
FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT • MARCH 14, 2021



“Prevenient” by Hannah Garrity | Inspired by Ephesians 2:1–10 | Paper lace (See page 12)

THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO



Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 14, 2021

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Suite in F Major Georg Philipp Telemann
Rondeau—Sarabande—Menuet
O God, Thou Faithful God Johannes Brahms
The Way of Love J. Brahms

Introit :: “My God Is So Great” Anonymous; Daniel Iverson

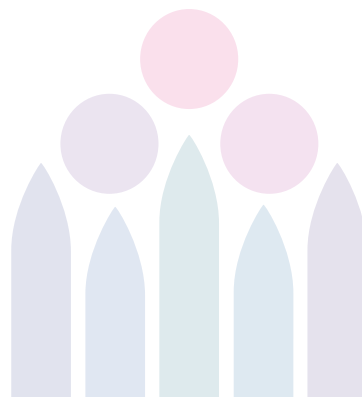
*My God is so great, so strong, and so mighty, there’s nothing my God cannot do.
The mountains are his, the rivers are his, the stars are his handiwork, too.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.*

*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 “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion; pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit; let us find the promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty, to deliver; let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee:
changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

God of love, we forget the beginning of the story—
that we were made from love, to be love, to give love.
Instead of rooting our narrative in the goodness refrain of creation,
we skip ahead and find our worth at the fall,
with Cain and Abel, lost in the wilderness.
We forget that first there was you, and you are love.
We forget that out of that love you created us.
We forget that from the very first day you loved first.
We forget, because a love like that doesn’t make sense to us.
Forgive our low self-esteem. Forgive our resistance to love ourselves.
Forgive our hesitation to trust that even we could be made good.
And forgive our tendency to pass that doubt on—from generation to generation.
Write a new beginning for us that roots our confidence in your unrelenting love.
With hope we pray, again and again. Amen.

Extinguishing the Fourth Lenten Candle

Declaration of Pardon

Leader: *Friends, believe the good news:*

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

Anthem :: “God So Loved the World” John Goss

God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved. Amen.

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter Psalm 107:1–3, 17–22

Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good,
for God’s mercy endures forever.

Let the redeemed of the Lord proclaim
that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,
gathering them in from the lands;
from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.

Some were fools and took rebellious paths;
through their sins they were afflicted.

They loathed all manner of food
and drew near to death’s door.

Then in their trouble they cried to the Lord
and you delivered them from their distress.

You sent forth your word and healed them
and rescued them from the grave.

Let them give thanks to you, Lord, for your steadfast love
and your wonderful works for all people.

Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving
and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy.

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 John 3:14–21

Sermon Shannon J. Kershner

Responding to the Word

Hymn “What Wondrous Love Is This”

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul!

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down beneath God’s righteous frown,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul!

To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing,
to God and to the Lamb, I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb who is the great I am,
while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing;
while millions join the theme, I will sing!

And when from death I’m free, I’ll sing on, I’ll sing on;
and when from death I’m free, I’ll sing on;
and when from death I’m free, I’ll sing and joyful be,
and through eternity, I’ll sing on, I’ll sing on;
and through eternity I’ll sing on.

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

Sacrament of Baptism

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

"Love Bade Me Welcome" from *Five Mystical Songs* Ralph Vaughan Williams

Love bade me welcome, yet my soul drew back, guilty of dust and sin.

*But quick-eyed love, observing me grow slack from my first entrance in,
drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning if I lacked anything.*

"A guest," I answered, "worthy to be here." Love said, "You shall be he."

"I, the ungrateful? Ah, my dear, I cannot look on thee."

Love took my hand, and smiling did reply, "Who made the eyes but I?"

"Truth, Lord, but I have marred them; let my shame go where it doth deserve."

"And know you not," says Love, "who bore the blame?" "My dear, then I will serve."

"You must sit down," says Love, "and taste my meat." So I did sit and eat.

Bearing the Word into the World

Hymn “My Song Is Love Unknown”

My song is love unknown, my Savior’s love to me,
love to the loveless shown that they might lovely be.
O who am I that for my sake my Lord should take frail flesh and die?
He came from heaven’s throne salvation to bestow;
the world that was his own would not its Savior know.
But O my Friend, my Friend indeed, who at my need his life did spend!
Sometimes we strew his way, and his sweet praises sing,
resounding all the day hosannas to our King.
Then “Crucify!” is all our breath, and for his death we thirst and cry.
Unheeding, we will have our dear Lord made away,
a murderer to save, the prince of life to slay.
Yet steadfast he to suffering goes, that he his foes from thence might free.
Here might I stay and sing, no story so divine:
never was love, dear King, never was grief like thine.
This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise I all my days could gladly spend.

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Concerto in E-flat Major Francesco Antonio Rosetti
Rondo

Baptisms in Today’s Service

Isabella Marie Hamill, child of Jason and Jessica Hamill

Miles Victor Manny, child of Grant and Kate Manny

Penelope Leigh Regan, child of Sean and Nicole Regan



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 or write it on the memo line of a check made payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church.

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; contributions must be received by Sunday, March 28 for names to appear in the bulletin. For more information, email Andrea Miller (amiller@fourthchurch.org).

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).

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 invite others to join us in worship online as our journey takes us to the cross and eventually the empty tomb!

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#.

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

“Pandemics, Biblical Reflections, and a Christian Call to Action” is the topic of a class meeting online on Sundays 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* guides the conversation, which is led by Jeannine Forrest. For Zoom details, register at www.bit.ly/summonstofaith

✳ **Men’s Bible Study** meets on Tuesdays at 7:30 a.m. and the **Horizons Bible Study for women** next meets on Wednesday, March 24 at 12:00 p.m. For Zoom details for these Bible studies, email Anne Ellis (aellis@fourthchurch.org). ✳ 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

Sunday School and family activities meet online. For details about these children and family opportunities, 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/cll

Women at Fourth will hold an online Zoom gathering on Thursday, March 25 at 6:00 p.m. The evening’s theme, “Rise Up,” will include an anticipation of Easter and a welcoming of spring. For Zoom details, email Anne Ellis (aellis@fourthchurch.org). ✳ **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 ✳ **Books by Women** will meet via Zoom on Tuesday, April 13 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss **Olive Again** by Elizabeth Strout. For Zoom details, email Anne Ellis (aellis@fourthchurch.org).

Our **Friday Noonday Concerts** take place at 12:10 p.m. each week at www.bit.ly/fpcprograms as well as via Facebook Live and on our YouTube channel (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos). This week the online concert will be presented by the **string quartet Juliani Ensemble**.

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 to receive Zoom details.

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

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The **Benevolent Guild**, which has been making face masks, meets via Zoom on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m., and **Knitting and Crocheting** meets via Zoom on Tuesday, March 23 at 4:00 p.m. For Zoom details for either, email Anne Ellis (aellis@fourthchurch.org). * 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 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). * **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

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).

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.

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Worship Leaders

Jeff Doane, Nanette Sawyer, Shannon J. Kershner

Extinguishing the Lenten Candle

Michelle Hayes

The Music Today

Members of the Morning Choir: *Beena David, Todd DeStigter, Kimberly Gunderson, Brett Potts*

Members of the Children's Choir: *Charlotte Brougham, Sophia and Victoria Fajardo*

Bill McMurray, Soloist; Greg Flint and Karen Suarez Flint, French Horn

Katy Sinclair, Associate Director of Music for Children and Youth

Hsing-Huei Huang, Pianist

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

Worship Notes

THE MELODY OF THE HYMN "WHAT WONDROUS LOVE IS THIS" comes from a collection of 335 hymns compiled in 1835 by William "Singin' Billy" Walker. That hymnal, called *Southern Harmony*, went through many publications, with 600,000 copies printed by 1867. Many revisions have followed, but "What Wondrous Love Is This" has become one of the enduring favorites.

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 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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“Prevenient”

by Hannah Garrity

Inspired by Ephesians 2:1–10 | Paper lace

In our group study of the lectionary scriptures for Lent, Lisle was quick to tell me that this text matters a lot to Reformed theologians. I needed that theological and historical context. My first reading had brought nothing deep or important. I had completely missed what our Reformed thinkers had contemplated for centuries. Here are my notes from our conversation:

“This Ephesians text is really important to Reformed theologians. The idea in Paul’s words is all about God’s grace, not works. Prevenient grace—we are given grace and we live our lives in response to that grace. This makes me think of the Paul Simon lines,

*And as I watch the drops of rain
Weave their weary paths and die
I know that I am like the rain
There but for the grace of you go I.*

I imagine a flow of water; it speaks of baptism. The ripple represents the expansive effect of God’s prevenient grace.”

Repetition in art is important. When I first created this piece, it appeared to me to be three different images. The sky, the distant water, and the ripple in the foreground. As I stared at the three patterns, I desired unification. Perhaps I’d repeat the ripple in the sky, or maybe add thin lines in the foreground to tie it in. But maybe, metaphorically, this separation can represent the idea of prevenient grace. The sky and the distance appear separated from the present. God’s grace—represented in the water ripple in the foreground—will eventually connect us to it all.

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