



Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 16, 2021

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Three Preludes on Welsh Hymn Tunes Ralph Vaughan Williams

II. Rhosymedre (Lovely)

Concerto for Two Trumpets Francesco Manfredini

Allegro—Largo—Allegro

Introit ☩ “How Charming Is the Place” Zenobia Powell Perry

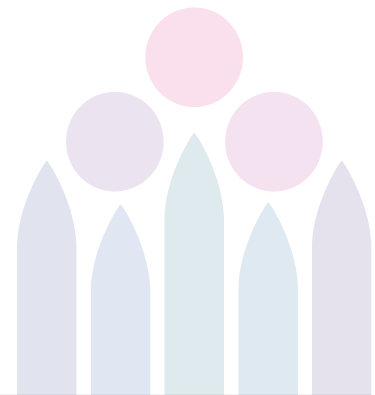
*How charming is the place where my redeemer, God,
unveils the beauty of his face and sheds his love abroad!
Not the fair palaces, to which the great resort,
are once to be compared with this where Jesus holds his court.
Give me, O Lord, a place within thy blest abode,
among the children of thy grace, the servants of my God.*

*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 “Crown Him with Many Crowns”

Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne;
hark, how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own!
Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless King through all eternity.

Crown him the Lord of love; behold his hands and side,
rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified:
no angel in the sky can fully bear that sight,
but downward bends his burning eye at mysteries so bright.

Crown him the Lord of peace, whose power a scepter sways
from pole to pole, that wars may cease, absorbed in prayer and praise.
His reign shall know no end; and round his pierced feet
fair flowers of paradise extend their fragrance ever sweet.

Crown him the Lord of years, the potentate of time;
creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime.
All hail, Redeemer, hail! For thou hast died for me;
thy praise shall never, never fail throughout eternity.

Presentation of Bibles to Fourth and Fifth Graders

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Almighty God, we confess that we can often let our fears get the better of us.
At times we feel frozen, stuck right where we are,
not only physically, but mentally and spiritually.
We can end up focused on the wrong things, looking back instead of looking forward.
Remind us that we are not alone. Remind us that you are always present with us.
Remind us that your perfect love casts out fear.
Restore us, O God, so we may know your steadfast love endures forever. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

Leader: *Friends, believe the good news:*
All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Anthem # “Love Is but My Answer” Carlton T. Russell

I sought the Lord, and afterward I knew he moved my soul to seek him, seeking me: it was not I that found, O Savior true, no, I was found of thee. Thou didst reach forth thy hand and mine enfold; I walked and sank not on the storm-vexed sea; 'twas not so much that I on thee took hold, as thou, dear Lord, on me. I find, I walk, I love, but O the whole of love is but my answer, Lord, to thee, for thou wert long beforehand with my soul; always thou lovedst me. Amen.

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter Psalm 47

Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with a joyful sound.
For the Lord Most High is to be feared: a great king over all the earth,
 who subdues the peoples under us, and the nations under our feet;
 who chooses our inheritance for us, the pride of Jacob, whom God loves.
God has gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of the ram’s horn.
Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our king, sing praises.
For God is king of all the earth; sing praises with a song.
God reigns over the nations; God is enthroned on high.
The nobles of the peoples have gathered as the people of the God of Abraham.
The rulers of the earth belong to God, who is highly exalted.

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 24:44–53

Sermon Shannon J. Kershner

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

Responding to the Word

Hymn “Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies”

Christ, whose glory fills the skies; Christ, the true, the only light;
Sun of Righteousness, arise; triumph o’er the shades of night;
Dayspring from on high, be near; Daystar, in my heart appear.

Dark and cheerless is the morn unaccompanied by thee;
joyless is the day’s return till thy mercy’s beams I see;
till they inward light impart, cheer my eyes and warm my heart.

Visit then this soul of mine; pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
fill me, radiance divine; scatter all my unbelief;
more and more thyself display, shining to the perfect day.

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 :: “Praise, Lord, for Thee in Zion Waits” Eric H. Thiman

*Praise, Lord, for thee in Zion waits; prayer shall besiege thy temple gates.
All flesh shall to thy throne repair and find through Christ salvation there.
How blest thy saints, how safely led, how surely kept, how richly fed!
Savior of all on earth and sea, how happy they who rest in thee.
Thy hand sets fast the mighty hills, thy voice the troubled ocean stills.
Evening and morning hymn thy praise, and earth thy bounty wide displays. Amen.*

Bearing the Word into the World

Hymn “Alleluia! Sing to Jesus”

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus; his the scepter, his the throne;

Alleluia! his the triumph, his the victory alone!

Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood:

“Jesus out of every nation has redeemed us by his blood.”

Alleluia! Not as orphans are we left in sorrow now;

Alleluia! he is near us; faith believes nor questions how.

Though the cloud from sight received him, when the forty days were o’er,
shall our hearts forget his promise: “I am with you evermore”?

Alleluia! Bread of angels, here on earth our food, our stay;

Alleluia! here the sinful flee to you from day to day.

Intercessor, friend of sinners, earth’s redeemer, hear our plea
where the songs of all the sinless sweep across the crystal sea.

Alleluia! King eternal, Lord omnipotent we own;

Alleluia! born of Mary, earth your footstool, heaven your throne.

As within the veil you entered, robed in flesh, our great high priest;
here on earth both priest and victim in the eucharistic feast.

Charge and Benediction

Postlude ♪ Processional George Frideric Handel; arr. S. Drummond Wolff



Today is Dedication Commemoration Sunday at Fourth Church, declared by Pastor

John Timothy Stone in 1914 to be observed on the third Sunday of each May.

On Sunday, May 10, 1914, the Fourth Church congregation worshiped in the Michigan Avenue Sanctuary for the first time, having moved from its smaller facility on Rush at Superior. A series of dedicatory services were held the remainder of that week. * The generations that have gone before us left a vibrant legacy, not only in the bricks and mortar of the Sanctuary and Parish House buildings but also in the financial foundation from which we carry forth our ministry. It was the \$25,000 that remained after the completion of the 1914 building project that began the Fourth Church endowment fund. Just as we carry on the work of the church today, so too we are committed to **passing on the legacy of that ministry for future generations**. If you have planned or are considering a legacy gift to Fourth Church or Chicago Lights as part of your will, we invite you to learn more about the Legacy Society by contacting Katy Frey Bever (kbever@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#. * The next round of Zoom Small Groups will begin this week. They offer opportunity to **connect with five to seven other people via Zoom for a time of fellowship, relationship building, and spiritual formation**. * **Knitting and Crocheting** gathers online on Tuesday, May 25 at 4:00 p.m. for a time to work on knitting or crocheting projects while sharing in Zoom conversation. * **Women at Fourth** meets online for a program with Nanette Sawyer on Thursday, May 27 at 6:00 p.m. For Zoom details for these gatherings, email Anne Ellis (aellis@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 * The Friday, June 4 **Cornerstones online fellowship gathering** for those fifty and over will include a program on **“LGBT+ Pride: Why We Keep Marching” presented by Ed Miller, Roger Wilson, and Nanette Sawyer**. For Zoom details, register at www.bit.ly/cornerstones0621

Violinist Heather Wittels will present this week’s **online Friday Noonday Concert**, which takes place at www.bit.ly/fpcprograms at 12:10 p.m. as well as on Facebook Live and our YouTube channel (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos). * A **Music Mission Trip to the Middle East** is being planned for 2022. To learn more or express interest, contact John Sherer (jsherer@fourthchurch.org) or Nanette Sawyer (nsawyer@fourthchurch.org).

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

“Jonah: The Reluctant Prophet,” a new class led by David Handley, meets on Sundays at 9:30 am via Zoom; for Zoom details, register at www.bit.ly/jonah21 * **“The Bible as a Weapon: Disarming the Clobber Passages”** concludes today at 12:30 p.m. with Nanette Sawyer leading our discussion. For Zoom details, register at www.bit.ly/fpcff20 * **Men’s Bible Study** meets online on Tuesdays at 7:30 a.m. and **Horizons Bible Study for women** next meets online on Wednesday, May 26 at 12:00 p.m. Email Anne Ellis (aellis@fourthchurch.org) for Zoom details.

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.

Thanks to the generosity of many, **Fourth Church Meals Ministry is expanding!** Beginning Saturday, June 5, we will offer a **to-go breakfast for our guests on Saturdays**, a day when there are very few meals programs in the city. **Three to four volunteers will be needed each Saturday** to assemble and distribute this cold breakfast from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. If you are interested in volunteering, please let us know via VOMO, our Volunteer Ministry sign-up platform at www.bit.ly/fpcvolunteers

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 Replegle 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**, while developing plans for ways in which we might begin to offer some in-person worship opportunities this summer. We stream our online 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

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Worship Leaders

Matt Helms, Hope Daniels, David Handley, Shannon J. Kershner

The Music Today

Members of the Morning Choir

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

Matthew Lee and David Inmon, Trumpeters

Phil Pierick, Soloist

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

Worship Notes

TODAY'S INTROIT, "HOW CHARMING IS THE PLACE," is by Zenobia Powell Perry (1908–2004). An African American composer, professor, and civil rights activist, in 1915 she met and sang for Booker T. Washington. She later studied at the Eastman School of Music, the Tuskegee Institute, and Colorado State College and from 1955 to 1982 was on the faculty at Central State University and Wilberforce University, both in Xenia, Ohio.

THIS MORNING WE CELEBRATE OUR FOURTH AND FIFTH GRADERS RECEIVING BIBLES from the congregation. This gift of a Bible is but one of the ways we live out our baptismal pledge as a congregation to support the children and youth of the church. Please join us in keeping these youth in prayer as they continue to grow in faith.

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

SOURCES AND CREDITS: The Prayer of Confession is adapted from Mindi Welton-Mitchell (www.rev-o-lution.org/archives).



THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO

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