



Second Sunday after Epiphany

January 17, 2021

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

My Lord, What a Morning African American spiritual; arr. Richard Billingham
Adoration Florence B. Price
Festal March F. B. Price

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

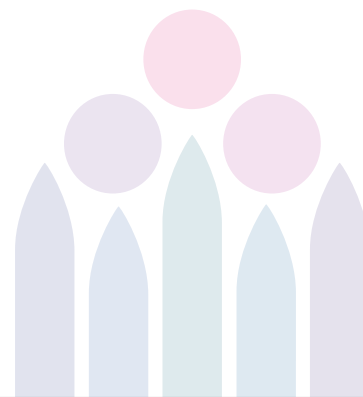
*In the morning when I rise, give me Jesus.
You may have all this world, give me Jesus.
Dark midnight was my cry, give me Jesus.
O when I come to die, give me Jesus, nobody but Jesus.*

*Doxology (*sung*)

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.† Amen.**

Welcome and Call to Worship

Prayer of Praise



†Or “praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.”

Hymn “Lead Me, Guide Me”

Refrain

Lead me, guide me, along the way,
for if you lead me, I cannot stray.
Lord, let me walk each day with thee.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

I am weak and I need your strength and power
to help me over my weakest hour.
Help me through the darkness your face to see.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. *Refrain*

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Most holy and merciful God:

we have condemned racial injustice in our pronouncements,
yet some of us cling to the privileges born from social inequities.

We confess that all too often we remain complicit

in deferring the hopes and dreams of freedom for all your people.

We beseech you to give us the courage to name our sin

and the strength to claim responsibility for our actions.

Pour out onto us the grace and courage to pay the price

for changing our behaviors, however painful or costly,

that the justice you command may be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

Leader: *Friends, believe the good news:*

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

Anthem # “From the Rising of the Sun” Frederick A. G. Ouseley

*From the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same my name shall be great among
the Gentiles, and in every place incense shall be offered up unto my name, for my name
shall be great among the heathen, thus saith the Lord!*

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter 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.
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.

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.

Living Epistle :: “Letter from Birmingham Jail” (*excerpt*) Martin Luther King Jr.

Scripture Lesson John 1:43–51

Sermon Shannon J. Kershner

Responding to the Word

Hymn “Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

Precious Lord, take my hand; lead me on, help me stand;
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light;
take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near;
when my life is almost gone, hear my cry, hear my call,
hold my hand lest I fall; take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

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.

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

Offering and Prayer of Dedication

Offertory Solo :: “Ubi caritas” Luke Mayernik

Where there is love and charity, God is there. Since the love of Christ has gathered us together, we exult and take delight in him now and always. Let us fear and love the Lord, our living God, and with sincere hearts let us love one another.

Litany of Dedication and Commitment

Leader: *God of all races and nations,
we praise you for all your faithful servants
who have done justice, loved mercy, and walked humbly with you.
For apostles, martyrs, leaders, and saints
and for humble folks whose names never made the news
but are recorded in your book of life,*

People: **we give you thanks, O God.**

Leader: *Especially this day we thank you for our brother Martin,
for his courage and conviction, for his passion for peace,
and for his tireless quest of a nation that keeps faith with its promises;*

People: **we give you thanks, O God.**

Leader: *For the countless saints who stood in the front lines and marches,
integrated schools, restaurants, and churches,
or sat in buses and at lunch counters and refused to move,*

People: **we give you thanks, O God.**

Leader: *For nameless multitudes who suffered the tortures of slavery and the tyranny
of oppression, who were beaten and lynched, and for the nameless multitudes
today whose lives are stunted and cut short by our structures of brutality,*

People: **we grieve and promise to work for justice, O God.**

Leader: *And for our siblings of every race and nation who long for safety, freedom,
and hope in our community and land,*

People: **we grieve and promise to work for justice, O God.**

Leader: *Lead and guide us, that we may follow the way of Jesus Christ, who lives
and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.*

Bearing the Word into the World

Hymn “Live into Hope”

Live into hope of captives freed,
of sight regained, the end of greed.
The oppressed shall be the first to see
the year of God’s own jubilee!

Live into hope! The blind shall see
with insight and with clarity,
removing shades of pride and fear,
a vision of our God brought near.

Live into hope of liberty,
the right to speak, the right to be,
the right to have one’s daily bread,
to hear God’s word and thus be fed.

Live into hope of captives freed
from chains of fear or want or greed.
God now proclaims our full release
to faith and hope and joy and peace.

Charge and Benediction

Postlude ♪ This Little Light of Mine African American spiritual; arr. John Behnke



Today we join churches and communities across the nation in **honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.**, who was born ninety-two years ago, on January 15, 1929. A banner with his image and in his memory hangs above our Sanctuary entrance as public witness for all who pass by. Proclaiming “Moving the Dream Forward,” it is a continued expression of our commitment to embrace racial equity by purposely including all people, striving for radical hospitality, and modeling an antiracist approach in all areas. We remain steadfast in our theological conviction that the lives of our Black siblings matter to both God and to us and that their lives are sacred. We are committed to putting that theological conviction into practice and continuing to express it in a variety of ways.

This Tuesday, January 19 at 4:30 p.m., Fourth Church will join congregations and institutions across the nation in **tolling bells in remembrance of those who have died from COVID-19**. Our bells will toll once for every 10,000 individuals in this country who have died from the novel coronavirus.

This Saturday, January 23 at 10:00 a.m., David Hogue, Professor Emeritus of Pastoral Theology and Counseling at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary will lead a Zoom workshop on “**Loving Our Neighbor in a Time of Social Distancing.**” For details, email Carol Allerton (callerton@fourthchurch.org). * On Wednesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. we gather for **Morning Prayer via Zoom**. Email Carol Allerton (callerton@fourthchurch.org) for the details. * **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 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

The **Benevolent Guild**, which has been making face masks, meets via Zoom on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. **Knitting and Crocheting** will meet via Zoom on Tuesday, January 26 at 4:00 p.m. to share in fellowship while working on projects for the agencies we support. For Zoom details for either of these opportunities, email Anne Ellis (aellis@fourthchurch.org).

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

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), the service is available via **Facebook Live** (facebook.com/fourthchurch) and **YouTube** (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 begins around 10:45 a.m.). * During the week we 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).

Sunday School and family activities meet online. For details, email Briana Belding-Peck (bbelding-peck@fourthchurch.org). * For details about **youth groups and Confirmation**, email Katie Patterson (kpatterson@fourthchurch.org). * **TwentiesThirties** offers online opportunities for young adults. For details, email Joe Morrow (jmorrow@fourthchurch.org). * Adults sixty and over are invited to take part in the winter term of the **Center for Life and Learning**, which offers online lectures and exercise classes; for details, email Susan Quaintance (squaintance@fourthchurch.org) or see www.fourthchurch.org/cll

“Varying Voices of the Prophets: Cries for Justice, Lamentation, and Consolation” is the theme in our “Foundations of Faith: An Hour a Week with the Bible” class, which meets via Zoom on Sundays at 12:30 p.m. Jeff Doane is leading our current exploration of texts in Isaiah, Ezekiel, and Hosea on Sundays, January 17 and 24. For Zoom details, register at [www bit ly/fpcff20](http://www.bit.ly/fpcff20) * **Men’s Bible Study** meets via Zoom on Tuesdays at 7:30 a.m. and the **Horizons Bible Study for women** next meets Wednesday, January 27 at 12:00 p.m. For Zoom details for Bible studies, email Anne Ellis (aellis@fourthchurch.org).

The powerful and moving discussion of **“Faith in Uncertain Times: Reflecting on the Past and Envisioning the Future”**—which this past Thursday evening brought together conversation partners 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—is **available for viewing** on our YouTube channel (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos). * This morning, Sunday, January 17, the Adult Education Committee is hosting a **Zoom conversation to discuss the insights those speakers shared** and how those can help us grapple with current events. For Zoom details for today’s conversation, register at www.bit.ly/faithuncertaintimes

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If you would like to connect with others for a time of fellowship after worship, join us following the postlude for **virtual Coffee Hour via Zoom at www.bit.ly/fpcfellowship** (Zoom details are 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#. * To express interest in connecting with others in a **small group**, which will meet via Zoom once a week for four to six weeks, email Anne Ellis (aellis@fourthchurch.org).

The First Tuesday Book Club, hosted by the Adult Education Committee, will meet via Zoom on Tuesday, February 2 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss ***Jesus and John Wayne: How White Evangelicals Corrupted a Faith and Fractured a Nation* by Kristin Kobes De Mez**. For Zoom details for this conversation led by Jim Garner, register online at [www bit ly/firsttuesdaybooks](http://www.bit.ly/firsttuesdaybooks) * **Books by Women** will meet via Zoom on Tuesday, February 9 at 6:00 p m to discuss ***Madame Fourcade's Secret War* by Lynne Olson**. For Zoom details, email Anne Ellis (aellis@fourthchurch.org).

The artist Gerald Griffin will present the program at the February 5 Zoom gathering of **Cornerstones**, a fellowship group for adults fifty and over. For Zoom details, register by Thursday, February 4 at www.bit.ly/cornerstones0121 * Our **Friday Noonday Concerts** take place at 12:10 p.m. each week at www.bit.ly/fpcprograms as well as on YouTube (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos) and via Facebook Live.

The **Chicago Lights Gala of Hope at Home** will be on Friday, March 5 at 7:00 p.m. This 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. For more information, email Laura Woods (lwoods@chicagolights.org).

If you are looking to add devotional meditations into your daily routine this year, we invite you to join the more than 4,000 people who use the daily devotions written by Fourth Church members and staff. These reflections are available by email (you can sign up online at www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions) or read them online (www.fourthchurch.org/devotions), via Facebook (www.facebook.com/fourthchurch), or Twitter (www.twitter.com/fourthchicago).

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

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Worship Leaders

Lucy Forster-Smith, Cornell Wilson III, Rocky Supinger, Shannon J. Kershner

The Music Today

Members of the Morning Choir

Melissa Arning, Micah Dingler, Kacey Kurpinsky, Sean Stanton

Micah Dingler, Soloist

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

Worship Notes

OFFERING GIFTS can be made 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.

THE TEXT “PRECIOUS LORD, TAKE MY HAND” was written by Thomas Dorsey as a response to the tragic loss of his wife, Nettie Harper, and their infant son during childbirth in 1932. This hymn was a favorite of Martin Luther King Jr., and he often invited gospel singer Mahalia Jackson to sing it at civil rights rallies to inspire crowds. Dr. King’s last words before his assassination were a request to play the song during an event that he was to attend that evening. Instead, Mahalia Jackson sang it at his funeral in April 1968.

Shannon J. Kershner Pastor

Lucy Forster-Smith Senior Associate Pastor

Associate Pastors

Matt Helms Children and Family Ministry

Joseph L. Morrow Associate Pastor-Elect for Evangelism and Community Engagement

Nanette Sawyer Discipleship and Small Group Ministry

Rocky Supinger Youth Ministry

David Handley Interim Minister for Caring Ministries

Jeffrey Doane Parish Associate for Older Adults

Maggie Shreve Parish Associate for Jail Ministry

John Buchanan Pastor Emeritus

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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.