Fourth Presbyterian Church

Reign of Christ Sunday November 26, 2023 • 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

We Thank Thee, O God	Johann Sebastian Bach/arr. S. Drummond Wolff
We Gather Together	Netherlands chorale/arr. Wilbur Held
Now Thank We All Our God	Georg Friedrich Kaufmann
Thanksgiving	
Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing .	American folk hymn/arr. Larry Sue

Introit

*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: We come, for God gathers us here, with that community called faith:

All: where the hungry are served first, where the thirsty drink life's water.

One: We come, for God welcomes us here into that home called grace:

All: where the naked are clothed in robes of hope,

where the stranger is embraced as the long-lost prodigal.

One: *We come, for God reunites us here, sisters and brothers in that family called love:* All: where the imprisoned model justice, where the sick are cradled in God's peace.

*Please rise in body or spirit. [†]Or "Father, Son, and Holy Ghost."

*Hymn 260
Alleluia! Sing to Jesus; his the scepter, his the throne; Alleluia! his the triumph, his the victory alone! Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood: "Jesus out of every nation has redeemed us by his blood."
Alleluia! Not as orphans are we left in sorrow now; Alleluia! he is near us; faith believes nor questions how. Though the cloud from sight received him, when the forty days were o'er, shall our hearts forget his promise: "I am with you evermore"?
Alleluia! Bread of angels, here on earth our food, our stay; Alleluia! here the sinful flee to you from day to day. Intercessor, friend of sinners, earth's redeemer, hear our plea where the songs of all the sinless sweep across the crystal sea.
Alleluia! King eternal, Lord omnipotent we own; Alleluia! born of Mary, earth your footstool, heaven your throne. As within the veil you entered, robed in flesh, our great high priest; here on earth both priest and victim in the eucharistic feast.
Prayer of Confession (unison)
 Loving and merciful One, we thank you for the community in which you have placed us, for the brothers and sisters with whom we walk this pilgrim journey. Yet we confess that we fail to love as you love. We push aside those whom we believe are the least in your kingdom. We fail to see your kingdom in parables because we fail to see your kingdom in each other. Form in us a new vision of community in which there is neither east nor west, south nor north. We pray for the sake of your kingdom
that both is and is not yet. 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

Ministry Minute

Anthem

"We Gather Together" (9:30) Netherlands chorale/arr. Stephen Paulus We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing; he chastens and hastens his will to make known; the wicked oppressing now cease from distressing, sing praises to his name, he forgets not his own. Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining, ordaining, maintaining his kingdom divine; so from the beginning the fight we were winning, thou, Lord, was at our side, all glory be thine! We all do extol thee, thou leader triumphant, and pray that thou still our defender will be. Let thy congregation escape tribulation; thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter

Psalm 95:1–7

One: *The Word of God for the people of God*. All: Thanks be to God.

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

*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 Reading	Matthew 25:31–46
One: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.	
All: Thanks be to God.	
Sermon	

Don't Be a Goat		Tom Are Jr.
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Responding to the Word

The church of Christ cannot be bound by walls of wood or stone. Where charity and love are found there can the church be known. True faith will open up the door and step into the street. True service will seek out the poor and ask to wash their feet. True love will not sit idly by when justice is denied. True mercy hears the homeless cry and welcomes them inside. If what we have we freely share to meet our neighbor's need, then we extend the Spirit's care through every selfless deed. The church of Christ cannot be bound by walls of wood or stone. Where charity and love are found, there can the church be known. The life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ has set the pattern for the church's mission. Jesus' human life involves the church in the common life of all people. Christ's service to all people commits the church to work for every form of human well-being. Christ's suffering makes the church sensitive to all human suffering And Christ's crucifixion reveals the consequences of the church's own complicity in injustice.

(Continued on facing page)

In the power of the risen Christ and the hope of Christ's coming, the church sees the promise of God's renewal of all human life and of God's victory over all wrong.

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

"Let All the World in Every Corner Sing" (9:30) Craig Phillips Let all the world in every corner sing, my God and King! The heavens are not too high, his praise may thither fly; the earth is not too low, his praises there may grow. Let all the world in every corner sing, my God and King! The church with psalms must shout, no door can keep them out; but, above all, the heart must bear the longest part. Let all the world in every corner sing, my God and King!

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)

From your grace, Creator God, comes every blessing in our lives and world. In fidelity to your beloved Christ

we gratefully share the fruits of your blessings with all who have need, until the day your reign comes and all creation flourishes. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

***Hymn 757** Be Disciples" Today we all are called to be disciples of the Lord, to help to set the captive free, make plowshare out of sword, to feed the hungry, quench their thirst, make love and peace our fast, to serve the poor and homeless first, our ease and comfort last. God made the world and at its birth ordained our human race to live as stewards of the earth, responding to God's grace. But we are vain and sadly proud; we sow not peace but strife. Our discord spreads a deadly cloud that threatens all of life. Pray justice may come rolling down as in a mighty stream, with righteousness in field and town to cleanse us and redeem. For God is longing to restore an earth where conflicts cease, a world that was created for a harmony of peace. May we in service to our God act out the living word and walk the road the saints have trod till all have seen and heard. As stewards of the earth may we give thanks in one accord to God who calls us all to be disciples of the Lord. *Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Now Thank We All Our God.		Sigfrid Karg-Elert
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You are invited!

November 26–December 2, 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 worshiping 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 worshiping 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 worshiping with us!

Please let us know you are here by filling out an information form. Those worshiping 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 worshiping 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 viewing at home. A new video is released each Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. on YouTube. 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*) ***** Matt Helms and Rocky Supinger also invite you to tune in to the their **"Bible Top Ten" podcast** (*www.fourthchurch.org/podcasts*), which explores the Bible through a rotating series of top ten lists.

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**

Today's opportunities

Those worshiping 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. **** Eighth-grade Confirmation and Junior High** (grades 6–7) meet together at 9:30 a.m. in the Bumpus Room to make Christmas cards for guests of Meals Ministry. Senior High will also make cards when they gather in the Bumpus Room at 11:00 a.m. **** 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. ****** Rehearsing on Sundays are **Children's Choir** (*kindergarten-grade 5*) at 9:00 a.m. in Room 4G; **Cherub Choir** (*ages 3 and 4*) at 10:15 a.m. in 4B; and **Youth Choir** (grades 6–12) at 10:30 a.m. in 4G. 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.

Zoom Coffee Hour with Tom Are

If you are among those who regularly connect with us online and thus have not yet had opportunity to meet our new Interim Pastor, the Reverend Tom Are Jr., we have a special Zoom event planned for you! **Please plan to join us and Tom Are via Zoom** (*www.bit.ly/meetandgreet1128*) this **Tuesday, November 28** at 6:00 p.m. (*Central*) for an informal midweek "Coffee Hour" with Tom, a time when he will introduce himself to us and we will introduce ourselves to him.

Our shared commitment. Our shared work.

If you have not yet made your 2024 Stewardship pledge (*www.bit.ly/fpcpledging*), please take a moment to do so to **help us reach our congregational goals! As of this week**, 515 of our households have made a pledge to Fourth Church for next year, with those totaling \$2,076,386 toward our 2024 goal of \$3,000,000. Toward the 2024 Chicago Lights goal of \$750,000, 303 of our households have pledged, in total, \$670,072.80. Member pledging—knowing how much to expect in the coming year—enables leadership and staff to imagine what is possible for the year ahead and plan for what we can accomplish together as a church. **Every gift matters in making it possible for us to do together the work that God has called us to do!**

Christmas flowers

We invite you to **remember or honor a loved one with a contribution toward the Christmas flowers**, wreaths, and garlands that will decorate the Sanctuary and Gratz Center. A list of those individuals remembered and honored will be printed in the Christmas bulletin. **Contributions can be made online** at www.bit.ly/fpcgift and must be received by Sunday, December 10 for names to appear in the bulletin. For more information, contact Gloria Vicente (*312.252.3571; gvicente@fourthchurch.org*).

Advent reflections

The season of Advent begins next Sunday, December 3! **Daily Advent devotions** written by Fourth Church members and staff will be available beginning that day as a resource for personal meditation and prayer. We invite you to receive them in your inbox (*subscribe at www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions if you don't already receive our devotions*), read them online (*www.fourthchurch.org/devotions*), or share them via Facebook (*www.facebook.com/fourthchurch*).

Advent and Christmas worship

In addition to our Advent worship services on Sundays at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., we also have some special services on the calendar that we hope you will put on yours. Our **Festival of Advent Lessons and Music** service will take place on Sunday, December 10 at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. ***** This year's **Christmas Cantata**, by Daniel Pinkham, will be part of the Sunday morning services on December 17. ***** The **"Longest Night" Service**, for those for whom Christmas celebrations are made difficult by loss, grief, or loneliness, will be held on Wednesday, December 20 at 6:30 p.m. Buchanan Chapel. On the **morning of Sunday, December 24 we will have just one worship service: at 10:00 a.m.** *(which will also be livestreamed)*. Then that afternoon and evening we will gather for the **Christmas Eve Children's Pageant** at 4:00 p.m.; **Family Service** at 6:00 p.m., and **Lessons and Carols** at 8:00 p.m. *(also livestreamed)* and 10:00 p.m. On **Christmas morning** we will gather again at 10:00 a.m. *(in person only)*.

Sharing Christmas joy

Our **Christmas Wishes project to provide gifts for Chicago Lights Tutoring students** is collecting gift cards to Target, Amazon, Walmart, Starbucks, and McDonald's, along with books. If dropping off cards at the church, please do so by Wednesday, December 6, marking them to the attention of Simon Crow and designating the amount on the card(s). (*We are giving \$25 worth of gift cards to each student.*) For a list of books, contact Simon (*scrow@fourthchurch.org*). Monetary contributions for gift purchases can also be made to Fourth Church, noting "Christmas Wishes" in the online designation or the check memo line. ***** Our **Meals Ministry Christmas Gift Bag Drive** is also underway. A list of items needed by Monday, December 4 can be found at https://qrco.de/mealsministry. We are also in need of McDonald's gift cards of \$10 each; cards can be dropped off or mailed to the church to the attention of Meals Ministry.

Holiday concerts

Our holiday concert schedule kicks off next week when on Tuesday and Wednesday, December 5 and 6, a **Chanticleer Christmas** takes place at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary (*tickets are required; see www.cso.org*). # Later that week, on Friday, December 8, **Chicago** *a cappella* will perform **Holidays** *a cappella* at 7:30 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel (*for those tickets, see chicagoacappella.org*). # For **more holiday concerts** at Fourth Church, including the December 16 **Christmas with Tower Brass**, see fourthchurch.org/concerts!

Get connected

Knitting and Crocheting meets via Zoom this Tuesday, November 28 at 4:00 p.m. For details, email Simon Crow (*scrow@fourthchurch.org*). **** Cornerstones**, a group for those fifty and over, gathers for a Christmas Carol Sing-Along led by John Sherer this Friday, December 1. To sign up, register (*required*) by Monday, November 27 at www.bit.ly/cornerstones1223 ****** An in-person workshop on **"You and Your Spiritual Gifts"** will be held this Saturday, December 2 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 5G. To register for this opportunity to discover your God-given gifts and find ways to **connect with the programs and ministries in the church related to them**, sign up at www.bit.ly/spiritualgifts122 ****** A **Holiday Deep Listening** Dinner will be held Saturday evening, December 2 in Anderson Hall. Register (*required*) at www.bit.ly/ holidaylistening23 ****** 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**

Nurturing our faith

Men's Bible Study meets via Zoom on Tuesday mornings at 7:30 a.m. For details, email Simon Crow (*scrow@fourthchurchorg*). **# "How (Not) to Build a School in Haiti: Conversation with Filmmakers"** will be the topic of an Adult Education class led by Kat Evans next Sunday, December 3 at 11:00 a.m. in Borwell Dining Room and via Zoom. For the link to view the documentary in advance and for the Zoom details, register at www.bit.ly/aehaitidocumentary

Pastoral care and a listening presence and witness

To **talk to a pastor** or **notify pastoral staff** of personal concerns, illnesses, hospitalizations, or deaths, 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, 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. ***** Our **Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being** facilitates **grief groups**. To add your name to the list of upcoming groups, email Sharon Crawford-Tucker (*stucker@fourthchurch.org*). *** To explore options for teletherapy or in-person conversations with a counselor**, call the Replogle Center at 312.787.2729, ext. 2260.

Stay connected

To see all that is going on at Fourth Church, be sure to bookmark our **online church calendar**, accessible from our website's home page and at **fourthchurch.org/calendar *** We also invite you to follow us on **YouTube** (*www.bit.ly/fpcvideos*), **Facebook** (*facebook.com/fourthchurch*), and **Instagram** (*instagram.com/fourthchurch*). *** For snapshots of Fourth Church life as well as news and updates**, subscribe to our **weekly newsletter** at ww.bit.ly/newsfromfpc

Worship Leaders

Nancy Benson-Nicol, Reb Banker (9:30), Arlene Raine (11:00), Joseph L. Morrow, Tom Are Jr.

The Music Today

Voices of Light; Bryan Johnson, director Handbell Choir, Briana Belding-Peck, Director Morning Choir (9:30); Chancel Choir (11:00) Michael Rees, Organ Scholar John W. W. Sherer, Organist and Director of Music

Worship Notes

- WE ARE GRATEFUL TO BRYAN JOHNSON for his leadership of our Gospel Choir, Voices of Light, during the past two years. While Bryan is stepping aside to focus on his ongoing role as Music Director at Trinity United Church of Christ, Voices of Light will continue singing. We wish Bryan God's blessings as he goes forward from this place! If you are interested in joining the choir, please contact John Sherer (*jsherer@fourthchurch.org*).
- 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

Amy Pagliarella Parish Associate for Caring Ministries

John Buchanan Pastor Emeritus

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