



Third Sunday of Easter

April 18, 2021

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

- Aria Noel Rawsthorne
- Forlana Gerald Finzi; arr. Robert Gower
- Meditation Ken Yukl

Introit :: “How Can I Keep from Singing?” Robert Lowry; arr. Alan Bullard

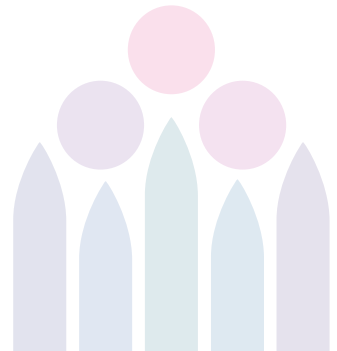
*My life flows on in endless song, above earth’s lamentation;
 I hear the clear though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.
 Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear the music ringing;
 it finds an echo in my soul, how can I keep from singing?
 What though the tempest loudly roars, I know my Savior liveth;
 although the darkness binds me close, deep in the night sweet songs he giveth.
 His inner peace makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing;
 since love is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?*

*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 “Christ Is Alive!”

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring. Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

Christ is alive! No longer bound to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now, and touching every place and time.

In every insult, rift, and war where color, scorn, or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more, and lives, where even hope has died.

Women and men, in age and youth, can feel the Spirit, hear the call,
and find the way, the life, the truth, revealed in Jesus, freed for all.

Christ is alive and comes to bring good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring with joy, with justice, love, and praise.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

God who defies death and silences silence,
as your beloved Jesus appeared to the disciples
you overcame the grief in the depths of their hearts.

And yet we, like them, cling to despair.

We ask: Will God judge us? Who will protect us? Is this all we can hope for?

In our distress, we live lives driven too often by fear,
and it leads to suffering and anguish for our neighbors near and far.

Forgive us, who claim resurrection faith, for not leaning on your promises
and not acting with boldness and compassion.

Lead us to trust in your goodness
and share it with a world that needs your hope.

In the risen Christ we pray. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

Leader: *Friends, believe the good news:*

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Anthem :: “Sing Alleluia Forth” Eric H. Thiman

Sing alleluia forth in duteous praise, ye citizens of heaven; O sweetly raise an endless alleluia. Ye powers, who stand before the eternal light, in hymning choirs re-echo to the height an endless alleluia. The holy city shall take up your strain and with glad songs resounding wake again an endless alleluia. In blissful antiphons ye thus rejoice to render to the Lord with thankful voice an endless alleluia. Ye who have gained at length your palms in bliss, victorious ones, your chant shall still be this, an endless alleluia. There in one grand acclaim, forever ring the strains which tell the honor of your King, an endless alleluia. While thee, by whom were all things made, we praise forever, and tell out in sweetest lays an endless alleluia. Almighty Christ, to thee our voices sing glory forevermore; to thee we bring and endless alleluia. Amen.

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter Psalm 4

Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause;
 you set me free when I was in distress;
 have mercy on me and hear my prayer.
“You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory;
 how long will you love illusions and seek after lies?”
Know that the Lord does wonders for the faithful;
 the Lord will hear me when I call.
Tremble, then, and do not sin;
 speak to your heart in silence upon your bed.
Offer the appointed sacrifices, and put your trust in the Lord.
Many are saying, “Who will show us any good?”
Let the light of your face shine upon us, O Lord.
You have put gladness in my heart,
 more than when grain and wine abound.
In peace, I will lie down and sleep;
 for you alone, O Lord, make me rest secure.

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 Luke 24:36–48

Sermon Joseph L. Morrow

Responding to the Word

Hymn “Fairest Lord Jesus”

Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature, O thou of God to earth come down,
thee will I cherish, thee will I honor, thou, my soul’s glory, joy, and crown.

Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands, robed in the blooming garb of spring.
Jesus is fairer; Jesus is purer, who makes the woeful heart to sing.

Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight, and all the twinkling, starry host.
Jesus shines brighter; Jesus shines purer, than all the angels heaven can boast.

Beautiful Savior, Ruler of the nations, Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration, now and forevermore be thine!

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.”

Minute for Mission

Offering and Prayer of Dedication

Offertory Solo :: “Set Me as a Seal” K. Lee Scott

Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm, for love is strong as death. Many waters cannot quench love, nor the floods drown it. And if one were to give all the possessions of his house for love, it would utterly be despised.

Bearing the Word into the World

Hymn “Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia”

Christ has arisen, alleluia. Rejoice and praise him, alleluia.

For our redeemer burst from the tomb, even from death, dispelling its gloom.

Refrain

Let us sing praise to him with endless joy.

Death’s fearful sting he has come to destroy.

Our sin forgiving, alleluia! Jesus is living, alleluia!

For three long days the grave did its worst until its strength by God was dispersed.

He who gives life did death undergo, and in its conquest his might did show. *Refrain*

The angel said to them, “Do not fear. You look for Jesus who is not here.

See for yourselves the tomb is all bare. Only the grave clothes are lying there.” *Refrain*

“Go spread the news: he’s not in the grave. He has arisen this world to save.

Jesus’ redeeming labors are done. Even the battle with sin is won.” *Refrain*

Christ has arisen to set us free. Alleluia, to him praises be.

Jesus is living! Let us all sing; he reigns triumphant, heavenly King. *Refrain*

Charge and Benediction

Postlude :: Flourish Richard Crosby



A time of **online fellowship** takes place each Sunday following the postlude. All are invited to join us for this **virtual Coffee Hour via Zoom** 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#.

During today's Coffee Hour we will **celebrate our volunteers** and their generous gifts of time and talent that make our mission and ministry possible.

In our sesquicentennial year, one of the relationships we celebrate is our long friendship with Chicago Sinai Congregation. We are delighted to be welcoming to the Fourth Church pulpit Chicago Sinai's **Rabbi Seth Limmer as our guest preacher next Sunday, April 25.**

"Paradigm Shift: An Artist's Story" with **Gerald Griffin** concludes this Sunday, April 18 at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom. For Zoom details, register at www.bit.ly/paradigmshift0421; if you missed the first class in this two-part series—including a video tour of the artist's studio—we encourage you to watch it on our YouTube channel (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos). * The **"Foundations of Faith: An Hour a Week with the Bible"** Zoom class continues this Sunday at 12:30 p.m. with **Rocky Supinger** leading a study of **"Love Letters: 1, 2, 3 John."** For Zoom details, register at www.bit.ly/fpcf20 * **"His Truth Is Marching On: The Life of John Lewis"** is a new adult education class led by Jeff Doane that begins next Sunday, April 25 at 9:30 a.m. Those participating are encouraged to read the first eighty pages of Jon Meacham's *His Truth Is Marching On: John Lewis and the Power of Hope* prior to the class. For Zoom details, register at www.bit.ly/truthmarching0421

Our **"Generosity as a Spiritual Practice"** series continues this Tuesday, April 20 at 6:00 p.m. with **Matt Helms** leading a discussion of **the stewardship of time** and the ways in which living generously can enrich our lives and deepen our faith. For details, including the Zoom link, register at www.bit.ly/generosity0421

Men's Bible Study meets on Tuesdays at 7:30 a.m. and **Horizons Bible Study for women** next meets on Wednesday, April 28 at 12:00 p.m. For Zoom details for these Bible studies, email Anne Ellis (aellis@fourthchurch.org). * **TwentiesThirties Bible Study** for young adults meets on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom. For Zoom details, email Joe Morrow (jmorrow@fourthchurch.org).

Rethinking Incarceration: Advocating for Justice that Restores is the topic of the **First Tuesday Book Club** conversation with author Dominique Gilliard on Tuesday, May 4 at 7:00 p.m. For the Zoom details, register at www.bit.ly/firsttuesdaybooks * **Books by Women** will meet via Zoom on Tuesday, May 11 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss **Elinor Oliphant Is Completely Fine** by Gail Honeyman. Email Anne Ellis (aellis@fourthchurch.org) for Zoom details.

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). This week the online concert will feature **pianist Amy Wurtz.**

Sunday School and family activities meet online. For details about these opportunities, email Briana Belding-Peck (bbelding-peck@fourthchurch.org). * For details about **youth groups and Confirmation**, email Katie Patterson (kpatterson@fourthchurch.org). * Church members interested in serving as **adult volunteer leaders with youth ministry** (for grades 6–12) are asked to sign up at www.bit.ly/youthleaderinfo2021 for an information session. * 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

Our **LGBTQIA+ Widen Our Welcome** group will meet for online happy hour this Tuesday, April 20 at 6:30 p.m. * **Women at Fourth** will gather online this Thursday, April 22 at 6:00 p.m. for a program by Chris Norton for a behind-the-scenes look at **concerts at Fourth Church**. * **Knitting and Crocheting** will meet online on Tuesday, April 27 at 4:00 p.m. For Zoom details for these gatherings, contact Anne Ellis (aellis@fourthchurch.org). * **Couples' Night In** offers couples an online opportunity to explore their relationship in community while bolstering skills. Hosted by the Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being, it will be offered on Friday evenings, April 23, 30 and May 7, 14. For details, see www.bit.ly/rccwevents

Daily devotions written by Fourth Church members and staff are available by email (sign up at www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions) as well as online (www.fourthchurch.org/devotions), via Facebook (www.facebook.com/fourthchurch), and Twitter (www.twitter.com/fourthchicago).

On Wednesdays we gather for **Morning Prayer via Zoom** at 9:30 a.m. Email Carol Allerton (callerton@fourthchurch.org) for details. * **If you would like to talk to a pastor**, please call the church (312.787.4570). * **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. * **To explore options for teletherapy**, call our Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being 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.

For the foreseeable future we are gathering online for **livestream-only worship**. We stream our service at 11:00 a.m. at www.bit.ly/FPCworship (where the service is available throughout the week) as well as via **Facebook Live** (facebook.com/fourthchurch) and **YouTube** (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos). * 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. * During the week we make the service and sermon available via **podcast on iTunes and Spotify** (www.bit.ly/FPCpodcast).

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

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

Worship Leaders

Rocky Supinger, Sarah Axmann, Jeff Doane, Joseph L. Morrow

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

THE MINUTE FOR MISSION today is presented by Beverly Washington on behalf of our Volunteer Ministry Council and in celebration of Volunteer Recognition Month.

TODAY'S CLOSING HYMN, "CHRIST HAS ARISEN, ALLELUIA," blends twentieth-century words with a traditional Tanzanian melody. In African call-and-response style, the stanzas would be sung by a soloist or a small group, with the entire congregation responding with the refrain.

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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