
Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Prelude on African American Spirituals

Swing Low, Sweet Chariot arr. Calvin Taylor

There Is a Balm in Gilead arr. Richard Billingham

My Lord, What a Morning arr. Robert Lau

Introit :: “Give Me Jesus” African American spiritual; arr. Moses Hogan

In the morning when I rise, give me Jesus.

You may have all this world, give me Jesus.

Dark midnight was my cry, give me Jesus.

O when I come to die, give me Jesus, nobody but Jesus.

*Doxology (*sung*)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

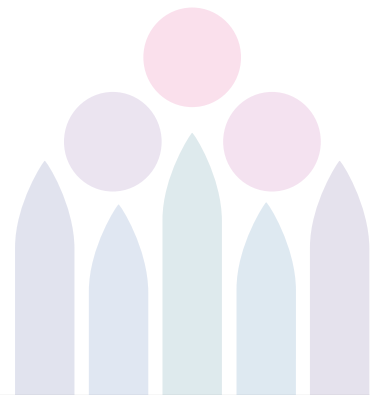
praise God, all creatures here below;

praise God above, ye heavenly host;

praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.† Amen.

Welcome and Call to Worship

Prayer of Praise



†Or “Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.”

Hymn “I Love to Tell the Story”

I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story, because I know 'tis true;
it satisfies my longings as nothing else could do.

Refrain

I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

I love to tell the story; 'tis pleasant to repeat
what seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet!
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard
the message of salvation from God's own holy Word. *Refrain.*

I love to tell the story, for those who know it best
seem hungering and thirsting to hear it, like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,
'twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long. *Refrain.*

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Holy God, have mercy on us.
You brooded over the abyss and with your words you called for creation;
but we have brooded on destruction and manufactured the means of chaos.
You breathed life into our bodies and carried us tenderly in your arms;
but we have armed ourselves for war, breathing out threats of violence.
You abandoned your power like a garment, choosing to dwell in unprotected flesh;
but we have robed ourselves in self-centeredness
and chosen to turn our faces from the abandoned.
You would have gathered us to yourself and shown us the ways of peace;
but we desired security and would not surrender ourselves.
You have followed us with the power of your Spirit,
to seek the truth and heal the oppressed;
but we have been following a lie and return to our own comforts.
Holy God, have mercy on us. Forgive us yet again, and lead us back to you. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

Leader: *Friends, believe the good news:*

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

Anthem :: “O for a Closer Walk” Charles V. Stanford

O for a closer walk with God, a calm and heavenly frame; a light to shine upon the road that leads me to the Lamb. Return, O Holy Dove, sweet messenger of rest; I hate the sins that made thee mourn and drove thee from my breast. So shall my walk be close with God, calm and serene my frame; so purer light shall mark the road that leads me to the Lamb.

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter Psalm 19

The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky proclaims its maker’s handiwork.
One day tells its tale to another, and one night imparts knowledge to another.
Although they have no words or language and their voices are not heard,
their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the world,
where God has pitched a tent for the sun.
It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.
It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens
and runs about to the end of it again; nothing is hidden from its burning heat.
The teaching of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul;
the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.
The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light to the eyes.
The fear of the Lord is clean and endures forever;
the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.
More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.

By them also is your servant enlightened, and in keeping them there is great reward.
Who can detect one's own offenses? Cleanse me from my secret faults.
Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins;
let them not get dominion over me;
then shall I be whole and sound and innocent of a great offense.
Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

Gloria Patri (*unison*)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:[†]
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.

Scripture Lesson Nehemiah 8:1-12

Sermon :: “To What End? Being Church in These Days” Shannon J. Kershner

Great End #1: The Proclamation of the Gospel for the Salvation of Humankind

Responding to the Word

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.

Minute for Discipleship

Offering and Prayer of Dedication

[†]Or “to the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Ghost.”

Offertory Solo :: “The Lord Bless You and Keep You” John Rutter
The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you and give you peace. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

Hymn “God Be with You Till We Meet Again”
God be with you till we meet again; loving counsels guide, uphold you,
with a shepherd’s care enfold you: God be with you till we meet again.

Charge and Benediction

Postlude :: Triumphal March Jacques-Nicolas Lemmens



For the foreseeable future we are gathering online for **livestream-only worship**.

In addition to livestreaming our 11:00 a.m. service at www.bit.ly/FPCworship (where the service is available throughout the week), we also make the service available via **Facebook Live** (www.facebook.com/fourthchurch) and **YouTube** (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos) at 11:00 a.m. on Sundays. Those without Internet access are invited to join the service by **listening to the service live via phone by calling 888.916.9166** (toll-free) at the time of the service (the prelude typically begins around 10:45 a.m.). During the week we also make the service and sermon available via **podcast on iTunes and Spotify** (www.bit.ly/FPCpodcast); you can also receive our sermons **by email** (www.bit.ly/fpcsermons).

This Sunday our **Coffee Hour** will be a virtual version of our annual “**Get Connected**” Sunday time of fellowship. Following the postlude join us via Zoom for this opportunity to connect online with one another and learn about various groups from around the church. We will be gathering online at www.bit.ly/fpcfellowship (Zoom details are also posted at www.fourthchurch.org). You can also take part in Coffee Hour **by phone**: dial (312) 626-6799 and enter meeting ID number 963 5583 1751#. Join us in getting connected! * Another opportunity to connect with others is through our **small groups**, which meet via Zoom once a week for four weeks. To learn more or express interest in joining the new small groups that will be forming this autumn, email Anne Ellis (aellis@fourthchurch.org). * A new Men’s Faith Discussion Group will also be meeting via Zoom beginning October 26. Six to eight men will share life stories and discuss the Gospel of Luke on Monday mornings from 7:00 to 8:30 a.m. for three months. To express interest in this group, email David Handley (dhandley@fourthchurch.org).

The Session of Fourth Church has called a **virtual congregational meeting** for Sunday, September 27 at 12:15 p.m. at www.bit.ly/fpcprograms (call in at 888.916.9166). During the meeting, the congregation will be asked to ratify the Session’s action in May to **dissolve the pastoral relationship between Fourth Church and Vicky Curtiss**, who retired on May 31. The congregation will also receive and **act on the recommendation to elect Joe Morrow as Associate Pastor for Evangelism and Community Engagement**.

Those who are interested in **becoming a member of Fourth Church** are invited to join us online for an Inquirers’ Class on Sunday, September 20 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. To register for this one-session class (required for membership) and discover more about Fourth Church history, mission, and congregational life as well as the Presbyterian Church (USA), **sign up at www.bit.ly/inquirer0920**

Ensure you receive the latest updates from Fourth Church by adding your email address to our distribution list. Simply sign up at www.bit.ly/newsfromfpc

September 30 is the deadline to submit to the **Officer Nominating Committee** recommendations of individuals to serve in the offices of Elder, Deacon, Trustee, or Chicago Lights Board for terms beginning in 2021. If you know any Fourth Church members—including yourself—who have demonstrated gifts for leadership and ministry, please take a moment to offer your leadership recommendations by completing the online form at www.bit.ly/nominating2020

Thank you to all whose generous contributions have enabled **Fourth Church Meals Ministry** to continue providing bag lunches to our hungry neighbors. We are currently **in need of additional donations to support this ministry**—in particular fruit snacks (gummy packs) or applesauce pouches as well as fruit-juice boxes or 10-oz. plastic bottles of juice. While we are unable to accept donations dropped off by individuals, you can find details at www.bit.ly/mealsdonations on how to **order and ship needed items**.

A new program year of online activities for **children, youth, and families** is underway! For information about Sunday School and family activities, contact Briana Belding-Peck (bbelding-peck@fourthchurch.org). For details about youth groups and Confirmation, contact Katie Patterson (kpatterson@fourthchurch.org). * **TwentiesThirties** offers a variety of online opportunities for young adults. For details, contact Joe Morrow (jmorrow@fourthchurch.org). * **The Center for Life and Learning** offers kicks off a new program year this Monday, September 14 for adults sixty and over. Details about CLL's online offerings of courses, lectures, and exercise classes as well as virtual tours are posted at www.fourthchurch.org/cll; for more information, contact Susan Quaintance (squaintance@fourthchurch.org).

Two **new online adult education opportunities** begin next Sunday. **"The Great Divide: A Look at Inequity within Chicago Public Schools"** will meet via Zoom on Sundays, September 20 to October 4 at 9:30 a.m. To join in this exploration of why there is a great disparity among CPS schools and what can be done for all CPS student to get a high quality education, register at www.bit.ly/3bTHnZd * **"Foundations of Faith: An Hour a Week with the Bible"** will meet via Zoom on Sundays at 12:30 p.m. Each week Fourth Church Associate Pastors will take turns hosting three-week thematic studies of biblical texts. To begin the series, David Handley will lead a discussion of texts around the theme "Knowing God, Loving God, Serving God" (September 20 and 27, October 4). For Zoom details, register at www.bit.ly/fpcff20

Our daily devotions are available as a **resource for personal meditation and prayer**. You can receive them in your inbox (sign up at www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions) or read them online (www.fourthchurch.org/devotions), via Facebook (www.facebook.com/fourthchurch), or on Twitter (www.twitter.com/fourthchicago). * On Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. we gather online for **Morning Prayer via Zoom**. Email Carol Allerton (callerton@fourthchurch.org) for details.

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Online Noonday Concerts are streamed on Fridays at 12:10 p.m. at www.bit.ly/fpcprograms *

Cornerstones, a fellowship opportunity for those 50 and older, will gather via Zoom on Friday, October 2 at 5:30 p.m. for a program by two of Chicago's **gifted cabaret artists—Carla Gordon and Beckie Menzie**—performing “Songs of Protest and Patriotism.” Register by Wednesday, September 30 at www.bit.ly/cfpc1020 to receive Zoom details. * The Fourth Church Legacy Society will be hosting “**Living Well into the Future,**” a free online presentation that will provide an opportunity to learn about the variety of options that are available to make planned gifts to Fourth Church, Chicago Lights, or other nonprofit organizations. For the Zoom details for this Tuesday, September 22 event at 7:00 p.m., register at www.bit.ly/3k9GD57 * On Saturday, September 26 at 10:00 a.m., the **Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being** will host a Zoom **SoulCollage-and-poetry workshop** led by Elise Magers and Margaret Brennan. Preregister at <http://bit.ly/rccwscp920> for Zoom details and information about obtaining the necessary materials.

As a connectional community committed to living out our care for one another and remaining together while apart, **we very much we want to hear from you!** **If you have a prayer request**, Dave Handley (dhandley@fourthchurch.org) is receiving these requests as part of our Morning Prayer and Deacon Prayer Ministries. * **If you would like to have a phone conversation with a Stephen Minister**, please leave a confidential message at 312.573.3365. * **If you would like to talk to a pastor**, please call the church (312.787.4570). * **If you would like to explore options for teletherapy** with our Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being, the Center invites you to call them at 312.787.2729, ext 2260.

Watch our **website** (www.fourthchurch.org) for other resources and additional ways to connect. Upcoming online events, including Bible studies and Benevolent Guild, are posted on the church calendar at www.fourthchurch.org/calendar We also encourage you to follow us on **Facebook** (www.facebook.com/fourthchurch) and **Instagram** (www.instagram.com/fourthchurch) for updates and glimpses of our life together while apart.

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Worship Leaders

Nanette Sawyer, Nathalie Loma, David Handley, Shannon J. Kershner

The Music Today

Members of the Morning Choir

Kate Cole, Bill McMurray, Laura Perkett, Marshall Rollings

Kimberly Gunderson, Soloist

John W. W. Sherer, Organist and Director of Music

Worship Notes

THIS MORNING WE BEGIN THE SERMON SERIES “To What End? Being Church in These Days.”

This series invites us to explore the Six Great Ends of the Church, a series of statements crafted in the early twentieth century to define and guide the life and work of the Presbyterian church, who we are and what we are called to do.

TODAY’S MINUTE FOR DISCIPLESHIP is presented on behalf of the Officer Nominating Committee.

IT IS THROUGH THE GENEROSITY OF EACH OF US that Fourth Church is able to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those God calls us to love and serve as a light in the city.

You can **give online** at fourthchurch.org/give-online (or via the “**To Make a Gift**” button on our website: www.fourthchurch.org); **via Venmo** (@Fourth-Church); or via a check made payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church and mailed to 126 E. Chestnut, Chicago, IL 60611.2014.

Shannon J. Kershner Pastor

Lucy Forster-Smith Senior Associate Pastor

Associate Pastors

Matt Helms Children and Family Ministry

Nanette Sawyer Discipleship and Small Group Ministry

Rocky Supinger Youth Ministry

David Handley Interim Minister for Pastoral Care

Joseph L. Morrow Minister for Evangelism

Jeffrey Doane Parish Associate for Older Adults

Maggie Shreve Parish Associate for Jail Ministry

John Buchanan Pastor Emeritus

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THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO

Church office: 126 E. Chestnut Street, Chicago, IL 60611.2014

www.fourthchurch.org www.facebook.com/fourthchurch

312.787.4570 Voicemail: 312.787.2729 Fax: 312.787.4584

TO NOTIFY PASTORAL STAFF of personal concerns, illness, hospitalization, or deaths or to request prayer, contact David Handley (dhandley@fourthchurch.org; 312.573.3360). (Please note: hospitals do not inform churches when a member is admitted.) Those experiencing difficult times are invited to consider meeting with a Stephen Minister: leave a confidential message at 312.573.3365.