



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

Jesus said, "All who want to come after me must say 'No'"—

no to ourselves, our fears, and our own way.

Jesus said, "All who want to come after me must take up a cross"—

to identify with those who suffer unjustly.

Jesus said, "All who want to come after me must follow me"—

even all the way to Golgotha, but first to the table.

We are here to follow Jesus. Let us worship God together.

* 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.

***Opening Song** (*congregation is invited to hum*) "Seek Ye First"

*Seek ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you. Allelu, alleluia!*

*Ask, and it shall be given unto you; seek, and you shall find;
knock, and the door shall be opened unto you. Allelu, alleluia!*

*You shall not live by bread alone, but by every word
that proceeds from the mouth of God. Allelu, alleluia!*

We Tell the Truth about Ourselves

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

**Almighty God, you love us, but we have not loved you.
You call, but we have not listened.
We walk away from neighbors in need, wrapped in our own concerns.
We condone evil, prejudice, warfare, and greed.
God of grace, help us to admit our sin,
so that as you come to us in mercy
we may repent, turn to you, and receive forgiveness;
through Jesus Christ our redeemer. Amen.**

God Forgives and Blesses Us

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

We Proclaim the Story

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter Psalm 116:1–9

ANTIPHON: *You have delivered me from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.*

I love the Lord, who has heard my voice,
and listened to my supplication,
for the Lord has given ear to me whenever I called.

The cords of death entangled me;
the anguish of the grave came upon me;

I came to grief and sorrow.

Then I called upon the name of the Lord:
“O Lord, I pray you, save my life.”

ANTIPHON

Gracious is the Lord and righteous;
our God is full of compassion.
The Lord watches over the innocent;
I was brought low, and God saved me.

Turn again to your rest, O my soul.
for the Lord has dealt well with you.

For you have rescued my life from death,
my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling.
I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

ANTIPHON

Scripture Mark 8:27–38

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

We Feast Together

Musical Reflection

The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise!

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.

The Communion

We Offer Ourselves

Call for Offering

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

O God, we pause to give you thanks for the bounty of life,
for we know that every good gift comes from your hand.
May these gifts multiply, by your grace,
and reach those who await your loving provision;
through Christ we pray. Amen.

We Go Out with Gratitude

***Closing Song** (*congregation is invited to hum*) "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"

*Let us talents and tongues employ, reaching out with a shout of joy:
bread is broken; the wine is poured; Christ is spoken and seen and heard.*

Refrain:

*Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again; pass the Word around: loaves abound!
Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again; pass the Word around: loaves abound!*

*Christ is able to make us one; at the table he sets the tone,
teaching people to live to bless, love in word and in deed express. (Refrain)*

*Jesus calls us in, sends us out bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Immanuel) everywhere! (Refrain)*

***Benediction**

Sending Music

Worship Leaders

Shannon J. Kershner Pastor
Rocky Supinger Associate Pastor
Lucy Forster-Smith Senior Associate Pastor
Roger Wilson Liturgist
The Fourth Church Jazz Quartet

Worship Notes

Today is World Communion Sunday, a day when worshipers around the world gather for the Lord's Supper, enacting the words of the hymn "Come, Risen Lord": "One church united in communion blest; one name we bear, one bread of life we break." As we celebrate our oneness in Christ with our global family, our worship services include visual reminders of this unity: colorful cloth from Guatemala—a frequent destination of Fourth Church service trips—and varieties of bread on the Table that represent cultures from around the world.

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.

Acknowledgments

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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.



If you would like to join us for **in-person worship**, we gather for 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 by the Michigan Avenue and Delaware 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 this World Communion Sunday we are reminded that God's love can heal our deepest divisions, and so each year on the first Sunday of October we receive gifts to the **special Peace and Global Witness Offering**. Gifts designated to this offering will be directed to efforts toward peacemaking that are supported by the Presbyterian Church (USA) as well as local efforts to address violence in Chicago. **These gifts can be made online** (noting "Peace Offering" in the comments) at www.fourthchurch.org/give-online **or by a check** made payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church, with "Peace Offering" in the memo line.



This Wednesday, October 6 we **launch our autumn series of "Rhythm and Word: Midweek Music and Prayer" videos**, a fifteen-minute midweek worship experience weaving together scripture, prayer, and music offered by the Fourth Church Jazz Quartet. You can **subscribe to our YouTube channel** and watch the videos there (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos) or **receive them by email** (sign up at www.bit.ly/rhythmandwordemail).
* Also on Wednesdays we gather for **Morning Prayer via Zoom** at 9:30 a.m. For details, email Carol Allerton (callerton@fourthchurch.org). * A **virtual Sacred Pause** time of meditation is hosted by our Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being on Tuesdays (7:45 a.m.) and Saturdays (8:30 a.m.) at facebook.com/reploglecenterforcounselingandwellbeing * **Daily devotional meditations** for prayer and reflection are available by email (sign up at www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions), Facebook (facebook.com/fourthchurch), Twitter (twitter.com/fourthchicago), and fourthchurch.org/devotions.



A Thursday evening online Bible study led by Lucy and Tom Forster-Smith and examining themes and events in Genesis will begin this Thursday, October 7 at 7:00 p.m. Register at www.bit.ly/genesisbiblestudy21 for Zoom details. * **Men's Bible Study** meets online on Tuesdays at 7:30 a.m., and **Horizons Bible Study for women** next meets online on Wednesday, October 13 at 12:00 p.m. A **6:30 p.m. evening Bible study for women** is also being formed. For 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).



Next Sunday, October 10, **Jeff Doane** will teach a Zoom class at 11:15 a.m. on **"Presbyterian Witness, Part 1: The Apostles' Creed,"** an opportunity to explore the history and language of one of the earliest statements of faith and its importance for what we believe. For Zoom details, register at www.bit.ly/creed1021 * On Sunday, October 17 at 11:15 a.m., **John Buchanan and Tom Dozeman** will begin teaching a three-week class on the Old Testament figure **David: "Shepherd, Warrior, Monarch."** For details, email Lewis Hamer (lhamer@fourthchurch.org). * On Tuesday, November 9 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary **Shannon Kershner** will lead a discussion **commemorating our 150th anniversary**. Pastor Emeritus **John Buchanan; Felicia Davis**, President and CEO of the Chicago Foundation for Women; and **William Schwieker**, Professor of Theological Ethics at the University of Chicago Divinity School, will talk about **"Is the Church a Light in the City? Faith in the Twenty-First Century."** This Michigan Avenue Forum looking at the responsibility of church to the community will also be livestreamed. * During this sesquicentennial year, we encourage you to visit the web page www.fourthchurch.org/150 to read historical accounts and view videos of pastors who formerly served at Fourth Church as they share memories of their time with our congregation.

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** conclude this week with our gatherings focusing on ways to learn more, become engaged, get involved, and connect with one another through **Racial Equity, LGBTQIA Welcome, and Partnerships** on Tuesday, October 5 at 5:30 p.m. and **Volunteer Service and Nominating Committee** on Thursday, October 7 at 5:30 p.m., both at www.bit.ly/fpcgetconnected21 * The **First Tuesday Book Club** will discuss *Liturgy of the Ordinary: Sacred Practices in Everyday Life* by Tish Harrison Warren this Tuesday, October 5 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. Register at www.bit.ly/firsttuesday1021 for Zoom details. * 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, email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org). * **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 small-group opportunities, please email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org).



Starting on October 10 **Meals Ministry** plans to offer limited indoor dining—in addition to the current to-go option—for Sunday Night Supper. To do this, **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). * 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).



“Called to Be a Church Alive,” our 2022 stewardship campaign, is underway, inviting all of us to pledge our support for the life-giving mission, ministry, and outreach efforts of Fourth Church and Chicago Lights in the year ahead. Please plan to **submit your 2022 pledge**—which you can make at www.bit.ly/fpcclpledge—by Reformation Sunday, October 31, a day we will also celebrate as Commitment Sunday: a day to lift up all that we are able to do together through our generous response to God’s blessings in our lives.



Watch our **website** (www.fourthchurch.org) and the **church calendar** (www.fourthchurch.org/calendar) and follow us on **Facebook** (facebook.com/fourthchurch) and **Instagram** (instagram.com/fourthchurch) for resources and ways to connect. * **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. * To **talk to a pastor** or notify the staff of personal concerns, prayer requests, illnesses, or deaths, please call the church (312.787.4570).

