

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** “Gather Us In”

***Prayer of Confession**

Leader: Gracious God, Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

People: **Light up the darkness in our lives.**

Leader: In the darkness of our uncertainty,
when we don't know what to do,
when decisions are hard to take:

People: **give us light to guide us.**

Leader: In the darkness of our anxiety,
when we are worried about what the future may bring,
when we don't know where to turn:

People: **give us the light of your peace.**

Leader: In the darkness of our despair,
when life seems empty,
when we feel there is no future worth seeking:

People: **give us the light of your hope.**

Leader: In the darkness of oppression, injustice, and poverty,
when we don't have enough food to eat,
when we don't have a place to live:

People: **give us the light of your love.**

Leader: In the darkness of our sin,
when we fail you and others,
when we choose the wrong paths:

People: **give us the light of your forgiveness.**

Leader: Gracious God, Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

People: **Light up the darkness in our lives.**

***Assurance of Forgiveness**

Leader: Friends, believe the good news.

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

***Song** “Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”

***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.

***Song** “Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying”

Hearing and Proclaiming the Word

Psalter Psalm 121 (from *The Manhattan Psalter: The Lectio Divina of Sister Juanita Colón*)

Scripture John 3:1–21 (page 88, N.T.)

Song “Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying”

Sermon Post-Evangelical John W. Vest

Musical Reflection

Sealing the Word

Sharing of Gifts

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

Offertory Music “God So Loved the World” Sir John Stainer

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

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 "Beautiful Thing"

*Hadewijch of Antwerp
adap. Dent Davidson*

Prayer after Communion (*unison*)

God of grace and love, at this sacred table you have shared with us the holy mysteries of bread that is broken and a cup that is poured out. Fill our hearts with your love, and help us to recognize opportunities to share this love with others. Send us, who have been nourished at this table, out in your light to be the body of Christ. 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

Lucy Smith Quartet

Acknowledgments

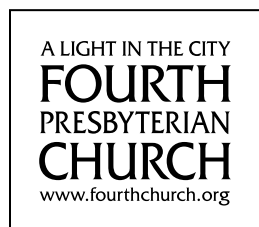
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Words—The Call to Worship is adapted from *A Wee Worship Book* (Wild Goose Resource Group, 1999). The Prayer of Confession is adapted from *Travelling The Road of Faith: Worship Resources from the Corrymeela Community*, edited by Jacynth Hamill (2001).

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The Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago

Church office: 126 E. Chestnut Street, Chicago, IL 60611.2014; www.fourthchurch.org
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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).

News and Opportunities

Volunteers and Donations

New volunteers for the Chicago Lights Tutoring program are asked to attend one of the following orientation sessions from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. in the Dining Room: Thursday, September 6; Monday, September 10; Wednesday, September 12; or Tuesday, September 18.

Mission and Outreach

More Carnival 2013 committee members are needed for this February 22 event. Those interested are invited to attend a meeting this Thursday, September 6 at 6:00 p.m. at the 737 building.

Applications for a mission trip to South Africa (April 2–18, 2013) are due by Monday, October 1. Details and application forms are available online.

Music and the Arts

Submissions for an art exhibit of work by Fourth Church members, program participants, and staff are being accepted through this Friday, September 7. For submission details, visit www.fourthchurch.org.

Children, Youth, and Family

Fall Family Camp in Saugatuck, Michigan, will be the weekend of September 28–30. Details are available online or by calling Daniel Holladay at 312.640.2578.

News and Resources

The autumn open house of the Center for Life and Learning takes place this Thursday, September 6 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon in the Dining Room.

The Gratz Center Cornerstone Laying will take place Sunday, September 16 following the 11:00 service. All are invited to this historic event, which will take place 100 years after the cornerstone was laid for the Sanctuary. Two months later, on Sunday, November 18, the Gratz Center and Buchanan Chapel will be dedicated and the official opening of the building celebrated.

Enrichment

New Academy for Faith and Life classes begin on Sunday, September 30: “Our Pastors and Their Call to Ministry” and “The Book of Mormon” at 9:30 a.m. and “Before and After Constantine” and “Faith, Politics, and Why You Should Care” at 11:00 a.m.

Books by Women will meet to discuss *Liberty’s Exiles* by Maya Jasanoff on Tuesday, September 11 at 6:00 p.m. at the 737 building.

Fellowship

Cornerstones, a fellowship group hosted by couples fifty and older, will gather for a picnic this Friday, September 7 at 6:00 p.m. in the Garth courtyard.

Buchanan Chapel. Sunlight Project Vigil.

Family Camp. Jazz in the Garth. Tom Rook’s farewell.

These are some of the stories featured on the Fourth Church website in the last week. If you haven’t done so already, be sure to bookmark www.fourthchurch.org (or scan this QR code with any smartphone) so you don’t miss any upcoming stories in what promises to be an exciting autumn at Fourth Church!



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.

We invite you to 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/index.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 the Narthex after worship for coffee, fellowship, conversation, and information about church programs and volunteer opportunities.

Inquirers' Class explores Presbyterian history and beliefs. This one-session class is also a prerequisite for membership and includes a light meal. Attend Monday, September 10 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.; Saturday, September 15 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon; or Sunday, September 30 from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. For membership information, contact Hardy Kim, Associate Pastor for Evangelism, at 312.981.3399 (hkim@fourthchurch.org).

Sunday parking is available at 900 North Michigan (access from Rush or Walton Street) at the rate of \$8. Validation tickets must be picked up from the 126 E. Chestnut St. reception desk. There is no discounted afternoon parking at the Hancock garage.

Interested in Baptism or Membership? Time is set aside in the 4:00 service on a regular basis for the purpose of offering opportunities for persons to be baptized and to become members of Fourth Presbyterian Church. If you are interested in discussing baptism and membership for yourself or for your child, you are encouraged to mention that to one of the ministers present at today's service or to contact one of us during the week.