



**Welcome and Opening Prayer**

*“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”* ..... Plainsong

**We Tell the Truth about Ourselves**

**Call to Confession** ..... Isaiah 65:5–7 (NRSV)

You, [O God], meet those who gladly do right,  
those who remember you in your ways.  
But you were angry, and we sinned;  
because you hid yourself we transgressed.  
We have all become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.  
We all fade like a leaf,  
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.  
There is no one who calls on your name, [O God]  
or attempts to take hold of you;  
for you have hidden your face from us,  
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

**Assurance of Pardon** ..... Isaiah 65:17–19 (NRSV)

I am about to create new heavens and a new earth;  
the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind.  
Be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating;  
for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight.  
I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people;  
no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it, or the cry of distress.

*Friends, believe, and trust. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.*

**“People Get Ready”** ..... *Curtis Mayfield*

**Canticle** ..... Isaiah 35 (NRSV)

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.  
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.  
They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.  
Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.  
Say to those who are of a fearful heart,  
“Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance,  
with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.”  
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.  
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;  
the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.  
A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way;  
the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God’s people;  
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.  
No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.  
And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

**“Estate (Summer)”** ..... *Bruno Martino*

**Gospel** . . . . . Luke 1:46–55 (NRSV, adapted with expansive language for God)

Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
for God has looked with favor on this lowly servant.  
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is God’s name.  
God’s mercy is for those who fear God  
from generation to generation.  
God has shown strength of arm; and has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.  
God has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;  
God has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.  
God has helped God’s servant Israel,  
in remembrance of mercy,  
according to the promise made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and his descendants forever.”

**“I’m Getting Ready”** . . . . . *Michael Kiwanuka*

**Prayers of the People**

**“How Great Thou Art”** . . . . . *Swedish melody*

**Benediction**

**Worship Leaders**

**Joseph L. Morrow** Associate Pastor-Elect

**Nanette Sawyer** Associate Pastor

**The Fourth Church Jazz Quartet**

Leslie Beukelman, vocals

Bryan Doherty, bass

Marcus Evans, drums

Amr Fahmy, piano



# News and Opportunities

Throughout Advent we are receiving a **“Light Up a Life” offering**, which helps shine God’s light of love on those who need it most this season, including **those in need of the warmth, clothing, and nourishment** provided by our Chicago Lights Social Service Center and Fourth Church Meals Ministry programs. Gifts can be made to this offering by noting “Light Up a Life” either in the comments section when giving online via **Venmo** or the Fourth Church website ([www.fourthchurch.org/give-online](http://www.fourthchurch.org/give-online)) or on the memo line of a **check** payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church.



We hope you will join us online in celebrating Christmas this week! On Thursday, December 24, we will have two online services: the **Children’s Pageant** at 4:00 p.m. and the **Christmas Eve service** at 8:00 p.m. (*with a choral prelude beginning at 7:30 p.m.*). The services will be available on **our website**, [www.fourthchurch.org](http://www.fourthchurch.org), at [www.bit.ly/FPCworship](http://www.bit.ly/FPCworship) as well as via **Facebook Live** ([www.facebook.com/fourthchurch](http://www.facebook.com/fourthchurch)) and **YouTube** ([www.bit.ly/fpcvideos](http://www.bit.ly/fpcvideos)), where they can also be viewed afterwards. Those without Internet access are invited to join the services by **listening to them via phone by calling 888.916.9166 (toll-free)** at the time of the service. ✨ Our online **Christmas Day service** will be available via the same platforms, including by phone, at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, December 25.



If you missed our online **Christmas with Tower Brass concert** or **John Sherer’s organ concert of Christmas favorites**, you can still enjoy them online at [www.bit.ly/fpcprograms](http://www.bit.ly/fpcprograms)



**Devotions for the Christmas season** written by Fourth Church members and staff are available as a **resource for personal meditation and prayer**. You can receive them in your inbox daily (sign up online at [www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions](http://www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions)) or read them online ([www.fourthchurch.org/devotions](http://www.fourthchurch.org/devotions)), via Facebook ([www.facebook.com/fourthchurch](http://www.facebook.com/fourthchurch)), or Twitter ([www.twitter.com/fourthchicago](http://www.twitter.com/fourthchicago)).



Our online **New Year’s Eve Taizé service** will be available at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 31 on our website, [www.fourthchurch.org](http://www.fourthchurch.org), at [www.bit.ly/FPCworship](http://www.bit.ly/FPCworship) as well as via Facebook Live ([www.facebook.com/fourthchurch](http://www.facebook.com/fourthchurch)) and YouTube ([www.bit.ly/fpcvideos](http://www.bit.ly/fpcvideos)).



Watch our **website** ([www.fourthchurch.org](http://www.fourthchurch.org)) for additional resources and ways to connect. Online events are posted on the church calendar at [www.fourthchurch.org/calendar](http://www.fourthchurch.org/calendar); we also encourage you to follow us on **Facebook** ([facebook.com/fourthchurch](http://facebook.com/fourthchurch)) and **Instagram** ([instagram.com/fourthchurch](http://instagram.com/fourthchurch)) for updates, sermon quotes, images from Fourth Church, and more.

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](http://www.bit.ly/newsfromfpc)

**If you would like to connect with others** for a time of fellowship following worship today, please join us following the postlude for **virtual Coffee Hour via Zoom at [www.bit.ly/fpcfellowship](http://www.bit.ly/fpcfellowship)** (Zoom details are posted at [www.fourthchurch.org](http://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#. \* Another opportunity to connect with others is in our **small groups**, which meet via Zoom once a week for four to six weeks. To express interest in joining one of the groups forming in 2021, email Anne Ellis ([aellis@fourthchurch.org](mailto:aellis@fourthchurch.org)). \* Also email Anne Ellis if you are interested in Zoom details for the **Benevolent Guild**, which has been making face masks and meets via Zoom on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. Meeting via Zoom are **Men's Bible Study** on Tuesdays at 7:30 a.m. and the **Horizons Bible Study for women** on Wednesday, December 23 at 12:00 p.m. For Bible study details, email Anne Ellis ([aellis@fourthchurch.org](mailto:aellis@fourthchurch.org)).



On Wednesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. we gather for **Morning Prayer via Zoom**. Email Carol Allerton ([callerton@fourthchurch.org](mailto:callerton@fourthchurch.org)) for the details. \* **If you have a prayer request**, Dave Handley ([dhandley@fourthchurch.org](mailto:dhandley@fourthchurch.org)) is receiving these requests as part of our Morning Prayer and Deacon Prayer Ministries. \* **If you would like to talk to a pastor**, please call the church (312.787.4570). \* **To explore options for teletherapy** with our Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being, call the Center at 312.787.2729, ext. 2260. \* If you would like to have **a one-time phone conversation with a Stephen Minister or arrange for ongoing talks**, please leave a confidential message at 312.573.3365.



We are looking for Fourth Church members with **gifts for compassionate listening** to become Stephen Ministers and walk alongside individuals experiencing life challenges. The next fifty-hour **training course for new Stephen Ministers** will be offered in March 2021; for information about applying for the training, see [www.fourthchurch.org/caring/stephen-ministers.html](http://www.fourthchurch.org/caring/stephen-ministers.html)



The Session of Fourth Church has called an **online congregational meeting** for Sunday, January 10 following 11:00 a.m. worship. The meeting will be online at [www.bit.ly/fpcprograms](http://www.bit.ly/fpcprograms) (call in at 888.916.9166). The purpose of the meeting will be to elect an **Associate Pastor Nominating Committee** to identify and recommend a candidate to serve Fourth Presbyterian Church as **Associate Pastor for Caring Ministries and Spiritual Formation**.



We encourage you to mark your calendars for two other events planned for January 2021 as well: **"Faith in Uncertain Times: Reflecting on the Past and Envisioning the Future"** is an online Michigan Avenue Forum that will be held Thursday, January 14 at 7:00 p.m. That evening Lucy Forster-Smith will moderate a panel discussion bringing together Shannon Kershner; Horace Smith, Pastor of Apostolic Faith Church; Otis Moss III, Senior Pastor of Trinity United Church of Christ; David Crawford, President of McCormick Theological Seminary; and Ozzie Smith Jr., Pastor Emeritus of Covenant United Church of Christ. \* On Saturday morning, January 23 at 10:00 a.m., David Hogue, Professor Emeritus of Pastoral Theology and Counseling at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary will lead a workshop on **"Loving Our Neighbor in a Time of Social Distancing."** Watch for details about both of these events in the new year.

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](http://www.bit.ly/newsfromfpc)

Also coming up in 2021 is the **Chicago Lights Gala of Hope at Home** on Friday, March 5 at 7:00 p.m. The gala annually benefits the life-changing youth development and social service programs of Chicago Lights—the community outreach arm of Fourth Church—and the community support efforts of our Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being.



Resuming in January will be our regular programming for all ages. **Center for Life and Learning** lectures and exercise classes for adults sixty and over begin the week of January 4; for details, see [www.fourthchurch.org/cll](http://www.fourthchurch.org/cll) or email Susan Quaintance ([squaintance@fourthchurch.org](mailto:squaintance@fourthchurch.org)). \* **Sunday School and family activities** also resume online. For details, email Briana Belding-Peck ([bbelding-peck@fourthchurch.org](mailto:bbelding-peck@fourthchurch.org)). \* For details about **youth groups and Confirmation**, email Katie Patterson ([kpatterson@fourthchurch.org](mailto:kpatterson@fourthchurch.org)). \* **TwentiesThirties** offers online opportunities for young adults. For details, email Joe Morrow ([jmorrow@fourthchurch.org](mailto:jmorrow@fourthchurch.org)).



For the foreseeable future we are gathering online for **livestream-only worship**. \* In addition to livestreaming our 11:00 a.m. Sunday service at [www.bit.ly/FPCworship](http://www.bit.ly/FPCworship) (where the service is available throughout the week), the service is available via **Facebook Live** ([facebook.com/fourthchurch](https://facebook.com/fourthchurch)) and **YouTube** ([www.bit.ly/fpcvideos](http://www.bit.ly/fpcvideos)) at 11:00 a.m. on Sundays. \* Those without Internet access are invited to **listen 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](http://www.bit.ly/FPCpodcast)); you can also receive our sermons **by email** ([www.bit.ly/fpcsermons](http://www.bit.ly/fpcsermons)).

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