



We Approach God

Gathering Music

*Call to Worship

We gather to worship God,
who loved us before we were yet born;
who knows us even better than we know ourselves;
whose presence never abandons us;
and whose faithfulness is sure.
We gather to worship God,
who loves us as we are;
who never leaves us unchanged.
In praise and prayer,
through sighs and song,
in Word and at Table,
let God shape us into the people we are called to be.

* Please rise in body or spirit

Inspired by the radical hospitality of Jesus Christ, Fourth Church welcomes all of God's children into the life of the church regardless of sex, gender, sexual orientation, age, race, ethnicity, physical or mental ability, mental health, educational background, economic situation, religious background, or documentation status.

***Opening Song** “God, You Spin the Whirling Planets”

Please note

Copyrighted musical pieces that we do not have permission to distribute online (but only to include in the printed order of worship) are not shown in this version of the bulletin. For details on the licenses, permission to reprint, and copyright information for the musical pieces not included here, please see the “Acknowledgments” page later in this bulletin.

We Tell the Truth about Ourselves

Prayer of Confession

You search us and know us, O God.

We, your people, long for safety and assurance.

But rather than seek it in your promises, we rely on possessions or our own power.

You search us and know us, O God.

We, your children, desire to help our neighbors.

But our yearning for comfort and convenience saps our courage and will.

You search us and know us, O God.

We, your beloved, want mercy for what we have done and left undone.

But we do not extend mercy ourselves, because cynicism tells us others cannot change.

Gracious One, forgive us.

Then press, shape, and mold us until our lives reflect your image and your way.

God Forgives and Blesses Us

Hear the Good News:

in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

***Passing of the Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

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

Welcome

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter (*congregation sings the antiphon*) Psalm 139:1–6; 13–18

Lord, you have searched me out; O Lord, you have known me.
You know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts from afar.
You trace my journeys and my resting places and are acquainted with all my ways.
Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, but you, O Lord, know it altogether.
You encompass me, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain to it.

ANTIPHON

For you yourself created my inmost parts;
 you knit me together in my mother's womb.
I will thank you because I am marvelously made;
 your works are wonderful, and I know it well.
My body was not hidden from you,
 while I was being made in secret and woven in the depths of the earth.
Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb;
 all of them were written in your book;
 my days were fashioned before they came to be.
How deep I find your thoughts, O God! How great is the sum of them!
If I were to count them, they would be more in number than the sand;
 to count them all, my life span would need to be like yours.

ANTIPHON

Scripture Jeremiah 18:1–11

Sermon *Joseph L. Morrow*

We Offer Ourselves

Musical Reflection

Sharing of Gifts

In gratitude for the love and grace extended to us by God, we share our resources to support ministries of justice, mercy, and beauty. Please place your gifts and pledges in the plate as it passes.

Offertory Music

***Gloria** “Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me”

We Feast Together

The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise!

Sanctus “Holy, Holy, Holy”

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

We celebrate an open table. All, including children, are invited to the Lord’s Table to receive Communion. You are invited to come forward, receive the bread (gluten-free bread is available—just ask), dip the bread into the nonalcoholic grape juice, and return to your seat by stopping at one of our prayer stations to offer your prayers of gratitude or sorrow.

We Go Out with Gratitude

***Prayer of Thanksgiving** (*unison*)

For your table of abundance we are grateful.
Truly in this bread and cup we have shared
our souls have been blessed
and the deep hunger residing in our hearts is satisfied.
Now take us, we who are broken and fragile vessels,
and do in us a work of a blessing for others.
May we leave this table of welcome and plenty
to be signs of goodness, hope, and reconciliation
throughout this world you created and love. Amen.

***Closing Song** "Take Us as We Are, O God"

***Benediction**

Sending Music

Worship Leaders

Joseph L. Morrow Minister for Evangelism

Nanette Sawyer Associate Pastor

Aaron Lawlor Lay Liturgist

The Fourth Church Jazz Quartet

A note on inclusive language

Incorporating ancient and contemporary traditions in this service, God is 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.

Acknowledgments

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PASTORAL STAFF

Shannon J. Kershner, Pastor

Lucy Forster-Smith, Senior Associate Pastor

Victoria G. Curtiss, Associate Pastor for Mission

Matt Helms, Associate Pastor for Children and Family Ministry

Nanette Sawyer, Associate Pastor for Discipleship and Small Group Ministry

Rocky Supinger, Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry

Judith L. Watt, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care

Joseph L. Morrow, Minister for Evangelism

Jeffrey Doane, Parish Associate for Older Adults

John Buchanan, Pastor Emeritus

News and Opportunities

We are glad to have you with us today and hope you will explore the many opportunities for learning, serving, and community building at Fourth Church! * **Inspired by the radical hospitality of Jesus Christ**, we welcome everyone, without exception, into the life of this congregation. * **We invite you to join us** at this intersection of faith and life as we share God's grace with one another and the world through worship and ministries of healing, reconciliation, and justice.



Morning Prayer is held on Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. in Buchanan Chapel. * **Sacred Pause meditation**, a weekly time of silent reflection hosted by the Replogle Center and the Spiritual Formation Council, is offered on Tuesdays at 7:45 a.m. in Stone Chapel.



Among the ways to get connected at Fourth Church are various small groups, including **Books by Women**, which will discuss *Pachinko* by Min Jin Lee this Tuesday, September 10. * On Wednesdays, the **Benevolent Guild** gathers to make handmade stuffed animals for children in hospitals and shelters and taggies for infants in the NICU at Lurie Children's Hospital (*no sewing experience necessary*). * A new **Men's Faith Discussion Group**, which will begin on Friday, September 20 at 7:00 a.m., will bring together seven to ten men for conversation about the ways in which scripture intersects with their lives. Since space is limited, preregistration (*see the sign-up page*) is required.



Are you looking for Bible study opportunities? **Horizons Bible study** for women will meet this Wednesday at noon. * **"Foundation of Faith: A Year with the Bible"** is an engaging new weekly Bible study that will begin next Sunday, September 15 at 9:30 a.m. Each class will be self-contained, so you can attend as your schedule allows, and a reading list is posted online if you want to read along. * **Men's Bible Study** will meet on Tuesday, September 17.



New weekday classes and opportunities for adults sixty and over begin tomorrow, Monday, September 9. Be sure to check out all of the upcoming **Center for Life and Learning** opportunities, which are also posted online and in the literature racks.



This week's free **Friday Noonday Concert** features the talents of organist Elisa Bickers at 12:10 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The concert schedule can be found on the Fourth Church website.



For details, go to www.fourthchurch.org/sign-up

Those interested in singing in the choir for 8:00 a.m. worship are invited to **Chancel Choir** rehearsals on Thursdays evenings at 6:00 p.m. * The **Handbell Choir** also welcomes new ringers to their rehearsals on Sundays at 8:00 a.m. * The **Choral Society's** next concert, which will be on Friday, November 15 at 7:30 p.m., will feature music highlighting events of 1969. Interested in singing? Rehearsals will be held in Buchanan Chapel on Thursdays from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. beginning on September 26. * The **Music Mission Choir** will be returning to Cuba March 2–9, 2020. See the sign-up page if you would like to join us!



If you submitted an online recommendation for members to serve as church officers, we ask that you please take a moment to resubmit it by going to www.bit.ly/fpcnominating. Because of some problems we had over the summer with the inbox for nominations@fourthchurch.org (that have since been resolved), we want to make sure we received your submission! And if you have not yet had opportunity to submit your recommendations for individuals—including yourself!—to serve as Elder, Deacon, Trustee, or member of the Chicago Lights Board, please do so. The Nominating Committee appreciates your help!



We are in need of assistance this autumn. Might you be able to help? **Ushers** are needed to serve at the 11:00 a.m. service and the 4:00 p.m. Jazz at Four service. * Fourth Church is hosting the **Chicago Presbytery Assembly** meeting on Tuesday, September 17, and volunteers are needed to help between the hours of 12:00 and 8:00 p.m. * Chicago Lights is also offering a one-session **tutor orientation** several times in September for those interested in tutoring. * For more information on all of these opportunities, please see the sign-up page.



Throughout September, Fourth Church Meals Ministry is holding a **snack drive** to collect individually packaged, single-serving snacks to put in the sacks distributed in Anderson Hall on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays as part of our Bag Lunch program.



Our Spiritual Formation Council invites you to take part in a weekend **contemplative retreat at St. Benedict's Abbey** in Benet Lake, Wisconsin, from Friday, October 11 through Sunday, October 13. Guests are offered a place to rest, pray, contemplate, and revitalize their relationships with God. For details, see the sign-up page.



For details, go to www.fourthchurch.org/sign-up

Calendar for September 8–15, 2019

Sunday, September 8	4:00 p.m. Jazz at Four • Joseph L. Morrow preaching Buchanan Chapel
	5:00 p.m. Meals Ministry Sunday Night Supper Anderson Hall
Monday, September 9	4:00 p.m. Meals Ministry Monday Night Supper Catholic Charities
Tuesday, September 10.	7:45 a.m. Sacred Pause Meditation Stone Chapel
	12:00 to 1:00 p.m. Meals Ministry Bag Lunches (<i>also Wed.–Thurs.</i>). Anderson Hall
	6:00 p.m. Books by Women Bumpus Room
	6:00 p.m. New Tutor Orientation Borwell Dining Room
Wednesday, September 11.	9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer Buchanan Chapel
	9:30 a.m. Benevolent Guild. Room 5B
	12:00 p.m. <i>Horizons</i> Bible Study Room 5H
Thursday, September 12	6:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal Sanctuary
	6:00 p.m. New Tutor Orientation Borwell Dining Room
Friday, September 13	12:10 p.m. Noonday Concert: Elisa Bickers, organ. Sanctuary
Saturday, September 14	10:30 a.m. Urban Farm Farmstand Open (<i>until 3:00 p.m.</i>). . . 444 W. Chicago Ave.
Sunday, September 15.	8:00 a.m. Worship • Victoria G. Curtiss preaching. Sanctuary
	8:00 a.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal Buchanan Chapel Choir Loft
	9:00, 10:00, 10:30 a.m. Cherub/Youth/Children's Choir Rehearsals. Room 4F
	9:00, 10:30 a.m.; 12:00 p.m. Coffee Hour Anderson Hall / Commons
	9:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Nursery. Nursery / Day School
	9:30 a.m. "Economics of Discipleship" Room 5E
	9:30 a.m. "A Year with the Bible" Room 5G
	9:30 a.m. Junior High Youth Group. Bumpus Room
	9:30 and 11:00 a.m. Sunday School Gratz Fourth Floor
	9:30 and 11:00 a.m. Worship • Shannon J. Kershner preaching. Sanctuary
	10:30 a.m. All-Youth Fellowship Allison Library
	10:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. Time of Prayer with Deacons Stone Chapel
	11:00 a.m. "Christian Meditation" Room 5E
	11:00 a.m. Confirmation. Room 4G
	11:00 a.m. Senior High Youth Group. Bumpus Room
	12:00 p.m. Sanctuary Tour Sanctuary
	12:15 p.m. Organ Tour Sanctuary
	4:00 p.m. Jazz at Four • Nanette Sawyer preaching Buchanan Chapel
	5:00 p.m. Meals Ministry Sunday Night Supper Anderson Hall

For details, go to www.fourthchurch.org/sign-up

During Today's Worship

All are encouraged to visit a prayer station to offer joys and concerns by writing them on a prayer card. The cards will be collected at the end of worship, read by the pastoral staff during the week, and then displayed in an ongoing art project.

We celebrate an open table at Communion. All, including children, are invited to the Lord's Table to receive Communion. You are invited to come forward, receive the bread (gluten-free bread is available—just ask), dip the bread into the nonalcoholic grape juice, and return to your seat by stopping at one of our prayer stations to offer your prayers of gratitude or sorrow.

Worship can be heard through the "T" or "T-coil" setting of hearing aids.

Please silence all electronic devices when in the Chapel.

Printed copies of sermons recently preached at Fourth Church are available in the literature racks. They are also available at www.fourthchurch.org/sermons and by email: subscribe at www.bit.ly/fpcsermons

If You Are New to Fourth Church

Inquirers' Class explores Presbyterian history and beliefs. This one-session class is also a prerequisite for membership. A multiweek class is offered on Sundays, October 13, 20, and 27, or attend Sunday, November 10 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon in the Page Smith Room. We invite you to worship with us at 8:00 a.m. or 4:00 p.m. the day you attend the class. For details or membership information, contact Joe Morrow (member@fourthchurch.org; 312.981.3399) or go to www.bit.ly/fpcinquirers

Information about opportunities and resources available to you here at Fourth Church is available in the literature racks as you're leaving the church. You can also find information on our website (www.fourthchurch.org), our page on Facebook (facebook.com/fourthchurch), and in our weekly email newsletter (subscribe online at www.bit.ly/newsfromfpc).

If you are interested in considering baptism or becoming a member of Fourth Church during the 4:00 p.m. service, please contact Joe Morrow (jmorrow@fourthchurch.org) or any pastor involved in the service. Information is available about the Baptism Seminar and Inquirers' Class, which are necessary for preparation. A monthly opportunity to be baptized or join the church at the 4:00 service is available on September 22.

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).

Sunday parking is available at 900 North Michigan (access from Rush or Walton Street) at the rate of \$8 between 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Validation tickets for the 900 garage must be picked up from the Chestnut Street reception desk.

The Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago

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