

Christianity is the only world religion that confesses a God who suffers. It is not all that popular an idea, even among Christians. We prefer a God who prevents suffering, only that is not the God we have got. What the cross teaches us is that God's power is not the power to force human choices and end human pain. It is, instead, the power to pick up the shattered pieces and make something holy out of them—not from a distance but right close up.

Barbara Brown Taylor
God in Pain

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

We are grateful for your presence and invite you to participate in the worship, program, and service life of Fourth Church.

During Today's Worship

Large-print bulletins, Bibles, and hymnals and individual listening devices for improved sound are available in the back of the sanctuary. Worship also can be heard through the "T" setting of hearing aids.

If your infant or small child needs care during the worship service, you may leave the sanctuary and return as you wish. The worship service audio can be heard in Stone Chapel, where you and your child are also welcome. Child care for infants and toddlers is provided in Westminster 14, through the south transept doors and to the right. See an usher for directions.

Worship bags, containing quiet activities and a bulletin designed for children, are available outside the south transept doors, between the sanctuary and Anderson Hall. Children who are attending worship in the sanctuary are invited to borrow one of these bags.

During the Concerns of the Church, please pass the pew information pads, so that all worshipers have an opportunity to provide updated information and to greet one another by name following the service.

Please turn off all cell phones when in the sanctuary.

If You Are New to Fourth Church

Please wear a lapel pin, found in the pew racks, so we might greet you after worship.

We invite you to stop by Coffee Hour after worship for fellowship, conversation, and information about church programs and volunteer opportunities.

Parking is available Sundays at the John Hancock Center, 875 North Michigan Avenue (access Chestnut Street), at the rate of \$7.00 until 2:00 p.m. and at 900 North Michigan (access from Rush or Walton Street) at the rate of \$7.75 to 4:00 p.m. and \$6.00 after 5:00 p.m. Validation tickets must be picked up during Coffee Hour or from the Chestnut Street reception desk.

Inquirers' Class offers an opportunity to explore Presbyterian history and beliefs. This one-session class is also a prerequisite for membership. Attend Monday, March 5 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.; Saturday, March 17 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon; or Sunday, March 25 from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. For information about membership, contact Calum MacLeod, Associate Pastor, at the church at 312.981.4025 (cmacleod@fourthchurch.org).

Fourth Church Cares

For pastoral care; to notify the church of illnesses, hospitalizations, or deaths; to pass along a prayer request to be remembered in Morning Prayer; or to arrange homebound Communion, contact Ali Trowbridge, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care, at 312.573.3360 (atrowbridge@fourthchurch.org).

The Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago

John M. Buchanan, Pastor

Church office: 126 E. Chestnut Street, Chicago, IL 60611.2014; www.fourthchurch.org
312.787.4570; Staff extensions: 312.787.2729; Fax: 312.787.4584

MORNING WORSHIP

8:00, 9:30, and 11:00

*The beginning of the prelude is a call to silent,
personal preparation for the worship of God.*

PRELUDE
(8:00)

Adagio from *Trio Sonata in E-flat Major*

Johann Sebastian Bach

When We Are in the Greatest Need

J. S. Bach

PRELUDE
(9:30 and 11:00)

Trio Sonata in E-flat Major

Johann Sebastian Bach

Allegro moderato—Adagio—[Allegro]

When We Are in the Greatest Need

J. S. Bach

INTROIT

“Here Us, O Lord”

Donald Cashmore

Hear us, O Lord, as now we pray, that thou wilt meet us here
to turn all sadness into joy and drive out every fear.

***DOXOLOGY AND INVOCATION**

(The Hymnal, 592)

***HYMN 457**

“I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art” *Tune: TOULON*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(unison)

God of mercy,

you sent Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost.

We confess that we have strayed from you

and turned aside from your way.

We are misled by pride,

for we see ourselves pure when we are stained

and great when we are small.

We have failed in love, neglected justice,

and ignored your truth.

Have mercy, O God, and forgive our sin.

Return us to paths of righteousness

through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Minister: Friends, believe the good news.

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

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

MINUTE FOR MISSION

PSALTER

Psalm 27 *(responsively)*

(page 476, O.T.)

**Stand as you are able.*

ANTHEM "Have Mercy upon Me, O God" *Thomas Tomkins*
(8:00) Have mercy upon me, O God, after thy great goodness and according to the multitude of thy mercies; do away mine offenses.

ANTHEM "Hidden, O Lord" *Francis Pilkington*
(9:30 and 11:00) Hidden, O Lord, are my most horrid sins unto the world, though open plain to thee; he never betters that no times begins, corruption killeth all good thoughts in me.

FIRST LESSON Psalm 77:1–10 (page 508, O.T.)
Minister: The Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

***GLORIA PATRI** (The Hymnal, 579)

SECOND LESSON Luke 13:1–9 (page 71, N.T.)

SERMON by John M. Buchanan
THE BIG QUESTION
"Has his steadfast love ceased forever? . . .
Has God forgotten to be gracious?"
Psalm 77:8, 9 (NRSV)

***HYMN 170** "The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want" *Tune: CRIMOND*

***APOSTLES CREED** (*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.**

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.**

PRAYER RESPONSE

“Amen”

Thomas Morley

OFFERING

OFFERTORY SOLO

(8:00)

“En Prière”

Gabriel Fauré

If the voice of a child can reach you, O my Father, listen to the prayer of Jesus on his knees before you. If you have chosen me to teach your laws on the earth, I will know how to serve you, holy King of kings, O light! Place on my lips, O Lord, the salutary truth, so that whoever doubts should with humility revere you. Do not abandon me; give me the gentleness so necessary to relieve the suffering, to alleviate pains and misery. Reveal yourself to me, Lord, in whom I have faith and hope. I want to suffer for you and to die on the cross at Calvary.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

(9:30 and 11:00)

“Miserere mei”

William Byrd

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy, blot out my transgressions.

***PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING AND RESPONSE**

For the life that you have giv - en, for the love in Christ made known,
with these fruits of time and la - bor, with these gifts that are your own:
here we of - fer, Lord, our prai - ses; heart and mind and strength we bring.
Give us grace to love and serve you, liv - ing what we pray and sing.

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***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION**

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.**

All: **God of mercy,**

we praise you that in love

you have reached across the abyss of our sin

and brought us into your embrace.

Thank you for the life and death of your Son, our Lord.

By your Spirit,

give us the grace of repentance,

and guide us in ways of righteousness.

Take our humble offerings

as tokens of our commitment

to follow Jesus Christ, our crucified and risen Lord. Amen.

***HYMN 85**

“What Wondrous Love Is This”

Tune: WONDROUS LOVE

BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Sonata on the First Tone

José Lidon

Lent

at Fourth Presbyterian Church

Along the way toward Palm Sunday (April 1), Holy Week, and Easter (April 8), Fourth Church offers a variety of opportunities for Lenten reflection.

Lenten Devotions

Written by Fourth Church members and staff, daily Lenten devotions are available by e-mail (send addresses to devotions@fourthchurch.org), on the website www.fourthchurch.org, and in a printed booklet available in the church literature racks.

Wednesday Midweek Lenten Services

Wednesdays, March 7–April 4

Each Wednesday in Lent, members and friends are invited to a time of worship held in Blair Chapel at 7:30 p.m.

Barbara Brown Taylor Preaching

Sunday, March 18

9:30 and 11:00 a.m. in the sanctuary

(Barbara Brown Taylor will not be preaching at the 8:00 a.m. service.)

Lenten Taizé

Friday, March 23

7:30 p.m. in Blair Chapel

Silent Retreat for Holy Week

Friday evening, April 6 through Saturday afternoon, April 7

Cenacle Conference Center (513 W. Fullerton)

Retreat brochures are available in the literature racks.

Worship Leaders

8:00 a.m.	Martha Langford, John W. Vest, John M. Buchanan
9:30 a.m.	Donna Gray, Keith C. Harris, John M. Buchanan
11:00 a.m.	Alice M. Trowbridge, Adam Fronczek, John M. Buchanan

The Music Today

8:00 a.m.	The Chancel Choir; Callie Thompson, soprano soloist
9:30 a.m.	The Morning Choir
11:00 a.m.	The Morning Choir

John W. W. Sherer, Organist and Director of Music
Thomas Gouwens, Associate Organist

Worship Notes

Today's Minute for Mission is presented on behalf of the Fourth Presbyterian Church Sunday School program.

Fourth Church welcomes the youth group from First Presbyterian Church of Brighton, Michigan to 9:30 worship this morning.

The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering is being received throughout Lent. Gifts to this offering support the work of the Presbyterian Self-Development of People Program, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and the Interfaith Homes Initiative as well as the Chicago Lights Partners in Education program and the Elam Davies Social Service Center. To make a "One Great Hour of Sharing" gift, use the envelopes in the pew racks or write "Lenten Offering" on the memo line of a check made payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church.

The unfolding flower growing out of a crown of thorns, shown on this week's bulletin cover, provides an apt metaphor for the new life arising from Christ's death and resurrection. It is carved into the underside of the octagonal sounding board over the Fourth Church pulpit.

Pastoral Staff

John M. Buchanan, Pastor
Dana Ferguson, Executive Associate Pastor
Elizabeth B. Andrews, Parish Associate
John H. Boyle, Parish Associate
Patrick Daymond, Pastoral Resident
Adam Fronczek, Associate Pastor for Adult Education and Worship
Donna Gray, Minister for Children and Families
Keith C. Harris, Associate Pastor for Community Ministry
Hardy Kim, Pastoral Resident
Martha Langford, Pastoral Resident
Calum I. MacLeod, Associate Pastor for New Members and Young Adult Ministry
Thomas C. Rook, Parish Associate
Joyce Shin, Minister for Congregational Activities
Alice M. Trowbridge, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care
John W. Vest, Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry
David A. Donovan, Associate Pastor Emeritus