



Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 19, 2021 • 10:00 a.m.

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 choir members if they like.

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Fantasia and Fugue in G Minor Johann Sebastian Bach

Introit :: “The Lord God Omnipotent Reigneth” George Thalben-Ball

The Lord God omnipotent reigneth. Let us rejoice and be glad and give honor unto him. Alleluia.

*Doxology (congregation is invited to hum)

*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.*

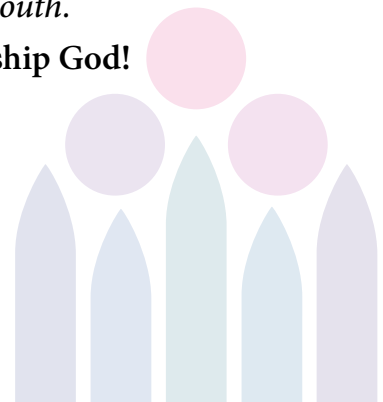
*Call to Worship

Leader: *Give thanks to God, for God is good!*

All: **God’s steadfast love endures forever.**

Leader: *God gathers us from east and west, from north and south.*

All: **Praise God for God’s wonderful works. Let us worship God!**



*Please rise in body or spirit. †Or “Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.”

*Hymn (congregation is invited to hum) “Let All Things Now Living”

*Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
to God our Creator triumphantly raise; who fashioned and made us,
protected and stayed us, by guiding us on to the end of our days.
God’s banners are o’er us; pure light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night: till shadows have vanished,
all fearfulness banished, as forward we travel from light into light.*

*By law God enforces, the stars in their courses,
the sun in its orbit obediently shine; the hills and the mountains,
the rivers and fountains, the depths of the ocean proclaim God divine.
We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing;
with glad adoration, a song let us raise, till all things now living
unite in thanksgiving: to God in the highest, hosanna and praise!*

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Holy God, sometimes we have overestimated our role and our importance,
thinking that we could control things beyond our power.
We put ourselves into your role, thinking we know what is best.
At other times we have failed to take responsibility
for the things over which we do have power and responsibility.
We have shirked our duty to care for our world and your people.
Forgive us for all the ways we have missed the mark.
Help us to develop a wholesome and balanced perspective of our role in this life.
Shape us, guide us, use us for the common good in your world. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

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

Welcome and Announcements

Anthem :: “Ich Freue Mich im Herrn” Gottfried A. Homilius
I will rejoice in the Lord, and my soul shall be joyful in my God, rejoice, and bid you welcome.

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter Psalm 107:1–3, 23–32

*Gloria Patri (*congregation is invited to hum*)

*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 Job 38:1–13

Sermon Series :: Normal Never Was, God Always Is: Part Three Shannon J. Kershner

Responding to the Word

Anthem :: “He Watching over Israel” from *Elijah* Felix Mendelssohn

*He watching over Israel, slumbers not, nor sleeps.
Shouldst thou, walking in grief, languish, he will quicken thee.*

*Affirmation of Faith (*unison*) Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

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

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.

Minute for Mission

Call to Offering

*Prayer of Dedication *(unison)*

For your gracious provision
responding to the pressing needs of our world,
we say thanks.
For the abundance that you enable us to share,
we ask your help to give it all with deep love and care.
For the good that will transform lives and heal communities,
we say: may it be so. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn *(congregation is invited to hum)* “I, the Lord of Sea and Sky”

*I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?*

*Refrain:
Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.*

*I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send? (Refrain)*

*I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send? (Refrain)*

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

Four Extemporizations Percy Whitlock

IV. Fanfare

*We invite you to enjoy the postlude.
If you need to leave prior to the end of the postlude,
please do so quietly out of respect for those who choose to stay.*



We are glad to be worshipping with you today and hope you will explore the many opportunities for learning, serving, and community building at Fourth 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 currently offering **two in-person worship services:** a **10:00 a.m. service in the Sanctuary** and a **4:00 p.m. Jazz at Four service in Buchanan Chapel.** * 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. Seating for Jazz at Four is set up for social distancing. * Due to health guidelines, **congregational singing is not permitted in the Sanctuary or Chapel;** those who would like to hum while the choir members sing the hymns are invited to do so.



Nursery care is not available at this time. * **Worship can be heard** in the Sanctuary and Chapel through the “T” or “T-coil” setting of hearing aids. * Please silence **electronic devices** when in the Sanctuary or Chapel. * Following the morning service, those who would like to do so are invited to **greet one another outside** in the Michigan Avenue courtyard.

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**

For those who prefer to worship online or who 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 after the service, including later in the week. * **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 as we continue to develop our reopening plans. * 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 morning service, access is by the Michigan Avenue and the Delaware doors to the Gratz Center. For the Jazz at Four service, access is only by the Delaware doors.



Sunday parking is available at 900 N. Michigan (*access from Rush or Walton*) at the rate of \$9 between 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. and at the Hancock garage (*875 N. Michigan, enter from Delaware or Chestnut*) at the rate of \$10 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Validation tickets for the garages must be picked up from an usher.



On Wednesdays we gather for **Morning Prayer via Zoom** at 9:30 a.m. For details, email Carol Allerton (callerton@fourthchurch.org). * For those who would appreciate a fifteen-minute midweek worship experience, we invite you to view our summer 2021 **“Rhythm and Word: Midweek Music and Prayer” videos**, which you can find on YouTube (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos). **New videos in this series**—which weave together scripture, prayer, and music offered by the Fourth Church Jazz Quartet—will launch on Wednesday, October 6. To receive these new videos by email each week, sign up online at www.bit.ly/rhythmandwordemail

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

Our **Zoom “Reconnect, Renew, and Reawaken” gatherings** are underway! Held on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5:30 p.m., each session highlights 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. The complete schedule is posted on our website (www.fourthchurch.org), and the same Zoom link—www.bit.ly/fpcgetconnected21—is used for all of them. We hope you will join us in making time to connect with friends both new and familiar this fall!



Chicago Lights—the nonprofit community outreach arm of Fourth Church—partners with youth and adults to build brighter futures through supportive relationships and life-changing programs. Among these are the Elam Davies Social Service Center, the Urban Farm, and the Tutoring program. To learn more about them join our next **Zoom “Reconnect, Renew, and Reawaken” gathering—“Chicago Lights Tutoring and Urban Farm”**—this Tuesday evening, September 21 at 5:30 p.m. at www.bit.ly/fpcgetconnected21 and discover how you can be part of this work, whether as a tutor or by purchasing produce at the Farmstand!



Do you have time one evening a week to **mentor a student through Chicago Lights Tutoring?** **Tutoring will take place online** this fall, and the Tutoring Volunteer Application can be completed at www.bit.ly/cltutorapp21; for more information, contact Mark Dennison (mdennison@chicagolights.org). * To purchase fresh produce and support the work of students and young adults 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. (444 W. Chicago Ave.). *Guests are required to wear a face covering and to practice social distancing while at the Farm.* * The **Chicago Lights Social Service Center** is in need of **donations of clean, gently used adult clothing and men’s 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. Please do not leave donations on the church steps. Ring the receptionist bell to be buzzed in and directed to where to leave the donations. *Masks are required while on the campus.*

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Fourth Church lives out its call to be a light in the city through its Meals Ministry and world mission activities. How might you support and be involved in the work of Meals Ministry, Shower Ministry, Jail Ministry and Public Safety, or world mission and social justice efforts? Come hear from people working in these program areas. **Our Thursday Zoom “Reconnect, Renew, and Reawaken” gathering—“Meals Ministry and World Mission”**—will take place at www.bit.ly/fpcgetconnected21 this Thursday, September 23 at 5:30 p.m.



Meals Ministry will resume offering limited indoor dining—in addition to the continued to-go option—for Sunday Night Supper starting on October 10. That means additional **volunteers are needed to help serve Supper guests on Sundays**. You can sign up to volunteer on Sundays or for other Meals Ministry programs using VOMO, our Volunteer Ministry sign-up platform, at www.bit.ly/fpcvolunteers * Effective October 15, 2021, **all Fourth Church volunteers serving in person must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19**. If you are volunteering this fall please send a copy of your vaccination certification to vaxproof@fourthchurch.org by October 15. Your information will be received directly by our Human Resources Department and kept confidential, only used to confirm your ability to volunteer with the church. Please direct questions about to Robert Crouch, Director of Volunteer Ministry (rcrouch@fourthchurch.org).



Sunday School for three-year-olds through fifth graders meets at 10:00 a.m. in the Gratz Center. For details about online Sunday School, email Briana Belding-Peck (bbelding-peck@fourthchurch.org). * **Eighth-grade Confirmation** meets at 9:15 a.m. on the fifth floor. * **Junior High Youth** meet at 9:15 a.m. in the Bumpus Room, where **Senior High Youth** meet at 11:15 a.m. For additional details about about youth groups, including Sunday evening Senior High Zoom time, email Katie Patterson (kpatterson@fourthchurch.org). * **Cherub and Children’s Music Time** (ages 3 through grade 5) meets each Sunday at 9:30 a.m. in Room 4F, and **Youth Music Time** (grades 6–12) meets on Sundays at 10:45 a.m. in Room 4F. * **Youth parents** are invited to a time of fellowship on Sundays at 9:15 a.m. in the fifth floor lobby.

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New Zoom Small Groups, which will meet weekly for six weeks, begin the week of October 11. If you would like to **connect with five to seven other people via Zoom** for a time of **fellowship, relationship building, and spiritual formation** or want to learn more about our small-group opportunities, please email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org). * The **Benevolent Guild**—which has counted among its projects sewing face masks and making stuffed animals and taggies for children in the hospital—meets via Zoom on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. * **Women at Fourth** gathers via Zoom this Thursday, September 23 at 6:00 p.m. Susan Pieters from **Between Friends, an agency providing domestic violence prevention programming**, will talk about the agency’s work. * **Knitting and Crocheting** gathers online on Tuesday, September 28 at 4:00 p.m. for a time to work on knitting or crocheting projects while sharing in conversation. * On Tuesday, October 12 **Books by Women** will meet via Zoom at 6:00 p.m. to discuss **A Room of One’s Own** by Virginia Woolf. Newcomers are always welcome to join in these conversations. For Zoom details for any of the above gatherings, email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org).



Men’s Bible Study meets online on Tuesdays at 7:30 a.m., and **Horizons Bible Study for women** meets online on Wednesday, September 22 at 12:00 p.m. This week the *Horizons* Bible Study welcomes guest speaker Magdalena I. Garcia, pastor of Ravenswood Presbyterian Church and author of the leaders guide for this year’s study on **“What My Grandmothers Taught Me: Learning from the Women in Matthew’s Genealogy of Jesus.”** A **6:30 p.m. evening Bible study for women** is also being formed. For more information or Zoom details for Men’s or Women’s Bible studies, email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org). * **TwentiesThirties Bible Study** for young adults meets online on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. For details, email Joe Morrow (jmorrow@fourthchurch.org). * Written by members and staff, **daily devotional meditations** 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).



Our organist, John Sherer, will present this week’s **Friday Noonday Concert** at 12:10 p.m. *Masks must be worn by all in attendance.* Our concerts can also be enjoyed online live and afterwards on YouTube (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos), at www.bit.ly/fpcprograms, and on Facebook Live.

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The **Officer Nominating Committee** is in need of recommendations of individuals to serve in positions opening in 2022 for Elder, Deacon, Trustee, Nominating Committee, and the Chicago Lights Board. If you know Fourth Church members—including yourself!—who have demonstrated gifts for leadership and ministry, please offer your leadership recommendations by **completing the online form at www.bit.ly/nominating2022** by September 30.



The “**Understanding Gender Identity as a Church Community**” class, led by Community Outreach staff from Lurie Children’s Hospital, meets via Zoom on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. For Zoom details, register at www.bit.ly/aflgenderidentity; previous sessions can be viewed online at www.fourthchurch.org/academy * The **First Tuesday Book Club** will discuss ***Liturgy of the Ordinary: Sacred Practices in Everyday Life*** by Tish Harrison Warren on Tuesday, October 5 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. For Zoom details, email Lewis Hamer (lhamer@fourthchurch.org).



For resources and ways to connect, watch our website (www.fourthchurch.org) and follow us on Facebook (facebook.com/fourthchurch) and Instagram (instagram.com/fourthchurch) * Online events are posted on the **church calendar**, which is accessible from the home page of our website and at www.fourthchurch.org/calendar * If you are interested in **becoming a member of Fourth Church**, we encourage you to email Joe Morrow (jmorrow@fourthchurch.org). * For those who are facing life’s challenges, **Stephen Ministers** provide a listening presence and regular spiritual support. 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** or notify the pastoral staff of personal concerns, illnesses, hospitalizations, or deaths, 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.



Those attending a Fourth Church worship service in person are entering an area where photography, video, and audio recording may occur on behalf of Fourth Church—including the weekly live stream of the Sunday morning service. By entering the worship service, you consent to the non-commercial use of the resulting visual and audio records; you waive all rights you may have to any claims of compensation for the use of these records; you release Fourth Church from any liability for the use of these records; and you waive the right to inspect or approve any of these records.

Worship Leaders

Nanette Sawyer, Ed Schimmelpfennig, Joseph L. Morrow, Shannon J. Kershner

The Music Today

Members of the Morning Choir

Michael Rees, Organ Scholar

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

Worship Notes

TODAY'S MINUTE FOR MISSION is presented by Kelley Lynch and Gretchen Wahl on behalf of the Nominating Committee.

TODAY'S CLOSING HYMN, "I, the Lord of Sea and Sky," was written in 1981 by Daniel L. Schutte.

The stanzas, which this morning are sung by a soloist, represent the voice of God, while the refrain (based on Isaiah 6:8), which is sung by the choir, is the faithful human response to God's call.

OFFERING GIFTS to support the ministry and mission of Fourth Church can be placed in one of the offering boxes at the exit from the Sanctuary. They also can be given via Venmo (@Fourth-Church) or online at www.fourthchurch.org/give-online (or via the "To Make a Gift" button on our website: www.fourthchurch.org).

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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