



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**

This is the day the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

May we bring our minds, hearts, and souls to this service.

We seek the Spirit's transformation.

God's steadfast love endures forever.

Thanks be to God!

* 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*) “This Is My Father’s World” (*verse 1*)

*This is my Father’s world, and to my listening ears
all nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.
This is my Father’s world; I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas, his hand the wonders wrought.*

We Tell the Truth about Ourselves

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

**Just and merciful God,
we confess that we struggle to be honest with you, as well as ourselves.
We are tempted to hide from your searching truth.
We are eager to blame others when wrongdoing is uncovered
or lack of action is revealed. Forgive us, O God.
Free us to face up to ourselves.
May we trust in your forgiving love,
which sends us out into your hurting world
with words and acts of compassion, justice, and peace;
through Jesus, our brother and our Savior. Amen.**

God Forgives and Blesses Us

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

Hymn (*congregation is invited to hum*) “This Is My Father’s World” (*verse 2*)

*This is my Father’s world. O, let me ne’er forget
that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.
This is my Father’s world. The battle is not done:
Jesus who died shall be satisfied, and earth and heaven be one.*

We Proclaim the Story

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter Psalm 138

ANTIPHON: *Great is the glory of God!*

I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart;
before the gods I will sing your praise.
I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name,
because of your steadfast love and faithfulness;
for you have glorified your name and your word above all things.
When I called, you answered me;
you increased my strength within me.

ANTIPHON

All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O Lord,
when they have heard the words of your mouth.
They will sing of the ways of the Lord, that great is the glory of the Lord.
The Lord is high, yet cares for the lowly,
perceiving the haughty from afar.

ANTIPHON

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe;
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies;
your right hand shall save me.
You will make good your purpose for me;
O Lord, your steadfast love endures forever;
do not abandon the works of your hands.

ANTIPHON

Scripture Genesis 3:1–13

Sermon “Normal Never Was, God Always Is” Shannon J. Kershner

We Offer Ourselves

Musical Reflection

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*)

**Holy God, your generosity is astounding.
Receive now our offerings and use them for healing, for mercy, for beauty.
Receive them with our gratitude for your grace. Amen.**

We Go Out with Gratitude

***Hymn** (*congregation is invited to hum*) "Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound"

*Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come.
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.*

***Benediction**

Sending Music

Worship Leaders

Shannon J. Kershner Pastor
Jeffrey Doane Parish Associate for Older Adults
Nanette Sawyer Associate Pastor
Mary Morstadt Liturgist
The Fourth Church Jazz Quartet

Worship Notes

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 (or via the “To Make a Gift” button on our website: 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.

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: 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, Facebook Live (facebook.com/fourthchurch), and YouTube (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).



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

On Wednesdays we gather for **Morning Prayer** via Zoom at 9:30 a.m. For details, email Carol Allerton (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). 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/rhythmwordemail * 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 * Written by members and staff, **daily devotional meditations** for prayer and reflection are available by email (sign up at www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions) and Facebook (facebook.com/fourthchurch), Twitter (twitter.com/fourthchicago), and online (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 * This week the **Benevolent Guild**—which has counted among its projects sewing face masks—resumes meeting via Zoom on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. For Zoom details, email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org).



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

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**

Men's Bible Study meets online on Tuesdays at 7:30 a.m.; **Horizons Bible Study for women** next meets online this Wednesday, September 8 at 12:00 p.m. For Zoom details for either study, email Simon Crow (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). * **The First Tuesday Book Club** will discuss *Passionate for Justice: Ida B. Wells as Prophet for Our Time* this Tuesday evening, September 7 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. Register at 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).



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 * **"Understanding Gender Identity as a Church Community"** is a new three-week Academy for Faith and Life class beginning on Sunday, September 12 at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom. Hosted by the Adult Education and Youth Ministry Committees, it will be led by Community Outreach staff from Lurie Children's Hospital. For Zoom details, register at www.bit.ly/afigenderidentity * **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) or see www.fourthchurch.org/cll



Our **Friday Noonday Concerts** continue this week with our **new Organ Scholar Michael Rees** presenting our in-person concert at 12:10 p.m. *Masks must be worn by all in attendance.* The performances are also livestreamed on our YouTube channel (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos), at www.bit.ly/fpcprograms, and via Facebook Live; they are 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 next Sunday, September 12 at 9:00 a.m. To register for this class, sign up at www.bit.ly/inquirersclass0921 * 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 * **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 **Replegle 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).

