



*Due to health concerns about the transmission of COVID-19, we are not engaging in congregational singing. During hymns, worshipers are invited to hum along with the soloist if they like.*

## **We Approach God**

### **Gathering Music**

### **Welcome and Announcements**

### **\*Call to Worship**

Great God, you have been our dwelling place through all generations.

**Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.**

A thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past, like a watch in the night.

**Our days are like grass that sprouts in the morning and flourishes, and in the evening it fades and withers.**

**So teach us to count our days that we may gain a heart of wisdom.**

\* Please rise in body or spirit

*Inspired by the radical hospitality of Jesus Christ, Fourth Church welcomes all of God's children into the life of the church regardless of sex, gender, sexual orientation, age, race, ethnicity, physical or mental ability, mental health, educational background, economic situation, religious background, or documentation status.*

**\*Hymn** (congregation is invited to hum) . . . . . “Just as I Am, without One Plea” (verses 1 and 2)

*Just as I am, without one plea but that thy blood was shed for me,  
and that thou biddest me come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come; I come!*

*Just as I am, though tossed about with many a conflict, many a doubt,  
fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come; I come!*

## **We Tell the Truth about Ourselves**

**Prayer of Confession** (unison)

**Gracious and all-loving God,  
with the best that is within us we long to live lives pleasing to you.  
But so often we fall short of our aspirations.  
We find our self-seeking and self-preoccupation taking over.  
When you place us with people who are different than ourselves  
our impulse is to judge and not stay curious,  
to condemn and not try to understand.  
We harbor resentments against those who have hurt us  
and find forgiveness so hard to offer.  
Help us, our Savior, to learn forgiveness  
from the One who prayed from the cross,  
“Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.”  
It is in his name that we pray. Amen.**

**God Forgives and Blesses Us**

Friends, believe the good news!  
**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

**Hymn** (congregation is invited to hum) . . . . . “Just as I Am, without One Plea” (verses 3 and 4)

*Just as I am, thou wilt receive, wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
because thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come; I come!*

*Just as I am, thy love unknown has broken every barrier down;  
now to be thine, yea, thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come; I come!*

## We Proclaim the Story

### Prayer for Illumination

**Psalter** ..... Psalm 45:1–2, 6–9

**ANTIPHON:** *All your garments are fragrant with myrrh, aloe, and spices.*

My heart is stirring with a noble song;  
let me recite what I have fashioned for the king;  
my tongue shall be the pen of a skillful writer.  
You are the noblest among the people;  
grace flows from your lips,  
because God has blessed you forever.

#### ANTIPHON

Your throne, O God, endures forever and ever,  
a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of your kingdom.  
You love righteousness and hate iniquity;  
therefore God, your God, has anointed you  
with the oil of gladness above your companions.  
All your garments are fragrant with myrrh, aloes, and cassia,  
and the music of strings from ivory palaces makes you glad.  
Kings' daughters stand among the ladies of the court;  
on your right hand is the queen, adorned with the gold of Ophir.

#### ANTIPHON

**Scripture** ..... James 1:17–27

**Sermon** ..... Shannon J. Kershner

## We Offer Ourselves

### Musical Reflection

### 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.**

**Call for Offering**

**\*Prayer of Dedication** (*unison*)

**Living God, thank you for your gifts of life—  
fragrant flowers, fruitful vines, singing creatures,  
and our own lives, renewed in Christ.  
Let your grace infuse the gifts we offer with life-giving power for those in need.  
In the name of the Creator and of the Christ and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**We Go Out with Gratitude**

**\*Hymn** (*congregation is invited to hum*) . . . . . "Lord, I Want to Be a Christian"

*Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart;  
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.  
In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.  
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart, in my heart;  
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.  
In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.  
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart, in my heart;  
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.  
In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.  
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart, in my heart;  
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.  
In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.*

**\*Benediction**

**Sending Music**

## Worship Leaders

**Shannon J. Kershner** Pastor  
**Matt Helms** Associate Pastor  
**Lucy Forster-Smith** Senior Associate Pastor  
**Ilona McKissack-Ramzan** Liturgist  
**The Fourth Church Jazz Quartet**

## Worship Notes

**The text of today's opening hymn, "Just As I Am, without One Plea,"** was written by Charlotte Elliott in 1834 when illness limited her abilities. She wrote this hymn text as a prayer to help her gain strength and to express a renewed sense of worth grounded in Christ. The hymn's simple, direct, and deeply felt language has made it a source of comfort and strength for many.

**Offering gifts** to support the ministry and mission of Fourth Church can be placed in an offering box at the exit to the Chapel. They also can be given online at [www.fourthchurch.org/give-online](http://www.fourthchurch.org/give-online) (or via the "To Make a Gift" button on our website: [fourthchurch.org](http://fourthchurch.org)) or via Venmo (@Fourth-Church).

**Incorporating ancient and contemporary traditions in this service,** God is named corporately in a variety of ways that are gender neutral. This allows for your personal expressions as you are led to name the Holy in ways meaningful to you.

## Acknowledgments

*Music*—"Just as I Am, without One Plea" music harmony copyright © 1955, ren. 1983 John Ribble (admin. Westminster John Knox Press). All rights reserved. Used with permission. OneLicense.net. License A-712340.

*Words*—The Affirmation of Faith is from The Iona Creed ([www.nigelpaine.com](http://www.nigelpaine.com)). The Prayer of Dedication is adapted from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year B, Volume 2* (p. 144).

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## PASTORAL STAFF

**Shannon J. Kershner**, Pastor  
**Lucy Forster-Smith**, Senior Associate Pastor  
**Matt Helms**, Associate Pastor for Children and Family Ministry  
**Joseph L. Morrow**, Associate Pastor for Evangelism and Community Engagement  
**Nanette Sawyer**, Associate Pastor for Discipleship and Small Group Ministry  
**Rocky Supinger**, Associate Pastor for 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

# News and Opportunities

**We are glad to have you with us today** and hope you will explore the many opportunities for learning, serving, and community building at Fourth Presbyterian Church! \* **Inspired by the radical hospitality of Jesus Christ**, we welcome everyone, without exception, into the life of this congregation. \* **We invite you to join us** at this intersection of faith and life as we share God's grace with one another and the world through worship and ministries of healing, reconciliation, and justice.



On the Fourth Church campus, including in worship, **everyone is required to wear masks, fully covering the nose and mouth, regardless of vaccination status.** Anyone not vaccinated against COVID-19 is also required to practice social distancing. \* For those worshipping with us in person, we are not checking vaccination status, but **by entering the Fourth Church campus you certify** that (a) you do not currently have COVID-19; (b) you are not experiencing COVID symptoms; (c) you have no reason to quarantine; and (d) you will practice social distancing if you are not vaccinated against COVID-19.



We are offering **two in-person worship services** for the foreseeable future, including into the autumn: a **10:00 a.m. service in the Sanctuary** and a **4:00 p.m. Jazz at Four service in Buchanan Chapel.** \* Seating in the Chapel is set up for **social distancing.** In the Sanctuary, the front section is for those required to or choosing to practice social distancing, with seating by households. The remainder of the Sanctuary is open seating, with masks required wherever one sits. \* Due to health guidelines, **congregational singing is not permitted;** those who would like to hum while the soloist sings are invited to do so. \* **Worship can be heard** through hearing aids' "T" or "T-coil" setting. \* **Please** silence electronic devices when in the Chapel.



**For those who prefer to worship online** or are unable to join us in person, we continue to livestream our morning worship service at 10:00 a.m. at [www.bit.ly/FPCworship](http://www.bit.ly/FPCworship), Facebook Live ([facebook.com/fourthchurch](https://facebook.com/fourthchurch)), and YouTube ([www.bit.ly/fpcvideos](http://www.bit.ly/fpcvideos)). (*The prelude begins at approximately 9:45 a.m.*) The service is also available for viewing afterwards. \* **Those without Internet access** are invited to listen to the morning service via phone by calling 888.916.9166 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](http://www.bit.ly/FPCpodcast)).



The church campus remains closed. \* On Sundays the **doors open for worship** at 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. (*a half hour before each service starts*). For the Jazz at Four service, access is only by the Delaware doors to the Gratz Center. For the morning service, access is only by the Michigan Avenue doors. \* **Sunday parking** is available at 900 N. Michigan (*access from Rush or Walton*) at the rate of \$9 between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Validation tickets for the garage must be picked up from an usher. \* **Nursery care is not available.**

**You can read more** about the guidelines in place for in-person worship as well as information about continued online opportunities at [www.fourthchurch.org/reopening](http://www.fourthchurch.org/reopening)

On Wednesdays we gather for **Morning Prayer** via Zoom at 9:30 a.m. For details, email Carol Allerton ([callerton@fourthchurch.org](mailto:callerton@fourthchurch.org)). \* We also invite you to view our summer 2021 **“Rhythm and Word: Music and Prayer” videos**, which you can find on YouTube ([www.bit.ly/fpcvideos](http://www.bit.ly/fpcvideos)). The autumn series—weaving together scripture, prayer, and music offered by the Fourth Church Jazz Quartet—will launch on October 6. To receive the October videos by email, sign up at [www.bit.ly/rhythmandwordemail](http://www.bit.ly/rhythmandwordemail) \* A **virtual Sacred Pause** time of meditation is hosted by our Replogle Center on Tuesdays (7:45 a.m.) and Saturdays (8:30 a.m.) at [facebook.com/reploglecenterforcounselingandwellbeing](https://facebook.com/reploglecenterforcounselingandwellbeing) \* Written by members and staff, **daily devotional meditations** for prayer and reflection are available by email (sign up at [www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions](http://www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions)) and Facebook ([facebook.com/fourthchurch](https://facebook.com/fourthchurch)), Twitter ([twitter.com/fourthchicago](https://twitter.com/fourthchicago)), and online ([fourthchurch.org/devotions](http://fourthchurch.org/devotions)).



On September 12, our annual **“Get Connected” Sunday** will kick off a series of Zoom gatherings that will each highlight a different area of opportunity at the church—areas in which you are invited to learn more, become engaged, get involved, and connect with one another. Those present in person on September 12 will be able to pick up a schedule for these **Zoom “Reconnect, Renew, and Reawaken” gatherings**, which will be held on weeknights in the days following September 12. Those worshipping with us online that day will be able to access the schedule and information on our website. Stay tuned for details in the weeks ahead as we make time to connect with friends both new and familiar this fall!



To purchase fresh produce and support the work of youth gaining on-site job skills at the Chicago Lights Urban Farm, stop by their **Farmstand on Fridays** between 1:00 and 5:00 p.m. (*at 444 W. Chicago Ave.*). \* The Chicago Lights Social Service Center is in need of **donations of clean, gently used adult clothing and shoes**. (*We are not accepting children’s clothing, household supplies, or used underwear or used socks at this time.*) Donations can be dropped off inside the entrance at 126 E. Chestnut on Sundays through Fridays (*not Saturdays*) between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Ring the receptionist bell to be buzzed in and directed to where to leave the donations; please do not leave any donations on the steps. *Masks are required on campus.*



**Fourth Church Meals Ministry** is in **need of volunteers** to help with Saturday breakfast to-go, the weekday Bag Lunch program, and Sunday and Monday Night Suppers. The **Good Neighbors Street Outreach** program of the Chicago Lights Social Service Center also needs **volunteers to take food and supplies to people in the neighborhood** who are experiencing homelessness. If you are able to help, please let us know via **VOMO, our Volunteer Ministry sign-up platform** at [www.bit.ly/fpcvolunteers](http://www.bit.ly/fpcvolunteers)



The **Officer Nominating Committee** is gathering recommendations of individuals to serve in positions opening in 2022 for Elder, Deacon, Trustee, and Nominating Committee as well as the Chicago Lights Board. If you know any Fourth Church members—including yourself!—who have demonstrated **gifts for leadership and ministry**, please offer your leadership recommendations via the online form: [www.bit.ly/nominating2022](http://www.bit.ly/nominating2022)

**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)**



**This Wednesday, September 1 is the registration deadline** for those interested in joining Fourth Church and Community Presbyterian Church of Clarendon Hills for **“Peace and Compassion: A Music and Travel Seminar Trip to the Middle East.”** Registration for this trip to Israel and the Palestinian territories, which is planned for June 1–15, 2022, can be completed online at [www.bit.ly/mideast2022](http://www.bit.ly/mideast2022); to learn more about fees, travel arrangements, and other logistics, email John Sherer ([jsherer@fourthchurch.org](mailto:jsherer@fourthchurch.org)).



**Men’s Bible Study** meets online on Tuesdays at 7:30 a.m.; **Horizons Bible Study for women** next meets online on Wednesday, September 8 at 12:00 p.m. For Zoom details for either study, email Simon Crow ([scrow@fourthchurch.org](mailto:scrow@fourthchurch.org)). \* **TwentiesThirties Bible Study** for young adults meets online on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. For details, email Joe Morrow ([jmorrow@fourthchurch.org](mailto:jmorrow@fourthchurch.org)). \* **The First Tuesday Book Club** will discuss ***Passionate for Justice: Ida B. Wells as Prophet for Our Time*** on Tuesday evening, September 7 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. Register at [www.bit.ly/firsttuesday0921](http://www.bit.ly/firsttuesday0921) for Zoom details. The book’s co-author Catherine Meeks will lead our discussion. \* **Books by Women** will meet via Zoom on Tuesday, September 14 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss ***Caste: Origins of Our Discontents*** by Isabel Wilkerson. Newcomers are always welcome to join in the conversation. For Zoom details, email Simon Crow ([scrow@fourthchurch.org](mailto:scrow@fourthchurch.org)).



**Cornerstones’** online gatherings for those fifty and over will resume on Friday, September 10 at 5:30 p.m. That evening Gunnbjorg Lavoll will moderate a panel discussion by Jeff Doane, Robert Edger, and Larry Braskamp on resilience: the importance of understanding ways of dealing with and overcoming adversity. For Zoom details, register at [www.bit.ly/cornerstones921](http://www.bit.ly/cornerstones921) \* **Adults sixty and over** are invited to take part in the **Center for Life and Learning**, which offers online weekday classes, lectures, and exercise opportunities beginning Monday, September 13; for details, email Susan Quaintance ([squaintance@fourthchurch.org](mailto:squaintance@fourthchurch.org)) or see [www.fourthchurch.org/cfl](http://www.fourthchurch.org/cfl) \* Our **Friday Noonday Concert** series returns to the Sanctuary this week with in-person concerts each Friday at 12:10 p.m. *Masks must be worn by all in attendance.* Our September 3 concert will be presented by pianist Reiko Yamada, violinist Kozue Funakoshi, and pianist Patrick Godon. For those who would prefer to enjoy our concerts online, they will be livestreamed on our YouTube channel ([www.bit.ly/fpcvideos](http://www.bit.ly/fpcvideos)) as well as at [www.bit.ly/fpcprograms](http://www.bit.ly/fpcprograms); they will be available to watch online afterwards as well.



**If you are interested in becoming a member of Fourth Church**, we invite you to join us online for a one-session Inquirers’ Class on Sunday, September 12 at 9:00 a.m. To register for this class, sign up at [www.bit.ly/inquirersclass0921](http://www.bit.ly/inquirersclass0921) \* 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) \* **Stephen Ministers** provide a listening presence for those experiencing life’s challenges. To learn more, leave a confidential message at 312.573.3365. \* To explore options for teletherapy, call our **Reprogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being** at 312.787.2729, ext. 2260. \* If you would like to **talk to a pastor** or notify the pastoral staff of personal concerns, prayer requests, illnesses, or deaths, please call the church (312.787.4570).

