

October 15, 2023



The Gathering

Communion at 2:00

We Gather.

Call to Worship "Open My Eyes, Lord"

Open my eyes, Lord. Help me to see your face.

Open my eyes, Lord. Help me to see.

Open my ears, Lord. Help me to hear your voice.

Open my ears, Lord. Help me to hear.

Open my heart, Lord. Help me to love like you.

Open my heart, Lord. Help me to love.

Welcome

***Song** "I'm Gonna Eat at the Welcome Table" (Hymnal 770)

I'm gonna eat at the welcome table;

I'm gonna eat at the welcome table, Alleluia.

I'm gonna eat at the welcome table;

I'm gonna eat at the welcome table, Alleluia.

(song continued on following page)

**Please rise in body or spirit.*



FOURTH
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
A Light in the City

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.

I'm gonna eat and drink with my Jesus; . . .

I'm gonna join with sisters, brothers; . . .

Here all the world will find a welcome; . . .

We're gonna feast on milk and honey; . . .

***Confession and Assurance** (*unison*)

Lord God,

in the light of your glory we see the evil we have done,
the suffering we have caused,
the good we have refused,
and the truth we have denied.

Heal us of our greed and our fear,

wash us in your mercy,

and feed us with your grace,

so that we may follow your way and tell the good news of the gospel. Amen.

***Response** "Glory to God" (Hymnal 582)

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,

and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,

and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

World without end... (without end...) Amen.

***Peace**

The Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

We Hear.

Scripture Matthew 22:1–14

Sermon by Rocky Supinger

Offering

The gifts we share to support the ministry and mission of Fourth Church can be placed in the offering plate or, upon leaving today, in the offering boxes at the Sanctuary exits. Gifts also can be given via Venmo (@Fourth-Church) or online at www.fourthchurch.org/give

Song "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" (Hymnal 39)

Great is thy faithfulness, O God Creator; there is no shadow of turning with thee.
Thou changest not; thy compassions they fail not. As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Refrain:

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning, new mercies I see.

All I have needed thy hand hath provided. Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest, sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

(Refrain)

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow: blessings all mine,
with ten thousand beside!

(Refrain)

Communion

*Communion will be served by intinction (dipping the bread into the juice).
Gluten-free bread is available.*

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Communion Song “Nobody Greater” (Vashawn Mitchell)



*Song “Peace Like River”

1. I’ve got peace like a river;
I’ve got peace like a river;
I’ve got peace like a river, in my soul.

I’ve got peace like a river;
I’ve got peace like a river;
I’ve got peace like a river, in my soul.
2. I’ve got joy like a fountain . . .
3. I’ve got love like an ocean . . .

*Blessing

Worship Leaders

Nancy Benson-Nicol, Rocky Supinger

The Music Today

Beena David, vocals; Bryan Doherty, bass; Amr Fahmy, piano; Neal Wehman, drums

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.

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You are invited!

October 15–21, 2023



The following pages are our invitation to you—an invitation to explore the many opportunities for learning, serving, and community building at Fourth Church as well as an invitation to connect with one another, our staff, and the varied resources available to you here. We hope you will spend a few minutes looking over the opportunities and identifying those that interest you!

Welcome!

We are glad to be worshipping with you today and invite you to continue 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. ✨ Inspired by the radical hospitality of Jesus Christ, we welcome everyone, without exception, into the life of this congregation!

Joining us online

Each Sunday our worshipping body is a wonderful mix of those online, on the phone, and in the pews. 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 any time after the services begin. *(For tips on how to watch—from the beginning—a service that is already in progress, see fourthchurch.org/watch-from-the-beginning)* ✨ Those without Internet access are invited to listen via phone by calling 888.916.9166 at 9:30 a.m.

Joining us in person

If you like to join us for **in-person worship**, we gather at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. ✨ 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 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.

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

Let us know you're worshipping with us!

Please 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.

Worship podcasts and sermon text

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

Prayer and meditation

On Wednesdays we gather 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*). ☼ Buchanan Chapel is open for **opportunity to walk the labyrinth** between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. ☼ A **Sacred Pause time of meditation** is offered virtually by our Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being at facebook.com/reploglecenterforcounselingandwellbeing on Tuesdays (7:45 a.m.) and Saturdays (8:30 a.m.).

Resources for personal reflection

Our **daily devotions** (*fourthchurch.org/devotions*), written by Fourth Church members and staff, are available as a resource for your **personal meditation and prayer**. To receive them by email, subscribe at www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions ☼ Our weekly **“Rhythm and Word” video series** offers ten minutes of midweek music, scripture, and prayer for your viewing at home. In October these videos, **led by Rocky Supinger and our Gathering musicians**, invite us to **explore what it means to be one body in Christ**. A new video is released each Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. on YouTube, where you can also view videos from previous series. To receive the videos by email, sign up at www.bit.ly/rhythmandwordemail; you can also **subscribe to our YouTube channel** (*www.bit.ly/fpcvideos*)

Exploring the Bible

Men's Bible Study meets via Zoom on Tuesday mornings at 7:30 a.m. **Horizons Women's Bible Study** meets via Zoom on Wednesday, October 25 at 12:00 and 6:30 p.m. For Zoom details, email Simon Crow (*scrow@fourthchurch.org*). ☼ **Matt Helms and Rocky Supinger** also invite you to tune in to their **“Bible Top Ten” podcast** (*www.fourthchurch.org/podcasts*). This lively, informative, and occasionally funny podcast explores the Bible through a rotating series of top ten lists.

Get connected

Benevolent Guild, which creates sewn and crafted items to care for those in need, meets on Wednesdays 9:30 a.m. in Room 5B. *No sewing experience is necessary.* ✱ Next Sunday, October 22 at 12:00 p.m. **LGBTQIA+ Widen Our Welcome (WOW)** will gather for brunch. To join in this time of fellowship, meet at the reception desk that day to walk together to a nearby restaurant. ✱ **Knitting and Crocheting** meets via Zoom on Tuesday, October 24 at 4:00 p.m. For details, email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org). ✱ **Women at Fourth** will gather in person on Thursday, October 26 at 5:30 p.m. in the Manse for fellowship and **Halloween-themed trivia**. RSVP at www.bit.ly/waf1023 ✱ To **learn more about this congregation or become a member of Fourth Church**, we invite you to the online Inquirers' Class on November 8 at 6:30 p.m. For details, register at www.bit.ly/inquirers1123 ✱ 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 ✱ We invite you to follow us on **Facebook** (facebook.com/fourthchurch), **YouTube** (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos), and **Instagram** (instagram.com/fourthchurch). ✱ Be sure to bookmark **our online church calendar**, accessible from our website's home page and at fourthchurch.org/calendar

Our home. Our commitment.

Our 2024 stewardship campaign is underway, inviting us to reflect on **"How is Fourth Church home to me? To others?"** and **"What will my 2024 pledge be in support of the life-giving mission, ministry, and outreach efforts of Fourth Church and Chicago Lights?"** Please plan to submit your 2024 pledge—which you can make using the form mailed to member homes and also available in the pew racks and online at www.bit.ly/fpcpledging—by Commitment Sunday, October 29, when we will celebrate all we are able to do together through our generous response to God's blessings in our lives.

Volunteers needed

We have a waitlist of Chicago Lights Tutoring students in need of tutors on weekday evenings—in person or online. For details or to sign up, see www.chicagolights.org/youth-programs/#tutoring. ✱ **Meals Ministry** is looking for **doctors, physicians assistants, nurse practitioners, and medical students** to assist with our medical services program for guests attending **Sunday Night Supper**. To learn more, contact Mike Usiak (musiak@fourthchurch.org).

A Michigan Avenue Forum

"Understanding Antisemitism" will be the topic of this year's **Michigan Avenue Forum**, to be held Thursday, November 2 at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. A panel of Rabbi Danya Ruttenberg; Becca Lubow, community organizer at Jewish Council on Urban Affairs; and Fourth Church Associate Pastor Nanette Sawyer will discuss the history of antisemitism, including the Christian church's role in its promotion and perpetuation; the rise in violent episodes and hate crimes; and concrete strategies for non-Jewish houses of worship to dismantle antisemitism and pursue reconciliation and healing.

Planning for our future

The Long-Range Planning Task Force is hosting an in-person town hall next Sunday, October 22 in the Sanctuary after the 11:00 a.m. service. During that time, the task force will be sharing the **draft strategic directives**, which are coming out of the information gathered from your responses to the congregational survey, and will also be receiving **your feedback**. Please plan to join in taking the next step in developing a long-range plan for Fourth Church!

Partnering with our local and global community

The three-week class “**Stop the Shooting**” begins next Sunday morning, October 22 at 11:00 a.m. in Borwell Dining Room and via Zoom. This look at organizations and approaches for gun violence reduction and advocacy will feature a speaker from **Live Free Illinois** (October 22); **Arne Duncan** (October 29) speaking about the work of **Chicago CRED**; and **Pastor Brenda Mitchell** (November 5) spotlighting advocacy and activism. (For Zoom details, register at <https://bit.ly/aestoptheshooting>) ✱ We hold in prayer **our siblings in Israel and Palestine** and all impacted by war. For those seeking a way to put prayer into action, **gifts to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance**, providing humanitarian assistance in the region through partners on the ground, can be given at www.bit.ly/pdagifts

Pastoral care and a listening presence

To **talk to a pastor** or **notify the pastoral staff** of personal concerns, illnesses, 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 conversations with a counselor**, call our Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being at 312.787.2729, ext. 2260.



Lucy Forster-Smith Senior Associate Pastor

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