



Fourth Presbyterian Church

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 10, 2023 • 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Variations of “All Creatures of Our God and King” Diane Bish

Introit

“O Lord, Open Thou Our Lips” Richard Ayleward

O Lord, open thou our lips, and our mouth shall show forth thy praise. O God, make speed to save us. O Lord, make haste to help us. 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. Praise ye the Lord. The Lord’s name be praised.

*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

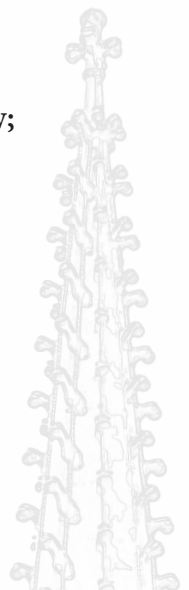
Leader: *Sing a song of thanksgiving.*

People: Declare God’s wondrous deeds.

Leader: *For the Lord dwells among the people;*

People: the glory of God abides with us.

All: Let us worship God!



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

***Hymn 394** “Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation”

Christ is made the sure foundation, Christ the head and cornerstone,
chosen of the Lord and precious, binding all the church in one;
holy Zion’s help forever, and our confidence alone.

To this temple, where we call you, come, O Lord of hosts, and stay;
come, with all your loving-kindness; hear your people as we pray,
and your fullest benediction shed within these walls today.

Here bestow on all your servants what they seek from you to gain;
what they gain from you, forever with the blessed to retain;
and hereafter in your glory evermore with you to reign.

Laud and honor to the Father, laud and honor to the Son,
laud and honor to the Spirit, ever three and ever one:
one in might and one in glory while unending ages run!

Prayer of Confession (*responsively*)

Leader: *God of grace, deliver us.*

People: From evil, even when it masquerades as good,

Leader: *God of grace, deliver us.*

People: From selfishness and vain desires,

Leader: *God of grace, deliver us.*

People: From irresponsible behaviors, quarreling, and jealousy,

Leader: *God of grace, deliver us.*

People: From hurtful disagreements and irreconcilable differences,

Leader: *God of grace, deliver us.*

People: Turn us away from the death sin inflicts.

Lead us into the abundant life Christ brings.

Forgive us, we pray, and teach us to forgive, through Jesus Christ. 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

The Sacrament of Baptism

Anthem

“O Be Joyful” Philip Stopford

O be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness, and come before his presence with a song. Be ye sure that the Lord he is God. It is he that hath made us and not we ourselves. We are his people and the sheep of his pasture. O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving and into his courts with praise. Be thankful unto him, and speak good of his name. For the Lord is gracious; his mercy is everlasting, and his truth endureth from generation to generation. 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.

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter Psalm 119:33–40

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.

Scripture Lesson Matthew 18:15–20

Leader: *Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.*

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Nancy Benson-Nicol

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

Responding to the Word

***Hymn 529** “Draw Us in the Spirit’s Tether”

Draw us in the Spirit’s tether, for when humbly in your name
two or three are met together, you are in the midst of them.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Here we touch your garment’s hem.

As disciples used to gather in the name of Christ to sup,
then with thanks to God the giver break the bread and bless the cup,
Alleluia! Alleluia! so now bind our friendship up.

All our meals and all our living make as sacraments of you,
that by caring, helping, giving, we may be disciples true.
Alleluia! Alleluia! We will serve with faith anew.

***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.

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

“I Was Glad” (9:30) Henry Purcell

I was glad when they said unto me; we will go into the house of the Lord. For thither the tribes go up, even the tribes of the Lord, to testify unto Israel and to give thanks unto the name of the Lord. For there is the seat of judgement, even the seat of the house of David. O pray for the peace of Jerusalem; they shall prosper that love thee. Peace be within thy walls, and plenteousness within thy palaces. 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.

“With a Voice of Singing” (11:00) Martin Shaw

With a voice of singing declare ye this and let it be heard, alleluia. Utter it even unto the ends of the earth. The Lord hath delivered his people, alleluia. O be joyful in God, all ye lands. O sing praises to the honor of his name; make his praise to be glorious.

***Offertory Response** Hymn 609

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures high and low.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one.

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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

Waymaking God,
we have received much from your hand,
your grace, your love, your very heart in Christ Jesus.
Now make us givers,
who provide, through these offerings, provision for all in need;
who witness through our lives, labors, and creativity
to your reign of peace which has no end. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

***Hymn 853** “We Are Marching in the Light of God”

We are marching in the light of God; we are marching in the light of God.

We are marching in the light of God; we are marching in the light of God.

We are dancing in the light of God; we are dancing in the light of God.

We are dancing in the light of God; we are dancing in the light of God.

We are praying in the light of God; we are praying in the light of God.

We are praying in the light of God; we are praying in the light of God.

We are singing in the light of God; we are singing in the light of God.

We are singing in the light of God; we are singing in the light of God.

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

Festal March. Florence Price

Baptized Today

At 9:30

Emmett Isaac Allerton, child of Matt and Maria Allerton

At 11:00

Clark Maxwell Flood, child of Colin Flood and Lily Granville

William Gary Martin, child of Patrick and Lindsay Martin

News and Opportunities

September 10–16, 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 9:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. services on our YouTube channel (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos), where they can be viewed at any time after the services begin. *(For tips on how to watch, from the beginning, a service in progress, see www.fourthchurch.org/watch-from-the-beginning)* ✳ **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 at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. ✳ On Sundays the **doors open for worship** a half hour prior to each 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. ✳ **Worship can be heard** through "T" or "T-coil" settings 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.

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. ✱ After worship, those worshipping in person are also invited to **greet one another during Coffee Hour** in Anderson Hall and the Commons.



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



Following the 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. services **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.** ✱ Following the 11:00 service a **pipe organ tour** begins at the front of the Sanctuary. ✱ 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 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 gather each Sunday afternoon for **The Gathering: Communion at 2:00**, a more casual, intimate service than worship in the morning and featuring a breadth of musical expressions. The service, which takes place in the Sanctuary, **is also livestreamed**. We hope you will come experience it!



Stop by Anderson Hall and the Michigan Avenue courtyard today to enjoy our annual **Neighborhood Block Party / Get Connected Sunday festivities!** In Anderson Hall you can learn about the variety of ways to get connected with Fourth Church and one another. In the courtyard you will find games, music, ice cream treats, a pet blessing, and more! This fall kickoff event will take place from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. ✨ At the **World Mission and Social Justice** information table you will have opportunity to meet representatives from two of Fourth Church's longtime mission partners, **Learning Edge Tutoring** and **Breakthrough Ministries**, to learn more about the important work they are doing in the Austin and East Garfield Park communities and how you can get involved.



Today we are also **beginning a new year of Sunday School** at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. on the fourth floor of the Gratz Center. **Youth gatherings** also resume, with eighth-grade **Confirmation** at 9:30 a.m. in Room 5G; **Junior High** (*grades 6 and 7*) at 9:30 a.m. in the Bumpus Room; and **Senior High** at 11:00 a.m. also in the Bumpus Room.



Children's Choir (*grades 2–5*) rehearses at 9:00 a.m.; **Cherub Choir** (*ages three–grade 1*) at 10:15 a.m.; and **Youth Choir** (*grades 6–12*) at 10:30 a.m., all in Room 4G. ✨ The **Handbell Choir**, which rehearses at 12:15 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel Loft, welcomes newcomers to join in ringing. ✨ This week's **free Friday Noonday Concert**, which takes place in the Sanctuary and is also livestreamed, features pianist Richard Sladek, cellist Thor Sigurdson, bassist Geoff Lowe, and drummer Ken Kazin.



Sunday morning Adult Education class offerings, which will be held at 11:00 a.m., return today. The first class of this new program year is **"Celtic Spirituality" taught by Vicky Curtiss**, which begins today and meets on Sundays, September 10–24 at 11:00 a.m., both in Borwell Dining Room and via Zoom. It offers opportunity to explore the Celtic life-affirming theology of creation, daily life and work, incarnation, friendship, pilgrimage, blessing, social justice, and prayer. For the Zoom link, register at www.bit.ly/aeceltic923 ✨ **Men's Bible Study** meets via Zoom on Tuesday mornings at 7:30 a.m. **Horizons Women's Bible Study** is offered via Zoom this Wednesday, September 13 at 12:00 and 6:30 p.m. For Zoom details, email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org).

The Autumn Session of the Center for Life and Learning, for adults sixty and over, **begins this Monday, September 11**. See www.fourthchurch.org/cll to learn about the classes and become a member of the CLL. ✱ **Books by Women** will discuss *The Secret Life of Sunflowers* by Marta Molnar on Tuesday, September at 6:00 p.m. in the Bumpus Room. ✱ **Benevolent Guild**, which has counted among its projects making stuffed animals and taggies for children in the hospital, meets on Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. in Room 5B. No sewing experience is necessary. ✱ A **Deep Listening Dinner at the Chicago Lights Urban Farm** (444 W. Chicago) will take place this Saturday, September 16 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. An optional tour of the farm will begin at 4:00 p.m. If you are interested in taking part in this opportunity to get to know one another better over a shared meal, RSVP at www.bit.ly/deeplisting923 ✱ **Knitting and Crocheting** meets in person next Sunday, September 17 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 5B. ✱ Also next Sunday, September 17 **LGBTQIA+ Widen Our Welcome** (WOW) gathers for brunch at 12:00 p.m. Those who would like to join in this time of fellowship are invited to meet at the reception desk to walk together to a nearby restaurant ✱ **Zoom Small Groups** will begin at the end of September. For details, email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org).



The new **Veterans' Support Group** will meet for the first time next Sunday, September 17 at 12:00 p.m. in the Randolph Room and via Zoom. Led by Chaplain Mark Schimmelpfennig—a leader of the Road Home project at Rush Medical Center and a veteran who served in the U.S. Army—the group will provide a safe, confidential space for veterans, their families, and friends to share their experiences. For Zoom details, email Nancy Benson-Nicol (nbenson-nicol@fourthchurch.org). ✱ A four-week **Grief Support Group** hosted by our Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being begins Wednesday, September 27 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. To register (*required*), email Sharon Crawford Tucker (stucker@fourthchurch.org) or call the Center at 312.787.8425.



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) ✱ Those who would like to **learn more about this congregation** or **become a member** of Fourth Church are invited to a one-session in-person Inquirers' Class on Sunday, October 15 at 11:15 a.m. (*register at* www.bit.ly/inquirers1023). For details, email member@fourthchurch.org

The Officer Nominating Committee is in need of recommendations of individuals to serve in leadership positions opening in 2024 for Elder, Deacon, Trustee, Nominating Committee, and the Chicago Lights Board. If you know any Fourth Church members—including yourself!—who have demonstrated gifts for leadership and ministry, please offer your recommendations via the online form at www.bit.ly/nominating2024 or by using the paper forms in the pew racks. Representatives from the Nominating Committee will be at Coffee Hour today if you'd like to learn more!



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/rhythmandwordemail*) is our weekly **“Rhythm and Word” video series**, which in September is **led by Matt Helms** and offers **ten minutes of midweek music, scripture, and prayer**. New and previous videos can be viewed on our YouTube channel: www.bit.ly/fpcvideos



“Cheers to 40 Years!” will **celebrate the Chicago Lights Elam Davies Social Service Center this Tuesday**, September 12 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Columbia Yacht Club. Advance tickets are required (*register at www.bit.ly/40yearscheers*) for this event recognizing the impact of the program that grew out of the vision of former Fourth Church Pastor Dr. Elam Davies. ✱ **Tutors are needed** on weekday evenings, beginning in October, to partner with **Chicago Lights Tutoring** students. For details or to sign up, see www.chicagolights.org/youth-programs/#tutoring



The **Chicago Lights Social Service Center** is in **need of men’s casual clothing** (*gently worn or new*) in all sizes. ✱ **Fourth Church Shower Ministry** is in **need of unused, hotel-sized toiletries**. 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.” ✱ **Food items for Fourth Church Meals Ministry**, which has seen an increase in guests, are also needed and can be ordered and shipped to the church using the links on www.fourthchurch.org/meals



“Beyond Words: From Mere Welcome to True Belonging” is an event **sponsored by the Covenant Network of Presbyterians and the Chicago Presbytery** and hosted at Fourth Church on Saturday, September 30 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The program, which will include worship, will explore how Christians can show true hospitality to anyone who walks through our church doors, especially members of the LGBTQIA+ community. To register to attend, see www.bit.ly/covenant923

Worship Leaders

Nanette Sawyer, Mary Zeltmann (9:30), Kim Reome (11:00), Joseph L. Morrow
Nancy Benson-Nicol

The Music Today

Morning Choir (9:30); Chancel Choir (11:00)
Michael Rees, Organ Scholar
John W. W. Sherer, Organist and Director of Music

Worship Notes

THE MORNING AND CHANCEL CHOIRS RETURN TODAY from summer break to provide music leadership during our morning services. If you would like to sing with the Chancel Choir, please contact John Sherer (jsherer@fourthchurch.org).

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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