

vespers

6:30 p.m. Sunday March 8, 2009

A LIGHT IN THE CITY
FOURTH
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
www.fourthchurch.org

PRELUDE O God, to Whom We Turn *Johannes Brahms*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come, all who are weary or troubled, who know the pain of a heavy heart.

People: **God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.**

Leader: As we gather, we affirm God's presence and seek to know as we are known.

People: **The God of hosts is with us; the God of our ancestors hears and leads us.**

Leader: Be still and know that God is God, exalted among the nations of this earth.

People: **The realm of God is here and everywhere, day and night, in time and beyond time.**

***HYMN 545** "Now, on Land and Sea Descending"

Tune: VESPER HYMN

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(unison)*

We confess before you, O God, our misplaced anger, which originates from viewing people and events as satellites of ourselves. We like to have our own way, God, and are upset when others don't fit into our plans. We hold onto blaming and resenting others rather than extending forgiveness. We are content with our privileges and are seldom disturbed by inequalities that are tipped to our own advantage. Forgive us, O God, for living for

**Stand as you are able.*

ourselves and regarding others from a human point of view. Align us with the heart of Christ, in whose name we pray. Hear now our silent prayers. Amen.

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Minister: Hear and believe the good news!

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

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Minister: As Christ's people, forgiven and made new, let us stand and greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace. Please say to one another, "The peace of Christ be with you."

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

PSALTER Psalm 22:23–31 (*responsively*) (page 474, O.T.)

FIRST LESSON Matthew 6:9–15 (page 5, N.T.)

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM "Lamb of God" *F. Melius Christiansen*

SECOND LESSON Matthew 18:21–22 (page 19, N.T.)

COMMUNION MEDITATION by Victoria G. Curtiss
THE CHALLENGE OF FORGIVENESS

***HYMN 347** "Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive" *Tune: DETROIT*

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM "I Sought the Lord" *Wilbur Held*

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

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

THE 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: . . . 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)*

Thank you, O God, for bringing us to the table at which all are fed and no one is turned away. Here we have all shared one cup of pain and celebration. May this feast by which you have nurtured us open our hearts to others. May this family of faith witness to your bond of love. Lord Jesus, you have put your life in our hands; now we put our lives in yours. Amen.

***HYMN 358** “Help Us Accept Each Other” *Tune: BARONITA*

BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

POSTLUDE O Bread of Life from Heaven *Johannes Brahms*

WORSHIP LEADERS

Victoria G. Curtiss Associate Pastor

Louis Houkal Liturgist

The Vespers Choir

Thomas E. Gouwens Associate Organist

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