



Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 25, 2021

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Brethren, We Have Met to Worship American folk tune; arr. James Curnow
A Pleasant Thought Florence B. Price
All Creatures of Our God and King German chorale; arr. J. Curnow

Introit :: “All Around the World” Anonymous

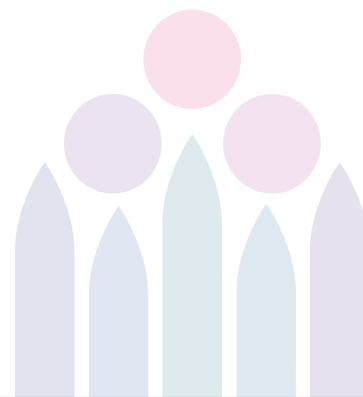
*All around the world, kids are praying to God. Children lift your hands and voices, saying,
“Hear our prayer, O Lord.” Jesus teaches us to have a conversation with the mighty God who
made the whole creation. You can say a prayer in any situation. God is listening, God is there!*

*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 King of Love My Shepherd Is”

The King of love my shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his and he is mine forever.

Where streams of living water flow my ransomed soul he leadeth,
and where the verdant pastures grow, with food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, but yet in love he sought me,
and on his shoulder gently laid, and home, rejoicing, brought me.

In death’s dark vale I fear no ill with thee, dear Lord, beside me;
thy rod and staff my comfort still, thy cross before to guide me.

Thou spread’st a table in my sight; thy unction grace bestoweth;
and O what transport of delight from thy pure chalice floweth!

And so through all the length of days thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house forever.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

We confess, God of mercy, that sometimes
we are so focused on what we don’t have and can’t do
that we block your working through us in surprisingly abundant ways.
Feeling inadequate, we withhold ourselves.
In fear and doubt we limit what is possible.
We shrink our perceptions of reality
and miss how you are trying to expand our hearts and imaginations.
Strengthen our hope and trust in you
so we boldly risk pouring ourselves out in love. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

Leader: *Friends, believe the good news:*

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Anthem :: “Joy Fills the Morning” Antonio Lotti

*Joy fills the morning, angelic choirs are singing, alleluia!
Through the glad world hosannas are ringing. Alleluia, Christ is risen!
Lord Jesus, may we rise with thee, alleluia.
On high he reigneth in majesty supernal; rejoice, sing alleluia!
Now may we share that glory eternal. Alleluia, Christ is risen!
Lord, may we dwell on high with thee, alleluia!*

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter Psalm 95:1–7

Come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.
Let us come before God’s presence with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to the Lord with psalms.
For you, Lord, are a great God,
and a great ruler above all gods.
In your hand are the caverns of the earth;
the heights of the hills are also yours.
The sea is yours, for you made it,
and your hands have molded the dry land.
Come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the Lord our maker.
For the Lord is our God, and we are the people of God’s pasture
and the sheep of God’s hand.
Oh, that today you would hear God’s voice!

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.

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

א וַיֵּרָא אֱלֹהֵי יְהוָה בְּאַלְנֵי מַמְרֵא וְהוּא יֹשֵׁב פֶּתַח הָאֵהָל כְּחֹם הַיּוֹם

The Eternal appeared to him at the terebinth of Mamre while he sat in the opening of the tent in the heat of the day.

ב וַיִּשָּׂא עֵינָיו וַיֵּרָא וְהִנֵּה שְׁלֹשָׁה אַנְשִׁים נֹצְבִים עָלָיו וַיֵּרָא וַיָּרָץ לְקִרְאתָם מִפֶּתַח הָאֵהָל וַיִּשְׁתַּחוּ אֲרָצָה

He lifted up his eyes and he saw—Look!—three people were stationed over him. He saw and he ran to greet them from the opening of the tent, and he bowed low to the ground.

ג וַיֹּאמֶר אֲדֹנָי אֲסִנָּא מְצִאתִי חַן בְּעֵינֶיךָ אֲלֵנָּא תַעֲבֹר מֵעַל עַבְדְּךָ

He said, “My Lords! If I find favor in your sight, please do not pass by over your servant.

ד וַיִּסְחָנָא מְעַט־מִים וַרְחֲצוּ רַגְלֵיכֶם וְהִשְׁעֵנוּ תַּחַת הָעֵץ

Let a little water be brought, and you can wash your legs and recline under this tree.

ה וְאֶקְחָה פַת־לֶחֶם וְסַעֲדוּ לִבְכֶם אַחַר תַּעֲבֹרוּ כִּי־עַלְיֶן עֲבַרְתֶּם עַל־עַבְדְּכֶם וַיֹּאמְרוּ כֵן תַּעֲשֶׂה כַּאֲשֶׁר דִּבַּרְתָּ

And I will bring you some bread that you might feast to your heart’s content before you pass on, for then you will certainly have passed on from your servant.” And they said, “Yes, do as you spoke.”

ו וַיָּמְהַר אַבְרָהָם הָאֵהָלָה אֶל־שָׂרָה וַיֹּאמֶר מְהֵרָא שְׁלֵשׁ סָאִים קֶמַח לִשְׂלֵשׁ וַעֲשֵׂי עֲגוֹת

Abraham rushed to the tent, to Sarah. He said, “Quick! Three measures of flour mixed with oil! Knead and make cakes!”

ז וְאֶל־הַבָּקָר רָץ אַבְרָהָם וַיִּקַּח בֶּן־בָּקָר רֶדֶד וְטוֹב וַיִּתֵּן אֶל־הַנְּעָר וַיַּמְהַר לַעֲשׂוֹת אֹתוֹ

And towards the herd ran Abraham.
He took a son of the herd, tender and choice,
and he took it to the tent and rushed to prepare it.

ח וַיִּקַּח חֶמְאָה וְחֵלֶב וּבֶן־הַבָּקָר אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה וַיִּתֵּן לַפְּנִיָּהֶם וְהוּא עֹמֵד עֲלֵיהֶם תַּחַת הָעֵץ וַיֹּאכְלוּ

He took butter and milk and the beef that he had prepared and placed it before them.
He stood over them under the tree as they ate.

Sermon Rabbi Seth M. Limmer

Responding to the Word

Hymn “In the Bulb There Is a Flower”

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there’s a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

There’s a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
there’s a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

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 ♯ “O for the Wings of a Dove” from *Hear My Prayer*. . . . Felix Mendelssohn
*O for the wings of a dove! Far away would I rove.
In the wilderness build me a nest and remain there forever at rest.*

Bearing the Word into the World

Hymn “God Be with You Till We Meet Again”

God be with you till we meet again; loving counsels guide, uphold you,
with a shepherd's care enfold you: God be with you till we meet again.
God be with you till we meet again; unseen wings protecting hide you,
daily manna still provide you: God be with you till we meet again.
God be with you till we meet again; when life's perils thick confound you,
put unfailing arms around you: God be with you till we meet again.
God be with you till we meet again; keep love's banner floating o'er you;
smite death's threatening wave before you: God be with you till we meet again.

Charge and Benediction

Postlude ♯ Majesty Georg Philipp Telemann



Today we welcome **the newest members of Fourth Church:** Jeff and Angela Kendall.

If you are interested in learning more about becoming a member of Fourth Church, we invite you to contact Joe Morrow (jmorrow@fourthchurch.org).

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#.

“His Truth Is Marching On: The Life of John Lewis” is a new adult education class led by Jeff Doane that begins today at 9:30 a.m. and draws on Jon Meacham’s *His Truth Is Marching On: John Lewis and the Power of Hope*. For Zoom details, register at www.bit.ly/truthmarching0421 * 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.”** Next week Nanette Sawyer will begin the class’s three-week look at **“The Bible as a Weapon: Disarming the Clobber Passages.”** For Zoom details, register at www.bit.ly/fpcf20 * Our **“Generosity as a Spiritual Practice”** series continues this Tuesday, April 27 at 6:00 p.m. with **Rocky Supinger** leading a discussion of **the stewardship of money and finances** 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 online on Tuesdays at 7:30 a.m. and **Horizons Bible Study for women** meets online this Wednesday, April 28 at 12:00 p.m. Email Anne Ellis (aellis@fourthchurch.org) for Zoom details. * **TwentiesThirties Bible Study** for young adults meets via Zoom on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. 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.

We are grateful to all who have made gifts in support of our mission and ministry. Thank you! This monthly generosity report summarizes contributions to Fourth Church as of March 31, 2021.

Fourth Presbyterian Church Generosity Report — Contributions as of March 31, 2021				
<i>YTD = Year-to-Date</i>	YTD Actual	YTD Budgeted	YTD Variance	2021 Budget
Pledged contributions	\$703,279	\$828,000	(\$124,721)	\$3,135,000
General contributions	\$93,017	\$110,000	(\$16,983)	\$1,964,000
Restricted contributions	\$255,582	\$180,559	\$75,023	\$706,147
Total contributions	\$1,051,879	\$1,118,559	(\$66,681)	\$5,805,147

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**, 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

Our online Friday Noonday Concerts take place at 12:10 p.m. at www.bit.ly/fpcprograms as well as via Facebook Live and on our YouTube channel (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos). This week the concert features our **organist, John Sherer**. * **Harpist Autumn Selover** will present the program at **Cornerstones'** online gathering for those fifty and over on Friday, May 7 at 5:30 p.m. For Zoom details, register at www.bit.ly/cornerstones0521 * **Knitting and Crocheting** will meet online this Tuesday, April 27 at 4:00 p.m., and the **Benevolent Guild**, which has been making face masks, meets via Zoom on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. For details, contact Anne Ellis (aellis@fourthchurch.org).

If you are looking for **devotional meditations for your personal time of prayer and reflection**, 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 (sign up at www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions) as well as online (www.fourthchurch.org/devotions), via Facebook (facebook.com/fourthchurch), and Twitter (twitter.com/fourthchicago). * On Wednesdays we gather for **Morning Prayer via Zoom** at 9:30 a.m. Email Carol (callerton@fourthchurch.org) for details.

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. * **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 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.

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

Matt Helms, Holly O'Mara, Shannon Kershner, Rabbi Seth M. Limmer

The Music Today

Members of the Children's Choir

Members of the Morning Choir

Gretchen Adams, Daniel Henry, Phil Pierick, Sarah van der Ploeg

Dave Inmon, Trumpeter; Laura Perkett, Soloist

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

WE ARE HONORED TO WELCOME RABBI SETH M. LIMMER to the pulpit today as our guest preacher. In our sesquicentennial year, one of the relationships we celebrate is our long friendship with Chicago Sinai Congregation. Rabbi Limmer has been Senior Rabbi of Chicago Sinai since July 2014. He currently serves as Vice President for Leadership of the Central Conference of American Rabbis and is a former Vice-Chair of the Union for Reform Judaism's national policy-setting body, the Commission on Social Action. He also teaches as adjunct faculty at the Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion and has been appointed to serve on the Illinois State Commission on Discrimination and Hate Crimes.

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.

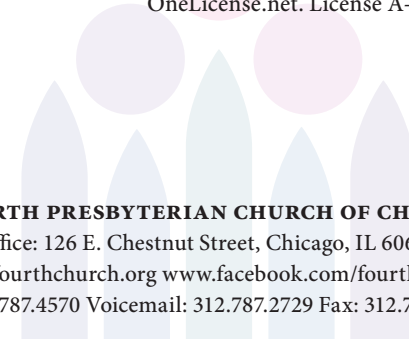
Shannon J. Kershner Pastor
Lucy Forster-Smith Senior Associate Pastor

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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