



Fourth Presbyterian Church

Reformation Sunday

October 29, 2023 • 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Toccata, Adagio, and Fugue Johann Sebastian Bach

Introit

“Now Let Us Come before Him”. J. S. Bach

*Now let us come before him; with songs and prayers adore him, who to our life hath given
all needed strength from heaven.*

***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**

One: *Sing to God a new song. Praise God from the ends of the earth!*
All: God, who created us, says to us, “Fear not, I have redeemed you.”
One: *“I have called you by name; you are mine.”*
All: God reminds us that we are precious in God’s eyes.
One: *Sing to God a new song, and declare God’s praise!*
All: Let us worship God with praise and joy!



**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*) adapted from the prayers of John Calvin

Lord God, eternal and almighty God:
we acknowledge before your holy majesty that we have sinned
and are unable of our own power to do good.
Because of our sin, we endlessly violate your holy commandments.
But, O Lord, with heartfelt sorrow we repent and turn away from all our offenses.
We are sorry, O God, and ask that your grace will relieve our distress.
Have compassion on us, most gracious God of mercies,
for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.
And in removing our guilt, also grant us daily increase of the grace of your Holy Spirit,
and produce in us the fruits of holiness and of righteousness pleasing in your sight:
through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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 (9:30 and 11:00)

“Praise Him” J. S. Bach
Praise him, praise the great Creator, for his goodness, for his bounty showered upon us throughout the year. Praise him, snow and wind and rain; praise him, buds and blossoms fair, fruits and fields of golden grain, beasts of earth and birds of air. Praise the Lord, ye heavens adore him; praise him, angels in the height. Sun and moon rejoice before him; praise him all ye stars of light, sun and moon rejoice before him. Praise him all ye stars of light.

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson Deuteronomy 34

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

All: 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 Mark 1:14–15

One: *Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.*

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

The View from Nebo Tom Are Jr.

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

Responding to the Word

***Hymn 49 and Dedication of Pledges** “The God of Abraham Praise”

The God of Abraham praise, who reigns enthroned above,
the Ancient of Eternal Days, the God of love!
The Lord, the great I AM, by earth and heaven confessed,
we bow before your holy name, forever blest.

Your spirit still flows free, high surging where it will.
In prophet’s word you spoke of old and you speak still.
Established is your law, and changeless it shall stand,
deep writ upon the human heart by your strong hand.

Your goodly land we seek, with peace and plenty blest,
a land of sacred liberty and Sabbath rest.
There milk and honey flow, and oil and wine abound,
and trees of life forever grow with mercy crowned.

You have eternal life implanted in the soul;
your love shall be our strength and stay, while ages roll.
We praise you, living God! We praise your holy name:
the first, the last, beyond all thought, and still the same!

***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

“Erschallet, ihr Lieder” (9:30) J. S. Bach
Sing praises, ye faithful, your voices attune this joyous season.
The Lord desires a temple in our souls.

“Jesu, Joy of All Desiring” (11:00) J. S. Bach
Jesu, joy of all desiring, holy wisdom, love most bright. Drawn by thee, our souls aspiring,
soar to uncreated light. Word of God our flesh that fashioned with the fire of life impassioned.
Striving still to truth unknown, soaring, dying, round thy throne.

*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)*

Good and generous God,
we are so grateful to you for your gifts of life and daily bread.
We can never say thank you enough.
As we bring these gifts, our pledges and offering,
take our lives and let them be given to you and this world
as a sign of your love.
May these gifts extend your love with energy, imagination, and joy.
Through Christ, we pray. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

***Hymn 275** “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing.
Our helper he, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe.
His craft and power are great, and armed with cruel hate,
on earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,
were not the right man on our side, the man of God’s own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he.
Lord Sabaoth his name, from age to age the same,
and he must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to triumph through us.
The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him.
His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure.
One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth.
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also.
The body they may kill; God’s truth abideth still.
His kingdom is forever.

***Charge and Benediction**

***Recessional** *(please remain standing)*

Scotland the Brave Traditional Scottish tune

Postlude

Toccatina and Fugue in D Minor J.S. Bach

You are invited!

October 29–November 4, 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 6 hours (*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.

Joining us with children

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 services **nursery care** is available on the fourth floor of the Gratz Center for infants through two-year-olds.

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 the Sunday morning **service and sermon is 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

Those who would like to **offer individual prayers of praise or concern with a Deacon today** are invited to do so in Stone Chapel (*through the door to the right of the pulpit*) following the 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. services. ✱ 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. 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)

About Fourth Church

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

Today is Commitment Sunday!

Today is Commitment Sunday, the day we lift up our pledges to our 2024 stewardship campaign for Fourth Church and Chicago Lights. Following the sermon we will bring forward our pledges and dedicate them to the work of God's kingdom, as **we each answer the invitation to join in God's re-creating and reconciling work in this world through our financial support.** If you have not already made your pledge for 2024 indicating your support for and investment in the work of Fourth Church and Chicago Lights, we encourage you to take this opportunity to do so by filling out the form at www.bit.ly/fpcclpledge or by using the pledge cards found in the pew racks. *(If you have already submitted your pledge, in the pew racks there are blue "I pledged" cards to bring forward.)*

Today is also Reformation Sunday

Today is also Reformation Sunday, a day when we recall **the rich heritage of the Protestant tradition.** The Presbyterian Church (USA) grew out of the Reformation of the sixteenth century under leaders such as John Calvin and John Knox. The last Sunday in October has been chosen as Reformation Sunday because it was on October 31, 1517, that Martin Luther posted his ninety-five theses on the church door in Wittenberg, Germany, the watershed event sparking the Reformation. Today we remember and give thanks for Reformation leaders and all others who have kept the faith. As part of our observance, Pat Higgins will play a **bagpipe recessional**, reminding us of the Scottish roots of the Presbyterian church. ✨ Next Sunday, November 5 is **All Saints' Sunday**, a day when we lift up those whose baptism is new and those whose baptism is now complete. As part of our remembrance of the faithful who have gone before us and our honoring of departed loved ones, the names of all Fourth Church members who have entered the Church Triumphant in the past year will be read during worship. During the morning services that day we will celebrate Communion, and the Morning Choir will sing the twenty-five-minute **A New England Requiem by Scott Perkins.** *(And don't forget: Daylight Saving Time ends next Sunday, November 5; be sure to set your clocks back an hour!)*

Today we also welcome our Interim Pastor!

Tripling the reason for celebration on this Commitment and Reformation Sunday, today we also **welcome the Reverend Tom Are Jr. as our Interim Pastor!** Tom will be preaching this morning and also this afternoon at The Gathering: Communion at 2:00, and we will have a Coffee Hour reception following each service. We are delighted to have Tom and his wife, Carol, with us as we look forward to our season of ministry together. Please join us in extending to them a very warm Fourth Church welcome in the days ahead.

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

Sunday opportunities

Those worshipping in person are encouraged to **greet one another during Coffee Hour** in Anderson Hall and the Commons following worship, where there is also opportunity to learn about ways to get connected with one another and Fourth Church. ✱ **Arne Duncan**, former US Secretary of Education and a former CEO of Chicago Public Schools, will talk about the work of **Chicago CRED** (“Create Real Economic Destiny”) during today’s **“Stop the Shooting”** class, which meets at 11:00 a.m. in Borwell Dining Room and via Zoom. For Zoom details, register at www.bit.ly/aestoptheshooting ✱ **Eighth-grade Confirmation** meets at 9:30 a.m. in Room 5G. **Junior High** (grades 6–7) gathers at 9:30 a.m. in the Bumpus Room, and at 11:00 a.m. **Senior High** also meets in the Bumpus Room. ✱ **Sunday School** for children from three years old to fifth grade meets at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. on the fourth floor of the Gratz Center. ✱ Following the 11:00 service a **pipe organ tour** begins at the front of the Sanctuary. ✱ We invite you to join us this afternoon for **The Gathering: Communion at 2:00**. This more casual, intimate service, which is livestreamed as well, features a breadth of musical expressions.

This Thursday: A Michigan Avenue Forum

This Thursday, November 2 the **Michigan Avenue Forum “Understanding Antisemitism”** will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary and also livestreamed at www.bit.ly/fpcvideos. A panel of Rabbi Danya Ruttenberg; Becca Lubow, community organizer at Jewish Council on Urban Affairs; and 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

Please plan to join the Long-Range Planning Task Force for one of **two additional town halls** scheduled for November to provide an in-depth look at the long-range planning work. The first will be held in person next Sunday, November 5 at 12:30 p.m. in Borwell Dining Room. The second will be via Zoom on Sunday, November 12 at 10:45 a.m. (*Details will be available prior to each session.*) A **recording of the town hall on October 15** as well as a link to **the October presentation slides** can be found at www.fourthchurch.org/about/long-range.html; for details email longrange@fourthchurch.org

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, November 8 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 the 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

Cornerstones, a group for those fifty and over, will meet this Friday, November 3 for dinner and a program by Armedia Houston, Director of the Chicago Lights Tutoring and Summer Day Programs. Register (*required by October 30*) at www.bit.ly/cornerstones1123 for this 5:30 p.m. event that will be held in Borwell Dining Room. ✱ **Knitting and Crocheting** meets on Tuesday, November 7 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 5B. ✱ The **Fourth Church Choral Society** will present a **concert honoring Morgan Simmons**, former Fourth Church Organist and Choirmaster, on Friday, November 10 at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary and online. ✱ **LGBTQIA+ Widen Our Welcome (WOW)** will meet for pizza and games at 12:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 12 in the Manse. ✱ The **Spiritual Formation fall workshop “Pilgrimage”** on Saturday, November 18 will provide opportunity to learn how a pilgrimage can deepen your faith and prepare the way to step out of the busyness of life; come find the sacred within while building community. This 10:00 a.m. workshop will be held in Buchanan Chapel as well as via Zoom (www.bit.ly/pilgrimage1123). ✱ 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: **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**

Volunteers needed

Communion Servers are needed on Sunday morning, November 5. If you are interested in serving, email Katie Patterson (kpatterson@fourthchurch.org). ✱ **We have a waitlist of Chicago Lights Tutoring students in need of tutors** on weekday evenings (for ninety minutes)—in person (*Tuesdays and Wednesdays*) or online (*Mondays*). For details or to sign up, see www.chicagolights.org/tutoring. ✱ We are in need of **doctors, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and medical students** to assist with medical services at **Sunday Night Supper**. To learn more, email Mike Usiak (musiak@fourthchurch.org).

Pastoral care and a listening presence and witness

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. ✱ During **Domestic Violence Awareness Month** the **purple ribbons** along Michigan Avenue are our public witness to all affected by domestic violence.

Worship Leaders

Lucy Forster-Smith, Melanie Oh Pierce (9:30), Ken Walker (11:00), Nancy Benson-Nicol, Tom Are Jr.

The Music Today

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

Worship Notes

TODAY IS REFORMATION SUNDAY, a day when we recall the rich heritage of the Protestant tradition. The Presbyterian Church (USA) grew out of the Reformation of the sixteenth century under leaders such as John Calvin and John Knox. Martin Luther, who sparked the Reformation when he posted his ninety-five theses 506 years ago this week, later authored today's closing hymn, "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God." The pastors' stoles are red today to symbolize the Holy Spirit's work in reforming the church.

OFFERING GIFTS TO SUPPORT THE MINISTRY AND MISSION of Fourth Church can be placed in the plates passed during the service, or, afterwards, in an offering box at the exit from the Sanctuary. They also can be given via Venmo (@Fourth-Church) or online at fourthchurch.org/give

Tom Are Jr. Interim Pastor

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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