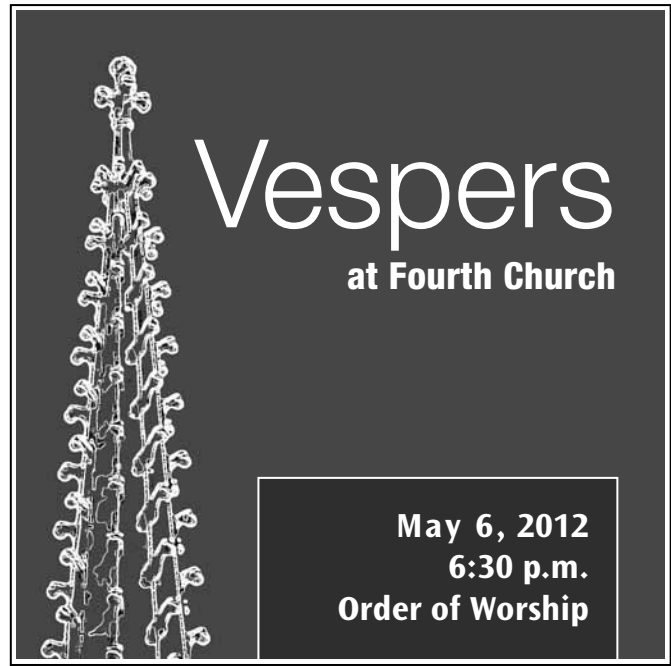


Ninth Annual Candlelighting Vespers for Mental Illness Recovery and Understanding



Gathering

Gathering Music At Eventide
 Vesper Voluntary
 Now Sets the Fiery Sun

Charles V. Stanford
Edward Elgar
Bruce Simonds

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: We find the psalmist praying, "Relieve the troubles of my heart and mind, and bring me out of my distress." On this day we remember all persons who suffer from mental illness. We pray for God's help in our reaching out to all who suffer from illness we do not understand. May the Lord bring peace and healing to their minds. Join with me in our responsive call to worship.

Leader: People of God, as our Creator spoke to the Hebrews saying,
"I am the Lord your God," so God lays claim to us in a bond of love.

People: **As God summoned the people to the holy mountain,
so God still summons us to gather in worship to hear God's voice.**

Leader: Let each of us affirm God's love, declaring in our hearts,

All: **"Speak, Lord, for your servant hears."**

Leader: Let us worship God.

* Stand as you are able

***Song** "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

Prayer of Confession (*responsively*)

Leader: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all that separates us from God and neighbor. In humility and faith let us confess our sin before God and one another.

All: **God, you created us in your image. We each have our own gifts and needs. For the times we have failed to recognize our own limitations and abilities, forgive us, O Lord. Too often we do not accept, as sisters and brothers, people with mental illness and their families. For the times we see people through the lens of a label and not for who they truly are, forgive us, O Lord. God, help us to break down barriers that separate us from others. Forgive us our insensitivity, our failure to listen to the yearning of the heart, our failure to offer support, our failure to invite people with mental illness to be part of our lives and our congregation. Hear our prayer, O Lord.**

Silence

Leader: In the silence of your heart, confess that which separates you from God and neighbor. . . . We pray in the name of the one who calls us to cast all our burdens on him. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Leader: Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone and a new life has begun. Know that you are forgiven, and be at peace. Friends, believe the good news.

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

***Passing of the Peace**

Leader: Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts. To this peace, we are called as members of the fold of one body. The peace of Christ be with you. And let your response be . . .

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Now let us greet one another and exchange signs of peace and reconciliation.

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

Hearing and Proclaiming the Word

Poetry Reading “Waiting for the Sunshine”

by Cheryl Almgren

Litany and Candlelighting

Leader: We light the first candle for *illumination*
in the midst of our struggle.

People: **We pray for illumination.**

Leader: The second candle we light is for *healing*.

People: **We pray for healing.**

Leader: We light the third candle for *understanding*.

People: **We pray for understanding.**

Leader: The fourth candle we light is for *hope*.

People: **We pray for your sign, for hope.**

Leader: We light the fifth candle for *people*
struggling with mental illness and their families.

People: **We pray for people struggling with mental illness
and their families.**

Leader: The sixth candle we light as our *commitment*
to be a caring community.

People: **We pray for the caring community.
Bless the covenant we make this day
to be supportive of our sisters and brothers
struggling with mental illness.
Help each of us accept our special place
in the caring community.**

Leader: We light the seventh candle, the final candle,
as a sign of *God's steadfast love*.

People: **We celebrate and thank God for the promise of steadfast love.**

All: **So, let it be so. Amen.**

Anthem “There Is a Balm in Gilead”

African American spiritual
arr. Harry T. Burleigh

Poetry Reading "Rowing"

by Anne Sexton

Scripture Lesson Isaiah 40:1–11

(page 627, O.T.)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Communion Meditation by John W. Vest

Sealing the Word

Affirmation of Faith (*unison*)

In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!" With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

—*from A Brief Statement of Faith, PCUSA*

Sharing of Gifts

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

Offertory Anthem "Abide with Me, Fast Falls the Eventide"

Healey Willan

***Doxology**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

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

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.

The Communion

Communion Anthem "Brother James' Air"

Phyllis Tate

Prayer after Communion *(unison)*

O Holy One, we have been nurtured by your Word and fed at your table. Lord, bless us with your enabling love. Heal our brokenness that we may be true signs of that love. As you send us, your servants, out from this place, be our constant companion. Guide us in our efforts to better serve our neighbor, those with mental illness and their loved ones. Help us share the life-giving power of your love, that those in need may experience the profound peace of your steadfast love. In our hearts, we silently promise to be true signs of your love for those among us with a mental illness and their families. Amen.

Sending

***Sending Song**

“Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

(Soloist Carol Carpenter will sing the first stanza; then the congregation will sing both stanzas in unison.)

***Benediction**

Sending Music

An Evening Litany

Malcolm Archer

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.

All are invited

Please join us in Anderson Hall following this service for a reception, hosted by the Mental Health Ministry.

Worship Leaders

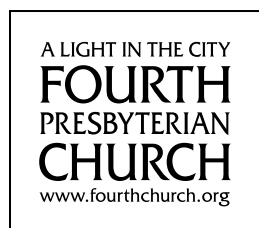
John W. Vest	Associate Pastor
Barbara Doyle	Chair, Mental Health Ministry
Cheryl Almgren, Barb Blue	Liturgists
Tom Desmond, Louella DeVries	
Michael DeVries, Liz Houston	
John McIndoe	Candlelighter
John W. W. Sherer	Organist and Director of Music
Carol Carpenter	Alto soloist

Acknowledgments:

The service was adapted from Interfaith Worship Service—Pathways to Promise; Presbyterian Serious Mental Illness Network—PHEWA, PCUSA; and the Lutheran Network on Mental Illness/Brain Disorders—ELCA.

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Words—“Waiting for Sunshine” by Cheryl Almgren, a member of Fourth Presbyterian Church and the Mental Health Ministry; “Rowing” by Anne Sexton, *The Awful Rowing Toward God*, copyright © 1975 Houghton Mifflin.



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Where to find information and support

At Fourth Presbyterian Church

Lorene Replogle Counseling Center
Thomas Schemper, Director
312.787.8425 (tschemper@fourthchurch.org)

Pastoral Care
Judith L. Watt, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care
312.573.3360 (jwatt@fourthchurch.org)

In Chicago and Beyond

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)
Northwestern Memorial Hospital
Chicago, IL 60610.2075
773.275.1298

NAMI Illinois
218 West Lawrence, Springfield, IL 62704
800.346.4572

NAMI Greater Chicago
1536 West Chicago Avenue
Chicago, IL 60622
312.368.9070

Mental Health America of Illinois (MHA)
70 East Lake Street, Suite 900
Chicago, IL 60601
312.368.9070

Thresholds Psychiatric Services
4101 North Ravenswood Avenue
Chicago, IL 60613
773.572.5500

Triology—Behavioral Healthcare
1400 West Greenleaf
Chicago, IL 60626
773.508.6100

The planning for this Ninth Annual Candlelighting Service was provided by the work and ministry of the Mental Health Ministry of Fourth Presbyterian Church. In 2000, the Session of Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago instructed the Serious Mental Illness Task Force (now the Mental Health Ministry) to help foster a supportive and inclusive environment for the mentally ill and their families. Their mission statement states that

The Mental Health Ministry fosters a welcoming environment for individuals, families, and friends of the Fourth Presbyterian Church community who are affected by mental illness. Through advocacy and education, this ministry builds better tomorrows for recovery, hope, help, and healing.

May the peace of God and the freshness of the Holy Spirit rest in our thoughts and all that we do in this, our chosen ministry. May the will of God rule in our dreams and guide our plans as we work together to bring hope and wholeness to those who struggle with mental anguish and pain. May God's love be manifest in wonderful ways never yet experienced. May hopes be fulfilled, dreams brought closer, and prayers answered for our ministry, for our church, and for the community at large that we prayerfully work to serve. In God's name, we pray. Amen.

—prayer by Joyce Wakeman, member of Fourth Presbyterian Church

Did you know . . .

One in four individuals in the U. S. experiences a mental health disorder in a given year.

One in five families has someone in their immediate family that has a mental health disorder.

Fewer than one-third of adults and half of children with a diagnosable mental disorder receive any mental health services.

The vast majority of those affected by mental illness sit in lonely silence. They fear that rather than receiving support, they will be shunned.

Carry each other's burdens and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

—Galatians 6:2 (NRSV)

What can you do as an individual and as part of this community to help those with mental illness feel welcome and safe in our midst? What can you do to help them understand that God loves them and is with them even in their most difficult times? How can you help carry the burden of someone who has a mental illness?

Educate yourself about mental health and mental illness.

Be there! Show up!

Be a friend.

Listen without a judgmental attitude.

Empower by demonstrating that you believe in him or her.

Let the person know *he or she is not alone.*

Ask what you can do to make a difference. Ask, *"What can I do to help?"*

Learn about serious mental illness in order that you can have some understanding of what it is like to "walk in his or her shoes."

If it seems indicated, *refer him or her to persons specially trained* to help with mental illness issues. If necessary, assist them with making the appointment and provide transportation.

If medication has been prescribed, reassure him or her that medication is almost always necessary for those with a serious mental illness and that *it can enable one to function very well.*

Reassure your friend that God is constantly with him or her, even if he or she can't sense it at that moment.

Follow through and come back to see your friend when he or she is feeling well.

Advocate for persons with mental illness in the community.

—*adapted from the Serious Mental Illness Network; Presbyterian Health; Education and Welfare Association; Presbyterian Church (U.S.A)*

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 Judy Watt, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care at 312.573.3360 (jwatt@fourthchurch.org).