



We Approach God

Gathering Music

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship

Siblings in Christ, we come to worship the living God!

O God, our help through all the ages, we come with praise!

In the great congregation, we will sing your praises.

People : Rejoice and be glad, for our God is worthy of praise!

Leader: Today, tomorrow, always, our hearts brim with joy.

People: We are met by God, who wings in to greet us, this day. Let us worship 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.

***Opening Song** "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*)

Loving God, you created us to live in relationship with you,
to love and serve one another, and to care for all your creatures.
Yet in the hardness of our hearts, in our stubborn ways,
we dismiss your commandments and seek to go our separate ways.
Lord, have mercy on us.
Redeem, restore, and re-create us, as we follow
the way of Jesus, the way, the truth, and the life. Amen.

God Forgives and Blesses Us

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

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter Psalm 113

The musical notation consists of two staves. The first staff begins with a tempo marking of =150 and a key signature of one flat (B♭). The melody is written in a 3/4 time signature. The lyrics 'Hal - le - lu - jah.' are written below the notes. Chord symbols E♭, B♭, A♭, and Fmi are placed above the staff. The second staff continues the melody with the same lyrics and chord symbols, ending with a '7 vamp in Eb' instruction.

Praise the Lord!

Praise, O servants of the Lord; praise the name of the Lord.

Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time on and forevermore.

From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the Lord is to be praised.

The Lord is high above all nations and God's glory above the heavens.

ANTIPHON

Who is like the Lord our God, who is seated on high, who looks far down?

The Lord raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap,
to make them sit with princes, with the princes of God's people.

The Lord gives the barren woman a home, making her the joyous mother of children.

Praise the Lord!

ANTIPHON

Scripture Lesson Luke 16:1–13

Sermon *Matt Helms*

Musical Reflection

Gloria

Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!

Glory to God, glory to God, alleluia, alleluia!

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!

Sanctus

Therefore, with all creation we sing your praise:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

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

Prayer after Communion

We Offer Ourselves

Call for Offering

Prayer of Dedication

Love and Light, we are thankful that you shine in us your ways of love and understanding.
Help us to listen in the light of your love to understand
and to be filled with empathy and compassion.

May these resources be used to aid all who long for your love and your light. May we
radiate your loving presence through everything we do and everything we say. Amen.

We Go Out with Gratitude

*Closing Song "Just a Closer Walk with Thee"

I am weak, but thou art strong;
Jesus, keep me from all wrong;
I'll be satisfied as long
as I walk, let me walk close to thee. (*Refrain*)

Refrain:

Just a closer walk with thee,
grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
daily walking close to thee:
let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

Through this world of toil and snares,
if I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares?
None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee. (*Refrain*)

When my feeble life is o'er,
time for me will be no more;
guide me gently, safely o'er
to thy shore, dear Lord, to thy shore. (*Refrain*)

*Benediction

Sending Music

Worship Leaders

Matt Helms Associate Pastor
Lucy Forster-Smith Senior Associate Pastor
Barbara Anderson Liturgist

The Fourth Church Jazz Quartet

Leslie Beukelman, vocal
Bryan Doherty, bass
Marcus Evans, percussion
Amr Fahmy, piano

Worship Notes

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.

Offering gifts to support the ministry and mission of Fourth Church can be placed in the offering plate at the time of the offering or in the offering box at the Chapel exit. They also can be given via Venmo (@Fourth-Church; see QR code at right) or online at www.fourthchurch.org/give-online (or via the “To Make a Gift” button at www.fourthchurch.org).



Acknowledgments

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PASTORAL STAFF

Shannon J. Kershner, Pastor
Lucy Forster-Smith, Senior Associate Pastor
Nancy Benson-Nicol, Associate Pastor for Caring Ministries and Spiritual Formation
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 and Worship
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.



Although wearing a mask is not required at Fourth Church, we as a community have made a commitment to be a **mask-welcoming campus**, encouraging the wearing of masks by anyone who wants or needs to wear one. With the COVID risk level in Chicago at "medium," we **not just encourage but recommend** (*though not require*) **that individuals wear masks** while on campus. This is consistent with city health officials recommending that—in light of the "medium risk" level—individuals wear masks indoors when they are not certain of the vaccination status of others present. As a mask-welcoming campus, we also remain committed to **ensuring no one will feel out of place should they choose to wear a mask while at Fourth Church**. * Since some populations are more vulnerable to COVID-19 than others, some programs on our campus still choose to require masks. * Additionally, we are continuing our practice of not checking vaccination status, but **anyone coming on site certifies** by doing so that (a) they do not currently have COVID-19; (b) they are not experiencing COVID symptoms; (c) they have no reason to quarantine; and (d) they will **wear a mask and practice social distancing if they are not vaccinated** against COVID-19.



If you would like to join us for **in-person worship**, we gather on Sundays for a **10:00 a.m. service in the Sanctuary** and the **4:00 p.m. Jazz at Four service in Buchanan Chapel**. * **Worship in the Chapel can be heard** through hearing aids' "T" or "T-coil" setting. * **Please** silence electronic devices when in the Chapel. * The **doors open for worship** on Sundays a half hour before each service. For the 4:00 service, access is only by the Delaware doors to the Gratz Center. * **Sunday parking** is available at 900 N. Michigan (*access from Rush or Walton*) at the rate of \$9 for 6 hours between 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. (*and \$18 for up to 12 hours*). Validation tickets for the garage must be picked up from an usher. * **For those who prefer to worship online** or are unable to join us in person, we livestream our morning service on our YouTube channel (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos).



Fourth Church offers a variety of ways to **connect with one another**. Online and in-person events are posted on **our church calendar**, accessible from our website's home page and at www.fourthchurch.org/calendar * For **resources** as well as additional ways to connect with the church and one another, watch our website (www.fourthchurch.org) and Facebook (facebook.com/fourthchurch).

A new video in our autumn **“Rhythm and Word” series**—which includes the music of the Fourth Church Jazz Quartet—is released on YouTube (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos) each Wednesday evening in September; the videos are also available weekly by email (*subscribe at www.bit.ly/rhythmwordemail*). * Also on Wednesdays we gather for **Morning Prayer via Zoom** at 9:30 a.m. and for **in-person Morning Prayer** at 10:00 a.m. in Buchanan Chapel. Email Nancy Benson-Nicol (nbenson-nicol@fourthchurch.org) for Zoom details. * The chapel is also open for opportunity to **walk the labyrinth** between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. For labyrinth information, email Rocky Supinger (rsupinger@fourthchurch.org). * We invite you to use our **daily devotions as a resource for personal reflection**. They can be found online at www.fourthchurch.org/devotions; to receive the devotions daily by email subscribe at www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions * The autumn season of the **“Bible Top Ten” podcast** hosted by Matt Helms and Rocky Supinger kicked off on Tuesday with **“Top 10 Fun Facts about the Bible,”** which you can find at fourthchurch.org/podcast



For those facing life’s challenges, **Stephen Ministers** provide a listening presence and regular spiritual support. To arrange conversation with a Stephen Minister, leave a confidential message at 312.573.3365. * To explore options with a counselor, call our **Replegle Center for Counseling and Well-Being** at 312.787.2729, ext. 2260. * To **talk to a pastor** or **notify the pastoral staff** of personal concerns, illnesses, or deaths, please email caringministries@fourthchurch.org; if the situation is an emergency, please call the church at 312.787.4570 to be connected to the Minister on Call. * To **submit a prayer request** to our Morning Prayer or Deacon Prayer Ministries, please email caringministries@fourthchurch.org



We look forward to the installation of **Nancy Benson-Nicol as Associate Pastor for Caring Ministries and Spiritual Formation** during worship next Sunday morning, September 25. We hope you will join us in celebration, whether in person or online, at 10:00 a.m. that morning!



The Officer Nominating Committee is gathering **recommendations of individuals to serve in leadership positions** opening in 2023 for Elder, Deacon, Trustee, and Nominating Committee as well as the Chicago Lights Board. Please take a moment to recommend Fourth Church members who have demonstrated gifts for leadership and ministry: there is an online form at www.bit.ly/nominating2023 and paper forms by the door.



On Tuesday, October 18 we will host a special Michigan Avenue Forum: **“The 1619 Project Revisited: Race, History, and the Future.”** This conversation featuring Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and author of the New York Times’ 1619 Project, **Nikole Hannah-Jones**, together with WBEZ’s **Natalie Moore**, will take place at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.