

The whole purpose of the Bible, it seems to me, is to convince people to set the written word down in order to become living words in the world for God's sake. For me, this willing conversion of ink back to blood is the full substance of faith. In practice, this means that my faith is far more relational than doctrinal. Although I am guilty of reading scripture as selectively as anyone, my reading persuades me that God is found in right relationships, not in right ideas, and that a great deal of Christian theology began as a stammering response to something that had actually happened in the world.

Barbara Brown Taylor, *Leaving Church*

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.

A church tour begins at 12:15 p.m., starting at the back of the sanctuary.

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 Sunday, February 24 from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.; Monday, March 3 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.; or Saturday, March 8, 2008 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. 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

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

PRELUDE Dearest Jesus, We Are Here *Johann Sebastian Bach*

INTROIT “The Lord Is Full of Compassion” *Iain Quinn*
The Lord is full of compassion and mercy; come, let us adore him.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

***DOXOLOGY AND INVOCATION** (The Hymnal, 592)

***HYMN 234** “I to the Hills Will Lift My Eyes” *Tune: DUNDEE*

LITANY FOR LENT

Minister: O Christ, out of your fullness we have all received grace
upon grace. You are our eternal hope; you are patient and
full of mercy; you are generous to all who call upon you.

People: **Save us, Lord.**

Minister: O Christ, fountain of life and holiness, you have
taken away our sins. On the cross you were wounded
for our transgressions and were bruised for our iniquities.

People: **Save us, Lord.**

Minister: O Christ, obedient unto death, source of all comfort,
our life and our resurrection, our peace and reconciliation:

People: **Save us, Lord.**

Minister: O Christ, Savior of all who trust you, hope of
all who die for you, and joy of all the saints:

People: **Save us, Lord.**

Minister: Jesus, Lamb of God,

People: **have mercy on us.**

Minister: Jesus, bearer of our sins,

People: **have mercy on us.**

Minister: Jesus, redeemer of the world,

People: **grant us peace.**

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 as pure when we are stained and
great when we are small. We have failed in love,
neglected justice, and ignored the 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

FIRST LESSON Genesis 12:1–4a (page 9, O.T.)
Minister: The Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM “Hidden, O Lord, Are My Most Horrid Sins”
Francis Pilkington
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.

SECOND LESSON John 3:1–17 (page 88, N.T.)

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

THIRD LESSON Romans 4:1–5, 13–17, 20–25 (page 144, N.T.)

SERMON by John W. Vest
HEAR ME NOW AND BELIEVE ME LATER

***HYMN 399** “We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight”
Tune: DUNLAP’S CREEK

***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.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY SOLO

“Out of the Depths”

Alan Hovhaness

*OFFERTORY 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.

Words: Carl P. Daw Jr. ©1987; Music: Morgan Simmons ©1990, 1992 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

INVITATION

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.**

PRAYER

Minister: It is truly right and our greatest joy . . .

. . . who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, God of po-wer and might,
 hea-ven and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the high-est. Bles-sed is the
 One who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

Music: John W.W. Sherer; © 1997. Used by permission.

Minister: Great is the mystery of faith:

People: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Minister: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit . . .

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

(unison)

**On this journey of life, O God, be our companion,
be our guide. Show us where to go.
Wherever we are, in the journey from birth to death,
grant us your peace. We thank you for each other,
our companions in the journey of faith,
and we pray for those with whom we travel.
Thank you for this sacred food that sustains us
on our journey. Bring us together
to a new world of peace, through Jesus Christ,
who lived and died that all might be one. Amen.**

***HYMN 80**

“Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley”

Tune: LONESOME VALLEY

BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Aria Pastorella

Valentin Rathgeber

THE LORD'S SUPPER AT FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

"Do this in remembrance of me." Luke 22:19 (NRSV)

The Lord's Supper is the sign and seal of eating and drinking in communion with the crucified and risen Lord. In this act, we remember that during his earthly ministry, Jesus shared meals with his followers and sat at dinner tables as a sign of acceptance of the sinner and the outcast. In the last meal before his death, Jesus took and shared with his disciples bread and wine, speaking of these elements as his body and blood, symbols of the new relationship with God brought about by his impending death. On the day of his resurrection, the risen Jesus made himself known to his followers in the breaking of bread.

In the act of remembering that is the Lord's Supper, we receive and trust the love of Christ present to us and to the world. Through it, we are renewed and empowered to be the church, the body of Christ, in the world.

The invitation to the Lord's Supper is not just for Presbyterians or "members of the church." All who confess Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord are invited to partake of the Lord's Supper. Access to the Table is

not a right conferred upon the worthy but a privilege given to the undeserving who come in faith, repentance, and love. Even one who doubts or whose trust is wavering may receive the bread and grape juice (in place of wine) in order to be assured of God's love and grace in Jesus Christ.

Fourth Presbyterian Church celebrates the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper each Sunday at evening worship and at morning worship on the first Sunday of even-numbered months. During the season of Lent, Communion also will be celebrated at 8:00 a.m. worship.

This morning, Communion is served by intinction. The congregation will come forward by the center aisle to receive the bread, which they will then dip into the chalice of grape juice. Worshipers will return to their pews by the side aisles.

*"I am the bread of life."
John 6:35 (NRSV)*

Portions of the text adapted from
The Book of Order

Worship Leaders	Calum I. MacLeod, Martha Langford, John W. Vest
The Music Today	The Chancel Choir; Andrea Pokrefke, soprano soloist
	John W. W. Sherer, Organist and Director of Music
	Thomas Gouwens, Associate Organist

Worship Notes

The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering is being received throughout Lent. Gifts to this offering support the work of the programs of Chicago Lights as well as the Presbyterian Self-Development of People Program, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and the Interfaith Homes Initiative. This year Fourth Church will be making an additional gift to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to be used for efforts in the South that support recovery from the recent tornadoes. Gifts to the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering can be made by using the envelopes in the pew racks or writing “Lenten Offering” on the memo line of a check made payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church. Those who would like to make a contribution specifically for Disaster Assistance in the South can write “PDA South” on the memo line of a check or on the offering envelope.

Fourth Church offers a variety of worship opportunities in addition to Sunday morning services. A Vespers Communion service is held each Sunday evening at 6:30 p.m. Each weekday morning, Morning Prayer is held in Stone Chapel as a time to remember in prayer members of the Fourth Church congregation and those in need (9:30 a.m. on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday; 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday). The monthly Taizé service is held in Anderson Hall on the fourth Friday of each month—including this Friday—and offers an opportunity to gather for a time of prayer, meditative singing, and silent reflection. Throughout Lent, a midweek service also is held each Wednesday evening at 6:30 p.m. in Blair Chapel.

On the cover: The season of Lent points us toward the cross of Christ. This Latin cross, one of many integrated into the architecture of Fourth Church, is carved in the center of the minister’s chair in the upper chancel.

Pastoral Staff

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