
FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT ♦ FEBRUARY 21, 2021



“In Our Hands” by Lauren Wright Pittman
Hand-carved block printed with oil-based ink on paper
Inspired by Genesis 9:8–17 (*see page 11*)

THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO



First Sunday in Lent

February 21, 2021

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

O People, Lament Thy Sin So Great Johann Sebastian Bach
My Home in Glory Libby Larsen

Introit :: “Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days” Erik Meyer

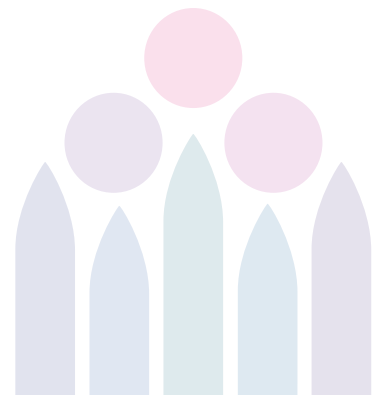
*Lord, who throughout these forty days for us didst fast and pray,
teach us with thee to mourn our sins and close by thee to stay.
As thou with Satan didst contend and didst the victory win,
O give us strength in thee to fight, in thee to conquer sin.
As thou didst hunger, bear, and thirst, so teach us, gracious Lord,
to die to self and chiefly live by thy most holy word.
And through these days of penitence, and through thy Passiontide,
yea, evermore, in life and death, Jesus, with us abide.
Abide with us, that so, this life of suffering overpast,
an Easter of unending joy we may attain at last!*

*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 “The Glory of These Forty Days”

The glory of these forty days we celebrate with songs of praise;
for Christ, by whom all things were made, himself has fasted and has prayed.

Alone and fasting Moses saw the loving God who gave the law;
and to Elijah, fasting, came the steeds and chariots of flame.

So Daniel trained his mystic sight, delivered from the lions’ might;
and John, the Bridegroom’s friend, became the herald of Messiah’s name.

Then grant that we like them be true, consumed in fast and prayer with you;
our spirits strengthen with your grace, and give us joy to see your face.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Leader: *God who meets us where we are—
there is nowhere we can go that you are not.*

All: **You were with Jesus at his baptism.
You were with him in the wilderness,
and even in between you were there,
saying aloud, “This is my Beloved.”**

Leader: *We know that you are with us too—in the good, the bad,
and everything in between—but so often we act like we are alone.*

All: **Instead of coming to you with our hurt,
we hold it in or cast it onto others.
Instead of coming to you with our joy,
we credit ourselves and offer you nothing.**

Leader: *How can we long for a deeper relationship with you
while living like you are nowhere to be found?*

All: **Forgive our self-centered ways.
Remind us that in every breath, in every step, you are there.**

Leader: *You are the God who meets us where we are.*

All: **Before and behind, above and below, within and around. Amen.**

Declaration of Pardon

Leader: *Friends, believe the good news:*

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

Solo :: “Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee” Dale Wood

*Jesus, the very thought of thee with sweetness fills my breast,
but sweeter far thy face to see and in thy presence rest.
Nor voice can sing, nor heart can frame, nor can the memory find
a sweeter sound than thy blest name, O Savior of mankind!
O hope of every contrite heart, O joy of all the meek;
to those who fall, how kind thou art. How good to all who seek.
All those who find thee find a bliss nor tongue nor pen can show;
the love of Jesus, what it is, none but his loved ones know.
Jesus, our only joy be thou, as thou our prize will be.
Jesus, be thou our glory now, and through eternity.*

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter Psalm 25:1–10

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.
My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.
Let none who look to you be put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.
Show me your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths.
Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long.
Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.
Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love
and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.
You are gracious and upright, O Lord; therefore you teach sinners in your way.
You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.
All your paths, O Lord, are steadfast love and faithfulness
to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.

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 Mark 1:9–15

Sermon :: “What Drives You?” Lucy Forster-Smith

Responding to the Word

Hymn “I Want Jesus to Walk with Me”

I want Jesus to walk with me;
I want Jesus to walk with me;
all along my pilgrim journey,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

In my trials, Lord, walk with me;
in my trials, Lord, walk with me;
when my heart is almost breaking,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

When I’m in trouble, Lord, walk with me;
when I’m in trouble, Lord, walk with me;
when my head is bowed in sorrow,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

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.

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

Offering and Prayer of Dedication

Offertory Solo :: “A Hymne to God the Father Pelham Humfrey

*Wilt thou forgive that sin where I begun, which is my sin though it were done before?
Wilt thou forgive those sins through which I run, and do run still, though still I do deplore?
When thou hast done, thou hast not done, for I have more.
Wilt thou forgive that sin by which I've won others to sin? And made my sin their door?
Wilt thou forgive that sin which I did shun a year or two, but wallowed in a score?
When thou hast done, thou hast not done, for I have more.
I have a sin of fear that when I've spun my last thread I shall perish on the shore,
but swear by thyself that at my death thy Son shall shine as he shines now and heretofore;
and having done that, thou hast done, I fear no more.*

Bearing the Word into the World

Hymn “God of Compassion, in Mercy Befriend Us”

God of compassion, in mercy befriend us,
giver of grace for our needs all-availing.
Wisdom and strength for each day ever send us,
patience untiring and courage unfailing.

Though we are lost, you have sought us and found us,
stilled our rude hearts with your word of consoling.
Wrap now your peace, like a mantle, around us,
guarding our thoughts and our passions controlling.

How shall we stray, with your hand to direct us,
you who the stars in their courses are guiding?
What shall we fear, with your power to protect us,
we who walk forth in your greatness confiding?

Charge and Benediction

Postlude :: Voluntary on the Doxology Henry Purcell



Throughout Lent we receive the **One Great Hour of Sharing offering**. This special offering supports the work of Chicago Lights Tutoring and Elam Davies Social Service Center; Fourth Church Meals Ministry; and the work of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Hunger, and Self-Development of People Programs. To make a One Great Hour of Sharing gift, use the designation “OGHS Lenten Offering” when giving at www.fourthchurch.org/give-online or write it on the memo line of a check made payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church.

If you are looking to add devotional meditations into your Lenten disciplines this year, we invite you to join the more than 4,000 people who use the daily Lenten 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).

* During our online **Ash Wednesday** worship service this past week, **Nanette Sawyer created an “Imposition of Ashes” painting** during the service. You can watch the video of her at work during worship on our YouTube channel (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos).

We look forward to the **installation of Joe Morrow as Associate Pastor for Evangelism and Community Engagement** during worship next Sunday, February 28. We hope you will join us in celebration online at 11:00 a.m. that morning!

On Monday evening, March 1 at 7:00 p.m., we will host a special **online Michigan Avenue Forum** at www.fourthchurch.org. That evening we will have opportunity to **hear Shannon Kershner talk with Dr. Kevin Ban**, Chief Medical Officer for the Walgreens Corporation and former faculty member at the Harvard Medical School, as they discuss **COVID-19 vaccine distribution and implications**. We hope you will join us online for this important conversation!

Each Sunday we host a **virtual Coffee Hour via Zoom**, which begins immediately following the postlude. You can join this time of fellowship at www.bit.ly/fpcfellowship (Zoom details are also posted at www.fourthchurch.org). You can take part in Coffee Hour **by phone** as well: dial 312.626.6799 and enter meeting ID number 963 5583 1751#.

If you or someone you know are experiencing challenging times and would appreciate a phone conversation with a **Stephen Minister**, please leave a confidential message at 312.573.3365. You can also learn more about Stephen Ministry at www.fourthchurch.org/caring/stephen-ministry.html; in this season when many of us are struggling to sort things out, Stephen Ministers are available to be **God’s listening presence**.

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

Lifting up Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s vision of the Beloved Community, "Building Beloved Community" will be the topic of a **Muslim–Presbyterian Dialogue**, co-moderated by Nanette Sawyer, this Tuesday, February 23 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. For details, register at www.bit.ly/building0221 * The adult education class led by Carol Allen, "**On Restoring God's Beloved Community: Looking for Guidance in Scripture,**" continues via Zoom at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays through February 28. For Zoom details, register at www.bit.ly/restoring21 * Hanging above our Sanctuary entrance throughout Black History Month is a banner with an image of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the words "**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.

Men's Bible Study meets on Tuesdays at 7:30 a.m. and the **Horizons Bible Study for women** meets this Wednesday, February 24 at 12:00 p.m. For Zoom details for these Bible studies, email Anne Ellis (aellis@fourthchurch.org). * A **Bible study for those in their twenties and thirties** meets on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. For Zoom details, sign up at www.bit.ly/2Yq3znE; TwentiesThirties also meets for a "**Living Faith**" series. For details, email Joe Morrow (jmorrow@fourthchurch.org).

In addition to their Bible study, several other opportunities hosted by Women at Fourth take place this week. **Knitting and Crocheting** will meet via Zoom this Tuesday, February 23 at 4:00 p.m. to share in fellowship while working on projects for the agencies we support. * The **Benevolent Guild**, which has been making face masks, meets via Zoom on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. * Speakers from *Come Alive!* will talk about the **connection between spiritual practice and physical health and holistic well-being** when Women at Fourth has its monthly gathering this Thursday, February 25 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom. For Zoom details for these various opportunities, email Anne Ellis (aellis@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. * The Center is also hosting "**Tools for Well-Being: Quarantine Edition**" on Saturday, March 6 at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom, For details for this workshop offering simple techniques to help calm our minds, energize our bodies, and connect to our true selves, register at www.bit.ly/well-beingtools0321

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). * Adults sixty and over are invited to take part in the **Center for Life and Learning**; for details, email Susan Quaintance (squaintance@fourthchurch.org) or see www.fourthchurch.org/cfl * **Organist John Sherer** will present this week's **Friday Noonday Concerts** at 12:10 p.m. at www.bit.ly/fpcprograms, Facebook Live, and YouTube.

The **Chicago Lights Gala of Hope at Home** will be held online 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 details about attending this event, for which you can register for free, or becoming an event sponsor, sign up at chicagolights.org/gala * During the Gala, we will auction stays at vacation homes. If you or a family member or friend would be willing to **donate time at your vacation home** to support Chicago Lights and the Replogle Center, please email Laura Woods (lwoods@chicagolights.org).

Sunday Night Supper is in need of **cooks, servers, and runners** to assist with these “grab and go” meals. Those interested in helping are asked to email the Director of Volunteer Ministry, Robert Crouch (rcrouch@fourthchurch.org). * **Fourth Church’s Employment Network**, which works in partnership with the St. Sabina Employment Resource Center on the South Side, is **looking for volunteers** to support job-preparedness workshops and **internship to job opportunities**. For details, email employmentnetwork@fourthchurch.org

The First Tuesday Book Club, hosted by the Adult Education Committee, will meet via Zoom on Tuesday, March 2 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss ***Union Made: Working People and the Rise of Social Christianity in Chicago* by Heath Carter**. Joe Morrow will lead the conversation with the author; for Zoom details, register at [www bit ly/firsttuesdaybooks](http://www.bit.ly/firsttuesdaybooks) * **Books by Women** will meet via Zoom on Tuesday, March 9 at 6:00 p m to discuss ***Whose Body* by Dorothy L. Sayers**. For Zoom details, email Anne Ellis (aellis@fourthchurch.org).

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).

Last Sunday we began our celebration of the **150th anniversary of the founding of Fourth Presbyterian Church**. If you missed that special worship service or would like to enjoy it again, you can find it at www.fourthchurch.org/150; the bulletin from that service—with pictures on its cover of the three buildings called “Fourth Church” over the past century and a half—is available there as well. Also posted on the website are the first in a series of monthly historical accounts, “**Back and Fourth: 150 Seconds of History**,” and a **letter to the congregation** from the Executive Presbyter of the Presbytery of Chicago, Sue Krummel.

Watch our **website** (www.fourthchurch.org) and follow us on **Facebook** (facebook.com/fourthchurch) and **Instagram** (instagram.com/fourthchurch) for resources and ways to connect. Online events are posted on the church calendar at www.fourthchurch.org/calendar

Worship Leaders

Nanette Sawyer, Briana Lee, Eric Wu, Rocky Supinger, Lucy Forster-Smith

The Music Today

Members of the Morning Choir: *Carol Carpenter, Daniel Henry, Carla Janzen, Cole Seaton*

Carol Carpenter, Soloist

Laura Bottei, Organ Scholar

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

Worship Notes

THE PRELUDE PIECE “MY HOME IN GLORY” is by Libby Larsen (b. 1950). One of America’s most prominent composers, she cofounded the Minnesota Composers Forum with colleague Stephen Paulus. In 1983 Libby Larsen was appointed one of the Minnesota Orchestra’s two composers-in-residence, making her the first woman to serve as a resident composer with a major orchestra. Her numerous awards include a 1993 Grammy.

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.

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

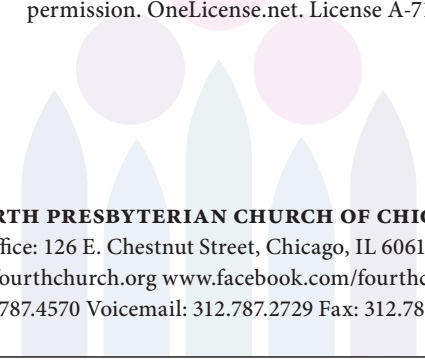
David Handley Interim Minister for Caring Ministries

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.

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“In Our Hands”

by Lauren Wright Pittman

Inspired by Genesis 9:8-17 | Hand-carved block printed with oil-based ink on paper

In the beginning God filled the formless void with color, texture, light, flavor, time, and life. God scooped the clay and carefully molded it, breathing life into the nostrils of humanity. These are the images of a tender, imaginative God who loves Creation limitlessly.

Following the Creation narrative, humanity quickly spirals into violence, corruption, and power-hunger toward the total destruction of Creation. God becomes deeply aggrieved and even regrets creating humanity (Genesis 6:6). God decides it best to return all of Creation to the chaotic void, though God finds hope in Noah’s family. I’ve struggled with this narrative, but I find myself feeling a tremendous amount of compassion. I can only imagine how painful it is to watch the work of your hands devolve into brutality.

God offers Noah, his descendants, and every living creature an all-encompassing promise, vowing never to flood the earth again. Despite humanity’s destructive role, God limits God’s self and alone is held accountable in this covenant. God requires nothing of humanity or the entirety of Creation in return. God gives humanity a chance to start fresh and the opportunity to choose a different path. If we model our actions after God’s, then we would humble and limit ourselves in order to better love God and care for Creation. Sacrifice and selflessness pave the new way.

In this image, God’s hands hold various animals and plant life and are surrounded by the bands of the rainbow, shielding Creation from the swirling waters of chaotic destruction. I chose not to image humanity, because the hands are at once God’s and ours. We must respond to God’s covenant by protecting and keeping the earth. It is our responsibility; it is our calling. God meets us where we are—utterly dependent and bound toward self-destruction—with a promise sealed with a bow bursting with the endless spectrum of colors light holds.

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