtrip24; for the **Junior High trip to St. Louis**, Missouri (July 14–19) at www.bit.ly/jhtrip24; for the **Montreat Youth Conference** (July 27–August 3) at www.bit.ly/montreat24; for details, email Katie Patterson (kpatterson@fourthchurch.org).

Can you help?

Adult trip leaders are needed to be part of our summer youth mission trips. The leader application form can be found at www.bit.ly/tripleader24 ✨ **Fourth Church Meals Ministry** is in particular need of **volunteers for Monday Night Supper** as well as for the various Meals Ministry programs. Opportunities are posted at www.bit.ly/fpcvolunteers

Easter flowers

You are invited to **remember or honor a loved one with a contribution toward the Easter flowers** that will decorate the Sanctuary. A list of individuals remembered and honored will be printed in the Easter bulletin. Contributions can be made online at www.bit.ly/fpcgift and must be received by Sunday, March 17 for names to appear in the bulletin. For more information, contact Gloria Vicente (gvicente@fourthchurch.org; 312.252.3571).

Joining Fourth Church

To **become a member of Fourth Church**, we invite you to a one-session Inquirers’ Class in person on Sunday, March 24 at 12:15 p.m. in Room 5F (*register at www.bit.ly/inquirers324*) or via Zoom on Wednesday, April 10 at 6:30 p.m. (*register at www.bit.ly/inquirers424*). For more information about joining, contact Associate Pastor Matt Helms (mhelms@fourthchurch.org)

A message from Tom Are

This week we emailed to our newsletter list a **brief video message from Interim Pastor Tom Are**. In it he offers reflections that look ahead to, among other things, the **Long-Range Plan**, the **Financial Transformation Plan**, and the **formation of a Pastor Nominating Committee**. You can read the email, which includes reports on the two plans, as well as view the video at www.bit.ly/meetingreflections224

Get connected

Men's Bible Study meets via Zoom at 7:30 a.m. on Tuesdays. **Horizons Women's Bible Study** meets via Zoom this Wednesday, February 28 at 12:00 p.m. * **Knitting and Crocheting** meets via Zoom on Tuesday, February 27 at 4:00 p.m. For Zoom details for this group or the Bible studies, email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org). * **Benevolent Guild**, which creates sewn and crafted items for those in need, meets Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. in Room 5B. *Sewing experience is not necessary.* * **"The Sacraments"** is a new two-week Adult Education class, **taught by Nancy Benson-Nicol**, that will begin Sunday morning, March 10 at 11:00 a.m. in Borwell Dining Room and via Zoom. For details, register at www.bit.ly/aesacraments324

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

What's the best place to hear about everything that's happening at Fourth Church?

Right here in the **"You Are Invited!"** pages of our weekly worship bulletin
and in our weekly email newsletter, "News at Fourth Church."

In them you will find information about upcoming events and how to get involved.

In "News at Fourth Church" you will also discover snapshots and reflections of what has been happening in our life together and in the wider community.

Want to learn more? Check out our news archive at www.fourthchurch.org/news

Worship Leaders

Nanette Sawyer, Jim Kulich (9:30), Matt Gauen (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); Chancel Choir (11:00)

Michael Rees, Organ Scholar

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

Worship Notes

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

THE ANTHEM “Hear My Prayer” was written by Moses Hogan (1957–2003), an African American composer and arranger of many spirituals. Born in New Orleans, he was an accomplished pianist at the age of nine, and after musical training at Oberlin Conservatory of Music and at Juilliard, in 1997 he formed the Moses Hogan Singers. We were honored to welcome Mr. Hogan to Fourth Church for a concert of his choral group.

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

SOURCES AND CREDITS: The Affirmation of Faith is from <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2012/02/lenten-creed.html>. “By the Babylon Rivers” text © 1964 American Lutheran Church. The Prayer of Dedication is from https://images.pres-outlook.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Outlook-Order-of-Worship-2_25. “Light Dawns on a Weary World” text © 2002 GIA Publications, Inc.; music © 2000 William P. Rowan (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.). OneLicense.net. License A-712340. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO

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