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THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT ♦ MARCH 7, 2021

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“The Cross Remains” by Lauren Wright Pittman  
Inspired by 1 Corinthians 1:18–25 | Digital drawing (See page 11)

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THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO

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# Third Sunday in Lent

March 7, 2021

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## Gathering around the Word

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### Prelude

Sonata in F Major . . . . . Benedetto Marcello; arr. Analee Bacon  
1. Largo  
2. Allegro  
Concerto . . . . . Arild Plau  
2. Canzone

Introit :: “If with All Your Heart” from *Elijah* . . . . . Felix Mendelssohn  
*“If with all your heart ye truly seek me, ye shall ever surely find me,” this saith our God.  
O that I knew where I might find him, that I might even come before his presence.*

### \*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.<sup>†</sup> Amen.

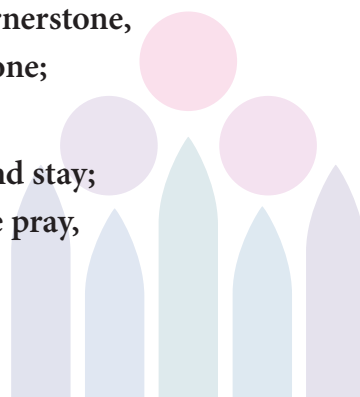
### Welcome and Call to Worship

### Prayer of Praise

Hymn . . . . . “Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation”

Christ is made the sure foundation, Christ the head and cornerstone,  
chosen of the Lord and precious, binding all the church in one;  
holy Zion’s help forever, and our confidence alone.

To this temple, where we call you, come, O Lord of hosts, and stay;  
come, with all your loving-kindness; hear your people as we pray,  
and your fullest benediction shed within these walls today.



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<sup>†</sup>Or “praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.”

Here bestow on all your servants what they seek from you to gain;  
what they gain from you, forever with the blessed to retain;  
and hereafter in your glory evermore with you to reign.

Laud and honor to the Father, laud and honor to the Son,  
laud and honor to the Spirit, ever three and ever one:  
one in might and one in glory while unending ages run!

#### Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

God of justice, we are guilty of building tables.  
We have built tables that oppression dines on,  
sexism thrives on, and racism lives on.  
God of justice, we are guilty of forgetting where we are,  
of turning faith into a negotiation tool  
and the church into a place for insiders.  
God of justice, we are guilty of ignoring the point,  
for you taught that the temple was for worship  
and your message was for all.  
God of our hearts, be in our decision-making.  
Draw near to our choices. Forgive our mistakes.  
And as you do, flip every table, habit, belief,  
or point of view that needs adjusting.  
With hope we pray for a better day. Amen.

#### Extinguishing the Third Lenten Candle

#### Declaration of Pardon

Leader: *Friends, believe the good news:*

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

#### Anthem :: “None Other Lamb” ..... Craig Courtney

*None other lamb, none other name, none other hope in heaven or earth or sea; none other  
hiding place from guilt and shame, none beside thee. My faith burns low, my hope burns low;  
only my heart's desire cries out in me, by the deep thunder of its want and woe cries out to thee.  
Lord, thou art life, though I be dead; love's fire thou art, however cold I be. Nor heaven have I,  
nor place to lay my head, nor home, but thee. None other lamb.*

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## Listening for the Word

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### 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:<sup>†</sup> as it was in  
the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

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<sup>†</sup>Or "to the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Ghost."

Scripture Lesson .....	Exodus 20:1–17
Sermon .....	Joseph L. Morrow

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## Responding to the Word

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Hymn .....	“How Lovely, Lord”
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How lovely, Lord, how lovely is your abiding place;  
my soul is longing, fainting, to feast upon your grace.  
The sparrow finds a shelter, a place to build her nest;  
and so your temple calls us within its walls to rest.

In your blest courts to worship, O God, a single day  
is better than a thousand if I from you should stray.  
I'd rather keep the entrance and claim you as my Lord  
than revel in the riches the ways of sin afford.

A sun and shield forever are you, O Lord Most High;  
you shower us with blessings; no good will you deny.  
The saints, your grace receiving, from strength to strength shall go,  
and from their life shall rivers of blessing overflow.

New Members

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.

Offering and Prayer of Dedication

Offertory Solo :: “How Beautiful Are the Feet” ..... Julia Perry  
*How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace,  
that publish salvation unto Zion, that sayeth unto Zion, thy Lord reigneth.*

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Bearing the Word into the World

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Hymn ..... “How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord”

How clear is our vocation, Lord, when once we heed your call  
to live according to your word and daily learn, refreshed, restored,  
that you are Lord of all and will not let us fall.

But if, forgetful, we should find your yoke is hard to bear;  
if worldly pressures fray the mind and love itself cannot unwind  
its tangled skein of care: our inward life repair.

We marvel how your saints became in hindrances more sure:  
whose joyful virtues put to shame the casual way we wear your name,  
and by our faults obscure your power to cleanse and cure.

In what you give us, Lord, to do, together or alone,  
in old routines or ventures new, may we not cease to look to you:  
the cross you hung upon, all you endeavored, done.

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Sonata in F Major ..... B. Marcello; arr. A. Bacon  
4. Allegro





**Each Sunday during Lent we are extinguishing a candle.** Just as we lit candles on the Advent wreath to symbolize the light coming into the world through the birth of Christ, so now our extinguishing of candles points to the Lenten progression from light to the shadows of Good Friday and the crucifixion.

Throughout the Lenten season we receive the **One Great Hour of Sharing offering**. This special offering supports the work of **Fourth Church Meals Ministry; Chicago Lights Tutoring and Elam Davies Social Service Center;** 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](http://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](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 Lenten path leads us to Palm/Passion Sunday and Holy Week. We will gather online for worship on **Palm/Passion Sunday** on March 28 at 11:00 a.m.; for **Maundy Thursday Tenebrae**, with Communion, on Thursday, April 1 at 7:30 p.m.; for our **Good Friday service** on Friday, April 2 at 7:30 p.m., with the pastors sharing short meditations on the Seven Last Words of Christ; for the **Easter Vigil** on Saturday, April 3 at 8:00 p.m.; and our **festive Easter service**, with Communion, on Sunday, April 4 at 11:00 a.m. We hope you and those you know will mark your calendars and plan to join us in worship online as our journey takes us to the cross and eventually the empty tomb!

You can **honor or memorialize a loved one** with a contribution toward the **Easter flowers** that will decorate the Sanctuary for our online Easter service. A list of those individuals remembered will be printed in the Easter bulletin. Contributions can be made online at [www.bit.ly/FPCgifts](http://www.bit.ly/FPCgifts); contributions must be received by Sunday, March 28 for names to appear in the bulletin. For more information, email Andrea Miller ([amiller@fourthchurch.org](mailto:amiller@fourthchurch.org)).

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](http://www.bit.ly/fpcfellowship) (Zoom details are also posted at [www.fourthchurch.org](http://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#.

**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)

**Daylight Saving Time begins next Sunday, March 14.** Be sure to set your clocks ahead an hour as we “spring forward”: we don’t want to start worship without you!

**“Pandemics, Biblical Reflections, and a Christian Call to Action”** is the topic of a new Sunday morning class beginning today at 9:30 a.m. **Walter Breuggemann’s recent book** *Virus as a Summons to Faith: Biblical Reflections in a Time of Loss, Grief, and Uncertainty* will guide the conversation, which will be led by Jeannine Forrest. For Zoom details, register at [www.bit.ly/summonstofaith](http://www.bit.ly/summonstofaith)

✳ An **“Our Neighbors: Deepening Interfaith Relationships”** conversation will take place on Zoom this Wednesday, March 10 at 6:00 p.m. Led by Nanette Sawyer and Rabbi Todd Zinn, we will join neighbors from Chicago Sinai Congregation for a discussion of our springtime **celebrations of Passover and Easter and the shared themes of renewal.** For Zoom details, register at [www.bit.ly/interfaith031021](http://www.bit.ly/interfaith031021)

**Men’s Bible Study** meets on Tuesdays at 7:30 a.m. and the **Horizons Bible Study for women** meets this Wednesday, March 10 at 12:00 p.m. For Zoom details for these Bible studies, email Anne Ellis ([aellis@fourthchurch.org](mailto:aellis@fourthchurch.org)). ✳ A **Bible study for those in their twenties and thirties** meets on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. For Zoom details, email Joe Morrow ([jmorrow@fourthchurch.org](mailto:jmorrow@fourthchurch.org)).

**Books by Women** will meet via Zoom next 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](mailto:aellis@fourthchurch.org)). ✳ On Tuesday evening, April 6, the **First Tuesday Book Club**, hosted by the Adult Education Committee, will meet via Zoom on Tuesday, April 6 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss **Just Faith: Reclaiming Progressive Christianity** with its author, Guthrie Graves-Fitzsimmons; for Zoom details, register at [www.bit.ly/firsttuesdaybooks](http://www.bit.ly/firsttuesdaybooks) ✳ **Cornerstones**, a fellowship group of those fifty and over, next meets via Zoom on Friday, April 9 at 5:30 p.m. The program that month will feature **Andrea Denney**, Executive Director of Operational Ministries, **talking about “Our House: Managing and Caring for Fourth Church’s Physical Spaces.”** For the Zoom details, register at [www.bit.ly/cornerstones0421](http://www.bit.ly/cornerstones0421)

**Sunday School and family activities** meet online. For details about these children and family opportunities, 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)). ✳ Adults sixty and over are invited to take part in the **Center for Life and Learning**; for details, email Susan Quaintance ([squaintance@fourthchurch.org](mailto:squaintance@fourthchurch.org)) or see [www.fourthchurch.org/cli](http://www.fourthchurch.org/cli)

Our **Friday Noonday Concerts** take place at 12:10 p.m. each week at [www.bit.ly/fpcprograms](http://www.bit.ly/fpcprograms) as well as via Facebook Live and on our YouTube channel ([www.bit.ly/fpcvideos](http://www.bit.ly/fpcvideos)). This week the online concert will be presented by **pianist Mio Nakamura and organist John Sherer.**

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



If you are interested in learning about **becoming a member of Fourth Church**, we invite you to join us online for a one-session Inquirers' Class on Sunday, April 11 at 9:00 a.m. To register for this class (*required for membership*) and discover more about Fourth Church and the Presbyterian Church (USA), sign up online at [www.bit.ly/inquirer0421](http://www.bit.ly/inquirer0421) to receive Zoom details.

We are looking for church members to serve as **adult volunteer leaders with youth ministry** (for grades 6–12) in one of three roles during the 2021–2022 program year: **Sunday Morning Leader, Zoom Small Group Leader, and Committee Member**. Those interested in learning more are invited to sign up at [www.bit.ly/youthleaderinfo2021](http://www.bit.ly/youthleaderinfo2021) to attend an information session. \* **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](mailto: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](mailto:employmentnetwork@fourthchurch.org) \* The **Benevolent Guild**, which has been making face masks, meets via Zoom on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. For Zoom details, email Anne Ellis ([aellis@fourthchurch.org](mailto: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](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 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](http://www.bit.ly/FPCpodcast)); you can also receive our sermons **by email** ([www.bit.ly/fpcsermons](http://www.bit.ly/fpcsermons)).

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 .

**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)

## Worship Leaders

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Shannon J. Kershner, John Brill, Lucy Forster-Smith, Joseph L. Morrow

## The Music Today

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Members of the Morning Choir:

*Jeanne Bishop, CeCe Hastreiter, Laura Kubelka, Craig Palmer, Leslie Ventsch*

Charles Schuchat, Tuba; Phil Pierick, Soloist

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

## Worship Notes

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TODAY WE WELCOME THE NEWEST MEMBERS OF FOURTH CHURCH: Angela Giles, Rachel Michaels, Theresa Mintle, and Claire Troller. If you are interested in learning more about becoming a member of Fourth Church, we invite you to contact Joe Morrow ([jmorrow@fourthchurch.org](mailto:jmorrow@fourthchurch.org)).

TODAY'S OFFERTORY SOLO was composed by Julia Perry (1924–1979), whose works reflect the influences of the African American music with which she grew up. A student of voice, piano, and composition, she earned two degrees at Westminster Choir College, studied at Juilliard, and in 1952 won a Guggenheim Fellowship, which enabled her to study with Nadia Boulanger in Paris. During that time Julia Perry also won the Boulanger Grand Prix award for her Viola Sonata.

OFFERING GIFTS can be made at [fourthchurch.org/give-online](http://fourthchurch.org/give-online) (or via the “To Make a Gift” button on our website: [www.fourthchurch.org](http://www.fourthchurch.org)); via Venmo (@Fourth-Church); or via a check made payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church.

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**Shannon J. Kershner** Pastor

**Lucy Forster-Smith** Senior Associate Pastor

Associate Pastors

**Matt Helms** Children and Family Ministry

**Joseph L. Morrow** 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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**THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO**

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## **“The Cross Remains”**

by Lauren Wright Pittman

Inspired by 1 Corinthians 1:18–25 | Digital drawing

Confession: I have a problem with the image of the cross. Early Christians expressed their identity subversively with a fish or an anchor, but once Christianity became the official religion of the Roman Empire, the cross emerged as the predominant Christian symbol. My struggle with the cross is connected to my rejection of state-sanctioned violence. It is, after all, an empirical torture device. In my desire to reject the empire’s visual identification of the movement of Jesus, a symbol that has also been co-opted for questionable purposes in American culture, I have denied the cross as a marker of my identity with Christ.

As I have spent more time in reflection, however, I think this rejection could be an indication of my privilege. It is convenient for me to identify with more comfortable, rosy images of Christianity while turning away from the anguish Christ suffered at the hands of earthly power. It’s easier for me to protest the cross than it is to try and more fully understand the ugliness of the oppression he endured. For those who know injustice intimately, the cross can be an image of profound identification with Jesus, the one who endured unspeakable agony and rose again.

On the wall next to my front door hangs a resurrection cross created by a Mexican artisan. I love it so much because you almost can’t see the cross for the flowers. It serves as a reminder to me that death does not have the final word. I drew this image as I attempted to obscure the cross with blooming irises, a flower that represents wisdom and strength. Ultimately, in the negative space, the cross remains.

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