

Fourth Presbyterian Church

Fourth Sunday in Lent March 10, 2024 • 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

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: In your wisdom, O God, you call us here to worship you.

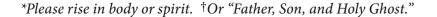
All: We gather, alive to the word of God.

One: You call us to be fully alive with your life abundant, ready to listen and respond with heart, soul, strength, and mind.

All: We listen, alive to the word of God.

One: You call us to be always watchful for your word of wisdom, sometimes startling and unexpected, sometimes still and quiet, but always dwelling among us.

All: We watch and wait for the word of God.



*Hymn 806
I'll praise my Maker while I've breath; and when my voice is lost in death, praise shall employ my nobler powers. My days of praise shall ne'er be past while life and thought and being last, or immortality endures.
How happy they whose hopes rely on Israel's God, who made the sky and earth and seas with all their train; whose truth forever stands secure, who saves the oppressed and feeds the poor, and none shall find God's promise vain.
The Lord pours eyesight on the blind; the Lord supports the fainting mind and sends the laboring conscience peace. God helps the stranger in distress, the widowed and the parentless, and grants the prisoner sweet release.
I'll praise my Maker while I've breath; and when my voice is lost in death, praise shall employ my nobler powers. My days of praise shall ne'er be past while life and thought and being last, or immortality endures.
Call to Confession
Prayer of Confession (unison)
Gracious God, we come before you in need of forgiveness and grace.
You invite us to trust in you completely, but we do not.
We are misled by pride, for we see ourselves as blameless,
even when we are to blame, and great, even when we are small.
We have failed in love, neglected justice, and ignored your truth.
Forgive us when we seek to justify what is, rather than to risk what could be.
Encourage us to return to your holy path,
that we might walk ever closer with Christ, our Lord. Amen.
Extinguishing the Fourth Lenten Candle
Kyrie
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

The Sacrament of Baptism

Anthem

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. If you cannot sing like angels, if you cannot preach like Paul, you can tell the love of Jesus and say "He died for all."

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

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

All: Thanks be to God.

(9:30) Children age three through grade five are invited to come forward during the singing of the Gloria Patri.

*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. (9:30) Children depart for Sunday School with their teachers.

Second Lesson	
One: The grass withers, and the flower fades,	
All: but the word of our God shall stand forever.	
Sermon	
It's Great to Know Who to Blame	
Responding to the Word	
*Hymn 351	
All who love and serve your city, all who bear its daily stress,	
all who cry for peace and justice, all who curse and all who bless:	
In your day of wealth and plenty, wasted work and wasted play,	
call to mind the word of Jesus, "You must work while it is day."	
For all days are days of judgment, and the Lord is waiting still,	
drawing near a world that spurns him, offering peace from Calvary's hill.	
Risen Lord, shall yet the city be the city of despair?	
Come today, our judge, our glory. Be its name "The Lord is there!"	
*Affirmation of Faith (unison) from the Iona Community	
We believe that God is present in the darkness before dawn;	
in the waiting and uncertainty where fear and courage join hands,	
conflict and caring link arms, and the sun rises over barbed wire.	
We believe in a with-us God	
who sits down in our midst to share our humanity.	
We affirm a faith that takes us beyond the safe place	
into action, into vulnerability, and into the streets.	
We commit ourselves to work for change and put us on the line;	
to bear responsibility, to take risks, to live powerfully and face humiliation;	
to stand with those on the edge; to choose life and be used by the Spirit	
for God's new community of hope. 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

"How Can I Keep from Singing?" Robert Lowry/arr. Jonathan A. Miller My life flows on in endless song; above earth's lamentation, I hear the real, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation. Through all the tumult and the strife I hear its music ringing; it sounds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing? Amid life's trials, storms, and tears, which weary and confound you, there is no balm quite like a choir which wraps its arms around you. For here there is no loneliness with hearts and voices ringing; and as each does the others bless. We shall not keep from singing. How can we keep from singing?

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

We recognize that the greatest gift is the gift of love.

May our offerings distribute this love to the world:

the small world we inhabit with the suffering people we know;

the larger world where the power of love is sorely needed. Amen.

Bearing the World into the World

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land.

I am weak, but thou art mighty. Hold me with thy powerful hand.

Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow.

Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.

Strong deliverer, strong deliverer, be thou still my strength and shield; be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside.

Death of death, and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side.

Songs of praises, songs of praises I will ever give to thee;

I will ever give to thee.

*Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Allegro..... William Byrd

Baptized today at 9:30

Cordelia V Schmitz, child of Zach and Samantha Schmitz

Baptized today at 11:00

Graham William Gaffney, child of James and Caitlyn Gaffney Arthur Schmidt, child of Troy and Gillian Schmidt

You belong here!

This may be your first time in worship at Fourth Presbyterian Church, or perhaps you worship here so often you call Fourth Church "home"; in either case, we are grateful for your presence today. Inspired by the radical hospitality of Jesus Christ, we welcome everyone —without exception—into the life of this congregation. No matter where you may be in your faith journey, no matter what questions or burdens you may bring to this place, we take seriously that God loves everyone, so you belong here.

Every Sunday we read the old biblical stories and sing hymns (some of which our grandparents sang), while also engaging the world we live in this minute through liturgy, prayers, and sermons. **By connecting the story of our lives to the story of Christ's life,** we discover hope and even joy, and are inspired to reflect the light of Christ to the city.

If you are new to us, stick around after worship. Join us for Coffee Hour or speak to one of our pastors. We have many programs to expand your spirit and enrich your life. We would love to tell you more. **Give us a try; soon you too might be calling Fourth Church "home."**

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.

Joining us online

Each Sunday our worshiping body is a wonderful mix of those online, on the phone, and in the pews. 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) **** Links** to make an online offering gift, view or print the worship bulletin, and more can be found in the descriptive text below the video as well as on our website. ****** 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. **** 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. ****** A half hour prior to each service the doors open for worship, with 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. **** 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.

Prayer, meditation, and sermons

If you would like to **offer individual prayers of praise or concern with a Deacon today,** you 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. ** To read **Prayers of the People** lifted up during previous Sunday morning services, visit fourthchurch.org/prayer ** Each Wednesday we gather at 9:30 a.m. for **Morning Prayer via Zoom;** on Wednesday, April 3, we will gather at 10:00 a.m. for our monthly **in-person Morning Prayer** in Buchanan Chapel. For Zoom details, email Nancy Benson-Nicol (nbenson-nicol@fourthchurch.org). ** If you would like to **walk the labyrinth,** Buchanan Chapel is open for that purpose between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. ** You are also invited to a **Sacred Pause time of meditation** 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 ** During the week the Sunday morning **service and sermon is available via podcast** on multiple 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.

Restoring ceiling panels

A few lightweight pieces of the trim that surround the **1914 Bartlett ceiling panels** fell to the floor at the back of the Sanctuary earlier this month. Those particular panels are scheduled to be restored this year; a protective canopy has been installed below them in the meantime.

Ensure you receive the latest updates from Fourth Church by joining the nearly 4,000 people who receive our weekly email newsletter. Simply sign up at www.bit.ly/newsfromfpc

Pastoral care and a listening presence

To **submit a prayer request** to our Morning Prayer or Deacon Prayer Ministries, please email Gloria Fleming (*gfleming@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 our Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being at 312.787.2729, ext. 2260 or visit reploglecenter.org

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 daily Lenten devotions (fourthchurch.org/devotions) as a resource for personal reflection. To receive those meditations via email, subscribe at www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions ** Also available is a weekly Lenten "Rhythm and Word" video series. These ten-minute videos are released on YouTube (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos) on Wednesday evenings. Subscribe to our YouTube channel or sign up at www.bit.ly/rhythmandwordemail to receive them by email. ** For our Holy Week and Easter worship schedule, see fourthchurch.org/lent-easter

Sunday opportunities

If you are worshiping with us in person, we encourage you to stop by **Coffee Hour** in Anderson Hall following the service to greet each other and learn about ways to connect with one another and Fourth Church. **** If you are a young adult,** please visit the Young Adult Ministry table in Coffee Hour to connect with others in their twenties and thirties. **** Sunday School children** from three years old to fifth grade **join their parents in the Sanctuary** for the beginning of 9:30 a.m. worship today before departing to classrooms with their teachers. At 11:00 a.m. children gather on the fourth floor of the Gratz Center. **** A Youth Parent Symposium** on navigating difficult conversations takes place at 9:30 a.m. in Borwell Dining Room (and will be offered again next Sunday at 9:30 a.m.). **** "The Sacraments,"** a new two-week Adult Education class **taught by Nancy Benson-Nicol,** begins today at 11:00 a.m. in Borwell Dining Room and via Zoom. Register at www.bit.ly/aesacraments324 for details. **** Eighthgrade 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. **** 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).

Morehouse College Glee Club in concert

You won't want to miss the stirring performance of the **Morehouse College Glee Club**—whose distinguished history includes singing at the funeral of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.—this Monday, March 11 at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. A suggested \$20 freewill donation will be received at the door.

New Grief Groups

Grieving is a normal and important part of the human experience, which inevitably includes loss and suffering. Knowing we cannot escape loss, our Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being offers Grief Groups to help individuals grieve in a healthy, supported manner so they can move through the experience and into the rest of their life. **New Grief Groups start this Wednesday evening, March 13** and again on May 15; each is facilitated for four weeks, via Zoom, by Sharon Crawford-Tucker of the Replogle Center staff. For details, email Sharon (*stucker@fourthchurch.org*).

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 those remembered and honored will be printed in the Easter bulletin. Contributions can be made at www.bit.ly/fpcgift and must be received **by Sunday, March 17** for names to be listed. For details, contact Gloria Vicente (*gvicente@fourthchurch.org*; 312.252.3571).

Pastor Nominating Committee

The first step in our search for a new pastor will be the election of a **Pastor Nominating Committee** (PNC) later this spring. To help the Nominating Committee prepare a slate of recommended PNC candidates, the committee asks that you take a moment between now and April 7 to submit your suggestions of individuals to serve on the PNC. **Forms for self-nomination and for recommending someone else** can be found at fourthchurch.org/pnc; the Nominating Committee will also be present **in Coffee Hour today** to answer any questions about this process. There will be an **information session about serving on the PNC** next Sunday, March 17 at 10:45 a.m. in person and, via Zoom, on Tuesday, March 19 at 5:15 p.m. For Zoom details, contact Nancy Davis (*ndavis@fourthchurch.org*).

Celebrating the arts

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. ** On exhibit in the Loggia Gallery is "The Boldness of Being: The Work of Natalie Jackson and Natasha Giles Somerville." ** Organist and Director of Music John Sherer will present this week's free Friday Noonday Concert at 12:10 p.m. in the Sanctuary (also livestreamed).

Get connected

Books by Women discusses Miss Pettigrew Lives for a Day by Winifred Watson on Tuesday, March 12 at 6:00 p.m. in the Bumpus Room. * Men's Bible Study meets via Zoom at 7:30 a.m. on Tuesdays. Horizons Women's Bible Study meets via Zoom this Wednesday, March 13 at 12:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. For details, 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. * "Together We Play: Movement and Family Yoga," a Day School preschool class, takes place on Fridays (through March 22) from 9:45 to 11:15 a.m. in the Bumpus Room. For details, contact Kathy Hager (khager@fourthchurch.org). **★ Knitting and Crocheting** meets Sunday, March 17 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 5B. ** To become a member of Fourth Church, please join us for a one-session Inquirers' Class in person on Sunday, March 24 at 12:15 p.m. (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, contact Matt Helms (*mhelms@fourthchurch.org*). **☀ Tom Dozeman** will talk about **"Christian Nationalism:** How Did It Evolve, and What Does It Mean Today?" when **Cornerstones**—a fellowship group of those fifty and over—meets on Friday evening, April 5 in Borwell Dining Room. Preregistration is required at www.bit.ly/cornerstones424 * Join in welcoming and connecting with others by joining our **Coffee Hour Hospitality Team.** For details, contact Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org).

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**

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

9:30 Matt Helms, Grant Hodges, Nancy Benson-Nicol, Tom Are Jr. 11:00 Matt Helms, Stephanette Walker, Joseph L. Morrow, Tom Are Jr.

The Music Today

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 Fourth Church Meals Ministry; Chicago Lights Tutoring and Social Service Center; 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 OFFERTORY ANTHEM "How Can I Keep from Singing?" was premiered by the Fourth Church Touring Choir on their recent trip to India. The arranger, Jonathan Miller, in 1993 founded Chicago *a cappella*, an ensemble that has performed regularly at Fourth Church. He also co-founded, with his wife, Sandy, choirs for older adults: the Sounds Good! Choirs and Good Memories Choirs. They make up the largest choral organization in the Chicago area, and two of the choirs rehearse here at the church on weekdays.

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

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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