

## WORSHIP LEADERS

**John H. Boyle** Parish Associate  
**Anne H. Ross** Liturgist  
**Thomas Gouwens** Associate Organist  
**The Vespers Choir**

**Special prayer requests** are included in intercessory prayer in Stone Chapel on Sundays. Individuals can leave their prayer requests written on paper in the box outside the chapel or they can pray together with the Deacon who is in Stone Chapel after 11:00 worship.

**Daily devotions**, written by Fourth Church staff, are available in the literature racks and by e-mail from [devotions@fourthchurch.org](mailto:devotions@fourthchurch.org)

**For a preview of next Sunday's worship**, subscribe to the weekly e-mail newsletter [News@FourthChurch](mailto:News@FourthChurch) by sending e-mail addresses to [news@fourthchurch.org](mailto:news@fourthchurch.org).

**A prayer service in the style of Taizé** is held the fourth Friday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in Blair Chapel. The next service is Friday, September 23.

**For pastoral care;** to notify the church of illnesses, death, hospitalizations; to pass along a prayer request to be remembered in Morning Prayer; or to arrange homebound Communion, contact Carol Allen, Associate Pastor, at 312.640.5398 ([callen@fourthchurch.org](mailto:callen@fourthchurch.org)).

**Parking is available** Sundays at 900 North Michigan (access from Rush or Walton Street) at the rate of \$6.25 after 5:00 p.m.

### The Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago

John M. Buchanan, Pastor

Church office: 126 E. Chestnut Street, Chicago, IL 60611.2094; [www.fourthchurch.org](http://www.fourthchurch.org)  
312.787.4570; Staff extensions: 312.787.2729; Fax: 312.787.4584

Fourth Presbyterian Church  
Sunday, September 4, 2005  
6:30 p.m.

# vespers

**PRELUDE** Sonata III in A Major *Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy*  
Con moto maestoso—Andante tranquillo

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Friends, come together. Join in praise  
to God whose love never fails.

People: **As the sun rises in the east and sets in the west,  
so God's endless grace will not let us go.**

Leader: God's promise, made flesh in Christ, dispels our fear

All: **and frees us to love as we are loved.**

**We worship God with joy and gratitude.**

## INVOCATION

\***HYMN 298** "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy" *Tune: IN BABILONE*

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*(unison)* **Merciful God, you have sur rounded us  
with your love and created us in your image.  
We have failed to reflect that love: turning away  
from those in need, standing silent  
when we should speak, and hoarding the gifts  
bestowed upon us by you. We have spoken harshly,  
complained in adversity, and boasted in prosperity  
at the expense of our neighbors. We ask  
your forgiveness for our pettiness and greed.  
Take the burden of our sin away that we may  
start anew, finding our strength in your Holy Spirit  
and our way in your will. We pray  
in the name of Christ, your love incarnate. Amen.**

## DECLARATION OF PARDON

Leader: Friends, believe the good news.

People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

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\*Stand as you are able.

## CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

### PSALTER READING

Psalm 36:1–9 *(responsively)* (page 510, O.T.)

**ANTHEM** “O Come All You Weary!” *Patrick Matsikenyiri*

### SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 13:8–14 (page 162, N.T.)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God .**

### COMMUNION MEDITATION

John H. Boyle

WHAT IS THIS THING CALLED LOVE?

**\*HYMN 335** “Though I May Speak” *Tune: O WALY WALY*

### \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*(unison)*

**We are not alone, we live in God’s world.  
We believe in God: who has created and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,  
to reconcile and make new,  
who works in us and others by the Spirit.  
We trust in God. We are called to be the church:  
to celebrate God’s presence, to love and serve others,  
to seek justice and resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,  
our Judge and our Hope. In life, in death,  
in life beyond death, God is with us.  
We are not alone. Thanks be to God.**

*(United Church of Canada)*

### OFFERING

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Beloved, Let Us Love” *Austin C. Lovelace*

**\* DOXOLOGY** (The Hymnal, 592)

## THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

### INVITATION

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

### THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

### 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

### THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Gracious God, at this table we have received your love,  
and have been renewed for your service. Help us  
to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ, who died that  
we might be forgiven and experience that love. So may  
our love for others be your love reaching out into  
the life of the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**\*HYMN 366** “Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me” *Tune: ST. CATHERINE*

### BENEDICTION

**POSTLUDE** Roulade *Gerald Near*