



Fourth Presbyterian Church

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 20, 2023 • 10:00 a.m.

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Toccata in F Major Johann Sebastian Bach

Sonata No. 1 in B Minor. J. S. Bach

II. Allegro

IV. Allegro

Introit

“Come, Thou Almighty King” Felice de Giardini/arr. Theodore Hoelty-Nickel

Come, thou almighty King, help us thy name to sing; help us to praise.

Father all glorious, over us all victorious, come and reign over us, Ancient of Days.

***Doxology**

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: *We gather in the presence of God to encounter Love that sets free.*

People: *We do not come seeking crumbs of justice but a way of life that liberates.*

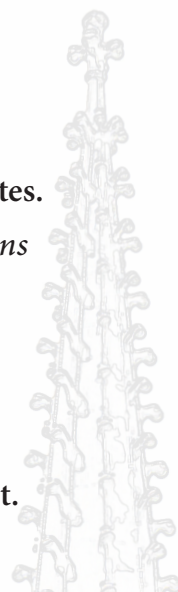
Leader: *Together we practice courage in resisting evil and rejecting the temptations
of complicity and complacency.*

People: *The Spirit leads us in power and truth.*

Leader: *Our faith is placed in Love Eternal that lifts broken spirits
and brings new life from places of ruin.*

All: *With hope that is neither narrow nor fragile, we come to follow Christ.*

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



***Hymn 624 “I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art”**

I greet thee, who my sure Redeemer art, my only trust and Savior of my heart,
who pain didst undergo for my poor sake; I pray thee from our hearts all cares to take.
Thou art the King of mercy and of grace, reigning omnipotent in every place:
so come, O King, and our whole being sway; shine on us with the light of thy pure day.
Thou art the life, by which alone we live, and all our substance and our strength receive;
sustain us by thy faith and by thy power, and give us strength in every trying hour.
Thou hast the true and perfect gentleness; no harshness hast thou and no bitterness.
O grant to us the grace we find in thee, that we may dwell in perfect unity.
Our hope is in no other save in thee; our faith is built upon thy promise free;
Lord, give us peace, and make us calm and sure, that in thy strength we evermore endure.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Holy God, hear our prayer:
for the mending of our hearts, torn apart by our unkindness;
for the healing of our souls, wasting away from the despair around us;
for the forgiveness we seek for the sin we have allowed to persist;
for the reconciliation of the world, whose division condemns us;
we pray for the courage to admit our fault,
the strength to amend our actions,
and the hope that your grace awaits us.
Through Christ we pray. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

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

***Exchange of Peace**

Leader: *The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.*
People: And also with you.
*We invite you to greet those around you, wishing them “peace” or “the peace of Christ,”
and encourage those online to use this time to share your presence with us, using the online form.*

Welcome and Announcements

Anthem

“Alleluia” Randall Thompson
Alleluia. Amen.

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson Isaiah 56:1, 6–8

Leader: *The Word of God for the people of God.*

People: Thanks be to God.

*Gloria Patri

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.

Second Lesson Matthew 15:21–28

Leader: *Holy wisdom, holy word.*

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Nanette Sawyer

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

Responding to the Word

***Hymn 649** “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.
'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!
Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come.
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
The Lord has promised good to me; his word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.
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.

***Affirmation of Faith** (*unison*) from A Brief Statement of Faith (PCUSA)

We trust in God the Holy Spirit,
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.
The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,
sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,
and binds us together with all believers
in the one body of Christ, the Church.
The same Spirit
who inspired the prophets and apostles
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,
engages us through the Word proclaimed,
claims us in the waters of baptism,
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,
and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church. Amen.

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 to Offering

Offertory Anthem

"Thy Holy Wings" Swedish folk song / arr. Aaron David Miller
*Thy holy wings, O Savior, spread gently over me, and let me rest securely, through good and ill,
in thee. O be my strength and portion, my rock and hiding place, and let my every moment be
lived within thy grace. O let me nestle near thee, within thy downy breast, where I will find sweet
comfort and peace within thy nest. O close thy wings around me and keep me safely there,
for I am but a newborn and need thy tender care. O wash me in the waters of Noah's cleansing
flood. Give me a willing spirit, a heart both clean and good. O take into thy keeping thy children
great and small, and while we sweetly slumber, enfold us one and all.*

***Offertory Response** Hymn 717

For the life that you have given, for the love in Christ made known,
with these fruits of time and labor, with these gifts that are your own:
here we offer, Lord, our praises; heart and mind and strength we bring;
give us grace to love and serve you, living what we pray and sing.

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

Great and bountiful Creator,
we give thanks for the gift of life you have given to us.
It is our deepest privilege to share a portion of our livelihood
as it reaches the least, the lost, and the lonely in our midst.
May all we do bring your holy realm of love and care into this world.
Through Christ we pray. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

***Hymn 826** “Lift High the Cross”

Refrain: Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.

Come, Christians, follow where our Savior trod,
the Lamb victorious, Christ, the Son of God. (*Refrain*)

All newborn servants of the Crucified
bear on their brow the seal of Christ who died. (*Refrain*)

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
your death has brought us life eternally. (*Refrain*)

So shall our song of triumph ever be:
praise to the Crucified for victory. (*Refrain*)

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

Toccata on “Amazing Grace” American folk song/arr. Christopher Pardini

News and Opportunities

August 20–26, 2023



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.



For those who prefer to worship online or who are unable to join us in person, we livestream our morning service at 10:00 a.m. on our YouTube channel (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos), where the service is also available for viewing afterwards. ✳ **Those without Internet access** are invited to listen via phone by calling 888.916.9166 at the time of the livestreamed service.



If you would like to join us for **in-person worship**, we gather each Sunday at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. ✳ On Sundays the **doors open for worship** a half hour prior to the service. There are three fully accessible entrances, without steps, that lead to the Sanctuary: on Michigan Avenue (*through the glass Loggia doors located between the courtyard and the main Sanctuary doors*); at 126 E. Chestnut; and at 115 E. Delaware. ✳ **Sunday parking** is available at 900 N. Michigan (*access from Rush or Walton*) at the rate of \$9 for hours between 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. (*and \$18 for up to 12 hours*) 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. ✳ In the Sanctuary **worship can be heard** through the "T" or "T-coil" setting of hearing aids. ✳ Please silence **electronic devices** during worship.



Children are always welcome in worship! **If you need to step out to comfort your child**, the Hospitality Suite, on the second floor of the Gratz Center, is a quiet space for families where worship is livestreamed. During the morning service **nursery care** for infants through two-year-olds is available on the fourth floor of the Gratz Center. ✳ **Sunday School** does not meet in August; we look forward to it resuming on Sunday, September 10.

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

We ask all who are worshipping with us to **let us know you are here by filling out an information form.**

Those worshipping with us via livestream will find **a link to the online form**—which takes only 20 seconds to complete!—included in the descriptive text below the video (*after exiting full-screen view*); a QR code is also displayed during the “Welcome and Announcements” that can be scanned with a phone camera to take you to the form. Those worshipping with us in person are asked to use the **information pads in the pews**, passing them down the pew so worshipers have opportunity to greet one another by name following the service. ✱ Following the service, those worshipping in person are also invited to **greet one another during Coffee Hour**, which during the summer is held outdoors if weather and air conditions permit or in Anderson Hall and the Commons.



During the week we make the 10:00 a.m. Sunday **service and sermon available via podcast** on multiple podcast platforms and at **www.fourthchurch.org/podcasts** ✱ You can also receive the previous Sunday’s **sermon text by email** by subscribing at www.bit.ly/fpcsermons.



Following worship a **pipe organ tour** begins at the front of the Sanctuary. ✱ Also following the service **Deacons are available in Stone Chapel** (*through the door to the right of the pulpit*) to pray with those who would like to **offer prayers of praise or concern**. ✱ We gather on Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. for **Morning Prayer via Zoom** and at 10:00 a.m. for **in-person Morning Prayer** in Buchanan Chapel. For Zoom details, email Nancy Benson-Nicol (nbenson-nicol@fourthchurch.org). ✱ Our Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being hosts virtually a **Sacred Pause time of meditation** at facebook.com/reploglecenterforcounselingandwellbeing on Tuesdays (7:45 a.m.) and also on Saturdays (8:30 a.m.). ✱ Buchanan Chapel is open for **opportunity to walk the labyrinth** between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursday.



To **talk to a pastor** or **notify the pastoral staff** of personal concerns, illnesses, hospitalizations, or deaths, please email caringministries@fourthchurch.org; if the situation requires immediate attention, 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 ✱ **For those facing life’s challenges**, Stephen Ministers provide a listening presence. To talk with a Stephen Minister, please leave a confidential message at 312.573.3365. ✱ **To explore options for teletherapy or in-person conversations with a counselor**, call our Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being at 312.787.2729, ext. 2260.

We need you to help shape the future of Fourth Church! The Long-Range Planning Task Force asks that you please take 15 minutes to **complete a survey online** at www.bit.ly/fourth-survey; the task force will also be available at Coffee Hour today to help you access the survey. **If there are multiple people in your household**, each person is invited to submit their own responses. (*Each person will need to use a separate computer or mobile device.*) Your responses will be anonymous and are important in setting our course for the next five years and laying the foundation for calling our next senior pastor.

If you already completed the survey, we would appreciate your additional thoughts, ideas, and comments about Fourth Church and the development of the long-range plan: you can write them in the **anonymous comment box** online at www.bit.ly/fourth-survey-open-comment-box

The deadline for all surveys and comments is this Thursday, August 24 at 5:00 p.m.



LGBTQIA+ Widen Our Welcome (WOW) gathers for brunch today. Those who would like to join in this time of fellowship are invited to meet at the reception desk following worship to walk together to a nearby restaurant.



Also this morning Stephen Ministry invites you to an informational pizza-and-salad lunch in Borwell Dining Room following worship. Are you interested in learning how to serve as a Stephen Minister? Would you like to explore whether a caring connection with a Stephen Minister might be a fit? Come hear from current and past Stephen Ministers about this ministry of Christ-centered, compassionate listening and prayer. You can also learn more at www.fourthchurch.org/caring/stephen-ministry.html



Encore! returns to Fourth Church this Saturday, August 26 at 4:00 p.m. This annual fundraising event for our Center for Life and Learning supports CLL programming and provides scholarships that make it possible for more adults sixty and over to participate in CLL activities. To join in this evening of fun, which will feature local singer Peter Oprisko and his jazz ensemble, make your reservations at www.fourthchurch.org/cll; for more information, call the Center at 312.981.3391.

✳ **Registration for the Autumn Session** with the Center for Life and Learning is now open. Learn more about the classes and register for membership at www.fourthchurch.org/cll

Our School Supply Drive is in need of monetary gifts that will be used to purchase the remaining classroom supplies needed by **Chicago Lights Tutoring**. Contributions can be made by designating a check (*payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church*) or an online gift (www.fourthchurch.org/give) to “School Supply Drive.” For more information, contact Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org).

✿ The **Chicago Lights Social Service Center** has an **immediate need for men’s casual clothing** in all sizes. Items can be dropped off at the church reception desk seven days a week between 8:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Please mark them “Attn. Shower Ministry” or “Attn. Social Service Center.”



If you have an eighth grader interested in participating in Confirmation this year, please register at www.bit.ly/confirmation2324 by Sunday, September 10, when we will have a kickoff gathering of students and parents at 9:30 a.m. ✿ The **Fourth Church Day School is now enrolling children** ages 1–4 years old for the 2023–2024 school year. More information about our part-time preschool programs can be found at www.bit.ly/fpcdayschoolprograms



Men’s Bible Study meets via Zoom on Tuesdays at 7:30 a.m. ✿ **Knitting and Crocheting** meets via Zoom this Tuesday, August 22 at 4:00 p.m. and in person on Tuesday, September 5 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 5B. For Zoom details for Bible study or Knitting, email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org).

✿ **Come enjoy our final outdoor concert of the 2023 Music by the Fountain series** this Friday, August 25 when the **Juan Pastor Trio** will perform at 12:10 p.m. in the Michigan Avenue courtyard. ✿ In September our **free Friday Noonday Concerts will move back indoors** to the Sanctuary, from where they will also be livestreamed. Watch www.fourthchurch.org/concerts for details. ✿ The **Cornerstones fellowship group for those fifty and older** will gather for dinner and a program on Friday, September 8 in Borwell Dining Room. That evening Jay Tunney will talk about his book *The Prizefighter and the Playwright* and its **recounting of the close friendship between his father, boxer Gene Tunney, and the playwright George Bernard Shaw**. To attend, register (*required*) at www.bit.ly/cornerstones923



For **additional ways to connect** with one another and this congregation, whether in person or online, as well as for various **resources and opportunities**, watch our **website** (www.fourthchurch.org). ✿ Events are posted online on our **church calendar**, accessible from our website’s home page and at fourthchurch.org/calendar ✿ We invite you to follow us on **Facebook** (facebook.com/fourthchurch) for updates, photos, and favorite quotes from recent devotions, sermons, and prayers. You can also find us on **Instagram** (instagram.com/fourthchurch) and **Threads** (www.threads.net/@fourthchurch).

After Labor Day we will be adding a second Sunday morning worship service. Beginning September 10, we will be worshipping at **9:30 and 11:00 a.m.** on Sunday mornings, with the Morning Choir singing at 9:30 and the Chancel Choir singing at 11:00. **The 9:30 service will be livestreamed** and available for viewing at 9:30 and any time afterwards. Also on September 10 **our afternoon service will resume at a new time with a new name. The Gathering: 2:00 p.m. Communion** will be a more casual, intimate service than worship in the morning and will also take place in the Sanctuary. **The afternoon service will also be livestreamed.** We hope you will come experience it!



Save the date for our Neighborhood Block Party / Get Connected Sunday, which will take place Sunday, September 10. It will be held from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Michigan Avenue courtyard. Watch for details! For more information, contact Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org).



On September 10 we will also **kick off a new year of Sunday School, Youth gatherings, and Sunday morning Adult Education classes.** The first of those classes will be **“Celtic Sprituality” taught by Vicky Curtiss** on Sundays, September 10–24 at 11:00 a.m., both in person and via Zoom. For details, register at www.bit.ly/aeceltic923



Our **daily devotions** (fourthchurch.org/devotions) are available by email as a resource for your **personal reflection and prayer:** subscribe at www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions ✨ Also available by email (*subscribe at www.bit.ly/rhythmwordemail*) is our weekly **“Rhythm and Word” video series,** which offers **ten minutes of midweek music, scripture, and prayer.** New and previous videos can be viewed on our YouTube channel: www.bit.ly/fpcvideos



Those who would like to **learn more about this congregation** or **become a member** of Fourth Church are invited to a one-session Inquirers’ Class via Zoom on Wednesday, September 6 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. (*register at www.bit.ly/inquirers923*). For more information about the class or membership, email member@fourthchurch.org



The **scaffolding** on the exterior of the Fourth Church campus is to enable tuckpointing, flashing, and window repair being done this summer. The scaffolding in the North Balcony of the Sanctuary is to assist in addressing the gradual delamination of a few of the Bartlett murals on the ceiling.

Worship Leaders

Nancy Benson-Nicol, Anneke Stracks, Lucy Forster-Smith, Nanette Sawyer

The Music Today

The Men's Choir

Rabia Brooke, Violinist

Michael Rees, Organ Scholar

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

Worship Notes

WE ARE GRATEFUL to violinist Rabia Brooke for sharing her musical gifts during this morning's prelude. Rachel is a graduate of the Juilliard School and has had recent solo appearances at Carnegie's Weill Recital Hall, Chicago's Pianoforte studio, and on WFMT's *Introduction* series.

OFFERING GIFTS TO SUPPORT THE MINISTRY AND MISSION of Fourth Church can be placed in one of the offering plates, which will be passed at the time of the Offering, or, after the service, 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

Lucy Forster-Smith Senior Associate Pastor

Associate Pastors

Nancy Benson-Nicol Caring Ministries and Spiritual Formation

Matt Helms Children, Family, and Welcoming Ministries

Joseph L. Morrow Evangelism and Community Engagement

Nanette Sawyer Discipleship and Small Group Ministry

Rocky Supinger Youth Ministry and Worship

John Buchanan Pastor Emeritus

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THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO

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