



## Gathering

### **Gathering Music**

*We invite you to complete the prayer card found in this worship bulletin and to place it in the plate during the sharing of gifts. Information about the prayer cards is printed on the outside back cover of the bulletin.*

### **Welcome**

*Inspired by the radical hospitality of Jesus Christ, Fourth Presbyterian Church welcomes all of God's children into the life of the church regardless of gender, age, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, physical limitation, educational background, or economic situation.*

## Call to Worship

Leader: Gather us in,  
the lost and the lonely,  
the broken and breaking,  
the tired and the aching,  
who long for the nourishment  
found at your feast.

People: **Gather us in,**

Leader: the done and the doubting,  
the wishing and wondering,  
the puzzled and pondering,  
who long for the company  
found at your feast.

People: **Gather us in,**

Leader: the proud and pretentious,  
the sure and superior,  
the never inferior,  
who long for the leveling  
found at your feast.

People: **Gather us in,**

Leader: the bright and the bustling,  
the stirrers, the shakers,  
the kind laughter makers,  
who long for the deeper joys  
found at your feast.

People: **Gather us in,**

Leader: from corner or limelight,  
from mansion or campsite,  
from fears and obsession,  
from tears and depression,  
from untold excesses,  
from treasured successes,  
to meet, to eat,  
be given a seat,  
be joined to the vine,  
be offered new wine,  
become like the least,  
be found at the feast.

All: **Gather us in!**

**\*Opening Song** "As We Gather at Your Table"

**Prayer of Confession**

Leader: God of life, do not darken your light to us.

People: **God of life, do not limit your joy in us.**

Leader: God of life, do not shut your door to us.

People: **God of life, do not refuse us your mercy.**

Leader: O God of life, eternity cannot hold you,  
nor can our little words catch the magnificence of your kindness.  
Yet in the space of our small hearts  
and in silence you can come close and repair us.

*Silent prayers*

Leader: O God of life, grant us your forgiveness,

People: **for our careless thoughts, for our thoughtless deeds,  
for our empty speech, and the words with which we wound.**

*Silent prayers*

Leader: O God of life, grant us your forgiveness,

People: **for our false desires, for our hateful actions,  
for our wastefulness, and for all we leave untended.**

*Silent prayers*

Leader: O God of life, scatter the sin from our souls as the wind blows off the lake.  
Begin what we do, inform what we say, redeem who we are.

People: **In you we place our hope, our great hope,  
our living hope, this day and evermore. Amen.**

**Assurance of Pardon**

Leader: Friends, believe the good news.

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

**\*Passing of the Peace**

Leader: As forgiven children of God, let us not be strangers to one another,  
but sisters and brothers in Christ. Please stand and greet one another with the  
peace of Christ. The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

*All are invited to stand and share the peace of Christ with one another.*

# Hearing and Proclaiming the Word

## Prayer for Illumination

**Scripture** Selections from Matthew 13

*(page 13, N.T.)*

**Sermon** John W. Vest  
God's Kingdom Is Like . . .

## Musical Reflection

# Sealing the Word

## Sharing of Gifts

*Please place gifts and prayer cards in the plate as it is passed.*

**Offertory Music** "Throw It Away"

*Abbey Lincoln*

**\*Doxology**

*Lucy Smith*

## The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

### 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!**

**Sanctus**

*Lucy Smith*

## Prayers of the People

Leader: Let us pray for the breaking in of God's kingdom in our world today.  
Lord God, because Jesus has taught us to trust you in all things,  
we hold to his word and share his plea:

People: **Your kingdom come, your will be done.**

Leader: Where nations budget for war, while Christ says, "Put up your sword":

People: **Your kingdom come, your will be done.**

Leader: Where countries waste food and covet fashion,  
while Christ says, "I was hungry . . . I was thirsty . . .":

People: **Your kingdom come, your will be done.**

Leader: Where powerful governments claim their policies are heaven blessed,  
while scripture states that God helps the powerless:

People: **Your kingdom come, your will be done.**

Leader: Where Christians seek the kingdom in the shape of their own church,  
as if Christ had come to build and not to break barriers:

People: **Your kingdom come, your will be done.**

Leader: Where women who speak up for their dignity  
are treated with scorn or contempt:

People: **Your kingdom come, your will be done.**

Leader: Where men try hard to be tough because they're afraid to be tender:

People: **Your kingdom come, your will be done.**

Leader: Where we, obsessed with being adult, forget to become like children:

People: **Your kingdom come, your will be done.**

Leader: Where our prayers falter, our faith weakens, our light grows dim:

People: **Your kingdom come, your will be done.**

Leader: Where Jesus Christ calls us:

People: **Your kingdom come, your will be done.**

Leader: Loving God, you have declared that your kingdom is among us.  
Open our ears to hear it, our hands to serve it, our hearts to hold it.  
Hear us now as we pray for your kingdom, as Jesus taught us . . .

## 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

**Communion Music** “If the Path I Travel”

*Margaret E. Barber*

**Prayer After Communion** (*unison*)

**God of the feast, in this sacred meal we have shared a foretaste of your kingdom. Fed at your table, may we be truly transformed. Help us to let go of all that holds us back, so that we may be swept up by your Spirit, as your kingdom emerges all around us. Amen.**

## Sending

**\*Closing Song** “They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love”

**\*Benediction**

**Sending Music**

### **A note on inclusive language**

Incorporating ancient and contemporary traditions in this service, God will be named corporately in a variety of ways that are gender neutral. This allows for your personal expressions as you are led to name the Holy in ways meaningful to you.

### **Worship Leaders**

**John W. Vest**

Associate Pastor

**Adam H. Fronczek**

Associate Pastor

**Lucy Smith Jazz Quartet**

#### *Acknowledgments*

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*Words and Music*—"They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love" by Peter Scholtes, copyright © 1966 Lorenz/F.E.L. Publications. All rights reserved. Used with permission. OneLicense.net. License A-712340.

### **The Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago**

John Buchanan, Pastor

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#### **Fourth Church Cares**

To notify pastoral staff of personal concerns, illnesses, hospitalizations, or deaths; to pass along a prayer request; or to arrange homebound Communion with a Deacon, contact Judith Watt, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care, at 312.573.3360 ([jwatt@fourthchurch.org](mailto:jwatt@fourthchurch.org)).

# News and Opportunities

## Honoring John Buchanan

**John Buchanan will preach his last sermon as Pastor** of Fourth Church next Sunday, January 29 at 8:00, 9:30, and 11:30 a.m. (Please note that the third morning service will begin at 11:30 next week only.) In order to accommodate the number of worshipers we anticipate will be with us next Sunday, we encourage those who would typically worship at 9:30 or 11:30 to consider being part of the 8:00 service next week.

**Opportunity to greet John and Sue Buchanan** and thank them for their ministry among us will take place next Sunday, January 29, between 12:30 and 2:30 p.m., when there will be a drop-in meet-and-greet open house at the Drake Hotel (one block north at 140 E. Walton St.).

## Volunteers and Donations

### **Current Volunteer Needs**

**Tutors for children** Mondays–Thursdays from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. at Fourth Church

### **Current Donation Needs**

**Men's sturdy winter clothes** in larger sizes for the Chicago Lights Elam Davies Social Service Center  
**Double paper/plastic bags from Treasure Island** for the Elam Davies Social Service Center

*For details or to volunteer, contact Larry Nicholson at 312.981.3382 ([lnicholson@fourthchurch.org](mailto:lnicholson@fourthchurch.org)).*

## Enrichment

**New Academy for Faith and Life classes** begin Sunday, February 5. Details, including information on courses such as “Basics on the Bible, Reformed Theology, and the Presbyterian Church” and “The Bible in the Music of Bob Dylan and the Grateful Dead,” are available in the Academy Winter 2012 brochure. For more information, contact Deanna Fedaj at 312.573.3364 ([dfedaj@fourthchurch.org](mailto:dfedaj@fourthchurch.org)).

**The congregation-wide effort to read the entire Bible in a year** is supported by a variety of resources: A Bible study of the previous week's texts meets at the 737 building each Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. and is repeated there on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. The reading list is available online at [www.fourthchurch.org/bibleyear.html](http://www.fourthchurch.org/bibleyear.html) and in a brochure in the literature racks. Daily devotions reflecting on the texts are available via Facebook ([www.facebook.com/fourthchurch](http://www.facebook.com/fourthchurch)), Twitter (@FourthChicago), by email (send addresses to [devotions@fourthchurch.org](mailto:devotions@fourthchurch.org)), and in booklets also in the literature racks.

## Fellowship

**Young Adults** will visit Chicago Sinai Congregation for an open house on Sunday, January 29 at 1:00 p.m.

**This year's Women's Winter Retreat** is “Exploring the Essence of Spiritual Friendships.” It will be held on Saturday, February 4 at the 737 building. To register, call Julia Bergen at 312.573.3369.

### **Help us double our number of Facebook friends!**

If you've not yet “Liked” Fourth Church on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/fourthchurch](http://www.facebook.com/fourthchurch)), please do so today—and invite your friends to like us too. You can see photos of church life and events, follow along as we read the entire Bible in a year, and stay up-to-date on Fourth Church news.





## News and Opportunities

### Music and the Arts

**To help rebuild the rapidly deteriorating Fourth Church organ**, the Elizabeth Morse Charitable Trust has made a generous \$1 million challenge grant, offering to match \$1 for every \$2 donated. To make a pledge or gift to be matched by the Trust, please use the Gift Intention card found in the pew racks; make a gift online at [www.fourthchurchorgan.org](http://www.fourthchurchorgan.org), a website that will continue to grow in the days ahead to offer interesting insights into the organ and opportunities to share your favorite organ memories; or call Kathryn Johnson at 312.640.2576.

**An exhibit “1985–2011: A Retrospective,”** featuring photographs of ministry at Fourth Church during the twenty-six years John Buchanan has served as Pastor, is on display in the Loggia.

**John W. W. Sherer**, Organist and Director of Music at Fourth Church, will perform this Friday’s free Noonday concert at 12:10 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

**The St. Olaf Choir** will be in concert on Friday, February 10 at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Tickets are available at [www.stolaf.edu](http://www.stolaf.edu).

### News and Resources

**Follow @FPCAngel** on Twitter ([www.twitter.com/FPCAngel](http://www.twitter.com/FPCAngel)), as one of the Fourth Church angels high above the Sanctuary tweets about the organ project progress and life in the Sanctuary.

**A “Sharing Sacred Spaces” open house** will take place at Chicago Sinai Congregation on Sunday, January 29 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

**A congregational luncheon** will be held in Anderson Hall following the Annual Meeting of the congregation on Sunday, February 12. Tickets are available at the church reception desk.

### Children, Youth, and Family

**Sunday School classes** meet at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. in the Dining Room.

**Fourth Church youth** will worship together at the 11:30 service on Sunday, January 29 in honor of John Buchanan’s last Sunday preaching at Fourth Church.

### Mission and Outreach

**Additional travelers to Cuba** for the April 21–28 mission trip are needed to fill a few open slots. Applications are due this Monday, January 23. For details or to apply, call Nancy Davis at 312.274.3815.

**Reservations for Carnaval**—the annual Chicago Lights Gala benefiting Chicago Lights, the Counseling Center, and the Center for Life and Learning—which will be held Friday, March 2 at the Ritz-Carlton, can be made online at <https://chicagolights.ejoinme.org/carnaval2012>.

**Donations needed for Carnaval’s Silent Auction** include sports/event tickets, airline tickets, home décor and art items, and restaurant and spa gift cards. **Volunteers for the Silent Auction Committee** are also needed. For details, call Lisa Radetski at 312.981.3380.

### Worship

**Morning Prayer** is held weekdays in the Sanctuary at 9:30 a.m., except Tuesdays, when it is at 9:00 a.m.

**A service in the style of Taizé** is held at 7:30 p.m. on the fourth Friday of each month. The next service will be this Friday, January 27. It will be preceded by an opportunity to walk the labyrinth in Anderson Hall between 5:30 and 7:30 p.m.

## During Today's Worship

**All are encouraged to use the prayer card**, found in this worship bulletin, to offer joys and/or concerns. The cards will be collected during the Sharing of Gifts (simply place the card in the offering plate as it is passed). The prayers will then be incorporated into this afternoon's Prayers of the People.

If you have a prayer you would rather not share during worship, you are invited to complete a prayer card found by one of the prayer boxes in the Narthex, at the back of the Sanctuary, and it will be passed on to Judy Watt, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care.

**All, including children, are invited to the Lord's Table** to receive Communion, which is served by intinction. The congregation will come forward by the center aisle to receive the bread (gluten-free bread is available in the paper "cup" within the basket of bread), which they will then dip into the chalice of nonalcoholic grape juice. Worshipers will return to their pews by the side aisles.

### **Pastoral Staff for 4:00 Worship**

Adam H. Fronczek, Associate Pastor for  
Adult Education and Worship

John W. Vest, Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry

Judith L. Watt, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care

**Please** turn off all cell phones when in the Sanctuary.

**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.

**The large banners hanging in the middle of the Sanctuary** were created by liturgical artist Shawna Bowman during the 4:00 worship service and are artistic representations of our worship experience.

**Large-print Bibles 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. There is also an area in the side aisle where your child can play quietly.

**Worship folders**, containing quiet activities and a bulletin designed for children, are available from an usher.

**Printed copies of sermons** recently preached at Fourth Church are available in the literature racks outside the South Transept doors (leading to Anderson Hall) and in the Narthex, at the back of the Sanctuary. They are also available at [www.fourthchurch.org/sermons.html](http://www.fourthchurch.org/sermons.html).

## 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 Anderson Hall (through the doors to your left as you face the front of the Sanctuary) after worship for fellowship, conversation, and information about church programs and volunteer opportunities.

**Sunday parking is available** at 900 North Michigan (access from Rush or Walton Street) at the rate of \$8.00. Validation tickets must be picked up from

the 126 E. Chestnut St. reception desk. There is no discounted afternoon parking at the Hancock garage.

**Inquirers' Class** explores Presbyterian history and beliefs. This one-session class is also a prerequisite for membership. Attend Sunday, January 29 from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.; Monday, February 6 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.; or Saturday, February 18 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. For membership information, contact Hardy Kim, Associate Pastor for Evangelism, at 312.981.3399 ([hkim@fourthchurch.org](mailto:hkim@fourthchurch.org)).