



Fourth Presbyterian Church

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 17, 2024 • 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

“How Can I Keep from Singing?” Robert Lowry/arr. Gwyneth Walker
“Locus Iste” Anton Bruckner
“My Feet Is Tired” African American spiritual/arr. Alice Parker
“True Light” African American spiritual/arr. Keith Hampton

Introit

“The Lord Is Full of Compassion” Iain Quinn
The Lord is full of compassion and mercy; come, let us adore him. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

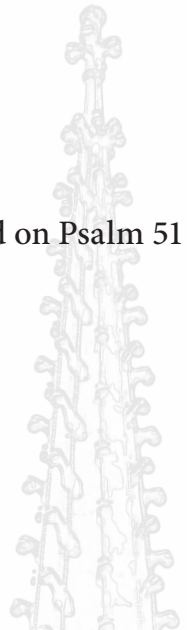
*Doxology

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 based on Psalm 51

One: *Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love;*
All: *according to your abundant mercy, blot out our transgressions.*
One: *You desire truth in our deepest selves, so teach our hearts wisdom.*
All: *Create in us clean hearts, O God; put new and right spirits within us.*
One: *Sustain in us willing spirits, and restore us to the joy of your salvation.*
All: *Let us worship God!*

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



***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)*

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession *(unison)*

Living Christ, with whom we journey to the cross,
we confess that we are always looking for an easier way.

We long for the fullness of life with you,
but we are slow to abandon the comforts of the life we know.

We seek the fruit of new life,
but we are not willing to die to ourselves.

You call us to life in community,
but we stubbornly cling to “me and mine.”

Yet you offer the grace of life abundant,
even and especially when our best efforts fall short.

Transform us, renew us, and free us from our attachment to what was,
so that you might bring us into the glory of what will be.

In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

Extinguishing the Fifth Lenten Candle

Kyrie Hymn 551

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.

Declaration of Pardon

One: *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

“Call to Remembrance, O Lord” Richard Farrant
Call to remembrance, O Lord, and cast not off thy servant in thy displeasure; for we confess our sins unto thee and hide not our unrighteousness; for thy mercy sake deliver us from all our sins.

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.

*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 John 12:20–33

One: *The grass withers, and the flower fades,*

All: *but the word of our God shall stand forever.*

Sermon

A Love That Is Not Parochial. Tom Are Jr.

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

Responding to the Word

***Hymn 250** “In the Bulb There Is a Flower”

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.
There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.
In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

***Affirmation of Faith** (*unison*) Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

(Continued on facing page)

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. 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.

Offering

Offertory Anthem

"Ubi Caritas" Ola Gjeilo
Where charity and love are, God is there. The love of Christ has gathered us together. Let us rejoice and be glad in it. Let us revere and love the living God, and from a sincere heart let us love one another. Amen.

***Offertory Response.** Hymn 224, v. 4

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.

***Prayer of Dedication**

God of Infinite Hope,
we thank you for the blessings
that you have bestowed upon us that
allow us to serve as blessings to others.
We ask that you magnify these gifts
to accomplish fruitful ministries of loving-kindness,
to the glory of your realm. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

***Hymn 432 “How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord”**

How clear is our vocation, Lord, when once we heed your call
to live according to your word and daily learn, refreshed, restored,
that you are Lord of all and will not let us fall.

But if, forgetful, we should find your yoke is hard to bear;
if worldly pressures fray the mind and love itself cannot unwind
its tangled skein of care: our inward life repair.

We marvel how your saints became in hindrances more sure:
whose joyful virtues put to shame the casual way we wear your name,
and by our faults obscure your power to cleanse and cure.

In what you give us, Lord, to do, together or alone,
in old routines or ventures new, may we not cease to look to you:
the cross you hung upon, all you endeavored, done.

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

Marcia Celtica Eric H. Thiman



You belong here!

This may be your first time in worship at Fourth Presbyterian Church, or perhaps you worship here so often you call Fourth Church “home”; in either case, **we are grateful for your presence** today. Inspired by the radical hospitality of Jesus Christ, we welcome everyone—without exception—into the life of this congregation. No matter where you may be in your faith journey, no matter what questions or burdens you may bring to this place, we take seriously that God loves everyone, so you belong here.

Every Sunday we read the old biblical stories and sing hymns (some of which our grandparents sang), while also engaging the world we live in this minute through liturgy, prayers, and sermons. **By connecting the story of our lives to the story of Christ’s life**, we discover hope and even joy, and are inspired to reflect the light of Christ to the city.

If you are new to us, stick around after worship. Join us for Coffee Hour or speak to one of our pastors. We have many programs to expand your spirit and enrich your life. We would love to tell you more. **Give us a try; soon you too might be calling Fourth Church “home.”**

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.

Joining us online

Each Sunday our worshipping body is a wonderful mix of those online, on the phone, and in the pews. 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*) * **Links** to make an online offering gift, view or print the worship bulletin, and more can be found in the descriptive text below the video as well as on our website. * 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 on Sundays at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. (*except on Easter Sunday, when our second morning service will be at 11:30 a.m.*). ✱ **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. ✱ A half hour prior to each service the doors open for worship, with **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. ✱ **Worship can be heard** through “T” or “T-coil” settings of hearing aids. ✱ Please silence **electronic devices** during worship. ✱ **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 ushers.

Prayer, meditation, and sermons

If you would like to **offer individual prayers of praise or concern with a Deacon today**, you 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. ✱ Each Wednesday we gather at 9:30 a.m. for **Morning Prayer via Zoom**; on Wednesday, April 3, we will gather at 10:00 a.m. for our monthly **in-person Morning Prayer** in Buchanan Chapel. For Zoom details, email Nancy Benson-Nicol (nbenson-nicol@fourthchurch.org). ✱ If you would like to **walk the labyrinth**, Buchanan Chapel is open for that purpose between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. ✱ You are also invited to a **Sacred Pause time of meditation** offered virtually by our Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being on Tuesdays (7:45 a.m.) and Saturdays (8:30 a.m.) at facebook.com/reploglecenterforcounselingandwellbeing ✱ During the week the Sunday morning **service and sermon is available via podcast** on multiple 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.

Observing the season of Lent

During Advent we lit candles on the Advent wreath to symbolize the light coming into the world through the birth of Christ. Now **during Lent our extinguishing of candles** points to the season’s progression from light to the shadows of Good Friday and the crucifixion. ✱ This season we invite you to use our daily **Lenten devotions** (fourthchurch.org/devotions) as a resource for **personal reflection**. To receive them via email, subscribe at www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions ✱ A weekly series of ten-minute **Lenten “Rhythm and Word” videos** is released on Wednesday evenings. Subscribe to our YouTube channel (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos) or sign up to receive them by email (www.bit.ly/rhythmandwordemail).

Easter flowers

Today is the last day to make Easter flower contributions in remembrance or honor of a loved one.

A list of those memorialized by the Sanctuary flowers will be printed in the Easter bulletin. Gifts can be made at www.bit.ly/fpcgift and must be received no later than today, Sunday, March 17 for names to be listed. For details, contact Gloria Vicente (gvicente@fourthchurch.org; 312.252.3571).

Pastor Nominating Committee

The first step in our search for a new pastor will be the election of a **Pastor Nominating Committee** (PNC) later this spring. To help the Nominating Committee prepare a slate of recommended PNC candidates, the committee asks that you take a moment between now and April 7 to submit your suggestions of individuals to serve on the PNC. **Forms for self-nomination and for recommending someone else** can be found at fourthchurch.org/pnc; the Nominating Committee is also hosting **information sessions about serving on the PNC** today at 10:45 a.m. in the Morse Lounge and, via Zoom, on Tuesday, March 19 at 5:15 p.m. For Zoom details, register at www.bit.ly/pncinfo324

Sunday opportunities

If you are worshiping with us in person, we encourage you to stop by **Coffee Hour** in Anderson Hall following the service to greet each other and learn about ways to connect with one another and Fourth Church. ✱ **If you are a young adult**, please visit the Young Adult Ministry table in Coffee Hour to connect with others in their twenties and thirties. ✱ **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. ✱ A **Parents of Youth Symposium** on navigating difficult conversations takes place at 9:30 a.m. in Borwell Dining Room. ✱ 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 Room 4B; **Youth Choir** (*grades 6–12*) at 10:30 a.m. in Room 4G; the **Handbell Choir** at 12:15 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel Loft; and **Voices of Light**, our gospel choir, at 12:15 p.m. in Room 4G. ✱ 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, where **Senior High** meets at 11:00 a.m. ✱ **Knitting and Crocheting** gathers at 11:00 a.m. in Room 5B. ✱ A **Pastor Nominating Committee information session** takes place at 10:45 a.m. (*see above*). ✱ **"The Sacraments"** Adult Education class meets at 11:00 a.m. in Borwell Dining Room and via Zoom. Register at www.bit.ly/aesacraments324 for details. ✱ 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**, a casual, intimate service.

Civil Rights Trail Pilgrimage

Fourth Church and the Community Presbyterian Church of Clarendon Hills are cosponsoring an October 18–27 **Civil Rights Trail Pilgrimage** to New Orleans, Jackson, Montgomery, and Birmingham. Trip information: www.bit.ly/civilrightstrailinfo2024 ; trip application: www.bit.ly/civilrightstrail2024

Get connected

Men's Bible Study meets via Zoom at 7:30 a.m. on Tuesdays. **Horizons Women's Bible Study** meets via Zoom Wednesday, March 27 at 12:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. For details, email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org). ✱ **Benevolent Guild**, which creates sewn and crafted items for those in need, meets Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. in Room 5B. *Sewing experience is not necessary.* ✱ "Together We Play: **Movement and Family Yoga**" takes place this Friday, March 22 from 9:45 to 11:15 a.m. in the Bumpus Room. For details about the class or **fall enrollment for the 2024–2025 Day School preschool year**, contact Kathy Hager (khager@fourthchurch.org). ✱ Organist Michal Szostak will present this week's free **Friday Noonday Concert** at 12:10 p.m. in the Sanctuary (*also livestreamed*). ✱ **Knitting and Crocheting** meets via Zoom on Tuesday, March 26 at 4:00 p.m. Email Simon (*above*) for details. ✱ **Tom Dozeman** will talk about "**Christian Nationalism: How Did It Evolve, and What Does It Mean Today?**" when **Cornerstones**—a fellowship group of those fifty and over—meets on Friday evening, April 5 in Borwell Dining Room. Preregistration required at www.bit.ly/cornerstones424 ✱ Join in welcoming others by being part of our **Coffee Hour Hospitality** Team. For details, contact Simon (scrow@fourthchurch.org).

Stay connected

You can find details about **additional ways to connect** with one another and this congregation, whether in person or online, on our website: www.fourthchurch.org, where you will also discover various **resources and opportunities**. ✱ We also invite you to **follow us** on YouTube (www.bit.ly/fpcvideos), Facebook (facebook.com/fourthchurch), and Instagram (instagram.com/fourthchurch). ✱ Look for information, updates, and **snapshots of life at Fourth Church** in our weekly email newsletter, to which you can subscribe at ww.bit.ly/newsfromfpc; you can find our news archive at fourthchurch.org/news ✱ To see all that is going on at Fourth Church, we encourage you to bookmark our **online church calendar**, which is accessible from our website's home page and at fourthchurch.org/calendar

Pastoral care and a listening presence

To **submit a prayer request** to our Morning Prayer or Deacon Prayer Ministries, please email Gloria Fleming (gfleming@fourthchurch.org) or Nancy Benson-Nicol (nbenson-nicol@fourthchurch.org). ✱ Also email Gloria if you would like to **talk to a pastor** or **notify pastoral staff** of personal concerns, illnesses, hospitalizations, or deaths; if the situation requires immediate attention, please call the church at 312.787.4570 to be connected to the Minister on Call. ✱ **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 learn about the next four-week **Grief Group**, which will meet via Zoom beginning Wednesday, May 15, email the facilitator, Sharon Crawford-Tucker (stucker@fourthchurch.org). ✱ To **explore options for counseling**, call our Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being at 312.787.2729, ext. 2260 or visit reploglecenter.org

Becoming a member of Fourth Church

To **become a member of Fourth Church**, please join us for a one-session Inquirers' Class in person next Sunday, March 24 at 12:15 p.m. (*register at www.bit.ly/inquirers324*) or via Zoom on April 10 at 6:30 p.m. (*register at www.bit.ly/inquirers424*). For details, contact Matt Helms (mhelms@fourthchurch.org)

Join Us for the Journey to Easter

Palm/Passion Sunday, March 24

9:30 and 11:00 a.m. worship with palm processional (*9:30 also livestreamed*)
2:00 p.m. "The Gathering," with Communion (*also livestreamed*)

Maundy Thursday, March 28

12:10 p.m. Communion service with optional foot and handwashing
6:30 p.m. Tenebrae Communion Service (*also livestreamed*)

Good Friday, March 29

12:10 p.m. Good Friday Service
5:30 p.m. Children's Program in Buchanan Chapel
6:30 p.m. Choral Service: *Stabat Mater* by Francis Poulenc (*also livestreamed*)

Holy Saturday, March 30

7:00 p.m. Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday, March 31

6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service at Oak Street Beach
9:30 a.m. Children's Program in the Gratz Center
9:30 a.m. Easter Service (*also livestreamed*)
11:30 a.m. Easter Service
2:00 p.m. The Gathering with Communion (*also livestreamed*)

www.fourthchurch.org/lent-easter

How do you prefer to learn information from Fourth Church?

There's a lot going on at Fourth Church! There are worship services, classes, trips, concerts, and gatherings, not to mention Long-Range Planning work and the formation of the Pastor Nominating Committee. **We want to make sure you feel connected** to all of these initiatives and have all the latest information about them. So we ask that you **please take 1 minute to reply to a simple survey** to let us know how you want to access the latest news and information from us: **fourthchurch.org/inform**

Worship Leaders

Joseph L. Morrow, David Wilson (9:30), Larry Thomas (11:00), Nancy Benson-Nicol (9:30), Tom Are Jr.

The Music Today

The A Cappella Choir of Bowling Green State University
Members of the Morning Choir (9:30); Members of the Chancel Choir (11:00)
Michael Rees, Organ Scholar
John W. W. Sherer, Organist and Director of Music

Worship Notes

WE ARE GRATEFUL TO THE A CAPPELLA CHOIR of Bowling Green State University for offering their musical gifts this morning. Directed by Mark Edward Munson, this choir is composed of mostly freshmen and sophomores majoring in music at the northwestern Ohio university.

WE ARE RECEIVING THE ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING (OGHS) throughout Lent. Gifts to this offering support Fourth Church Meals Ministry; Chicago Lights Social Service Center and Tutoring; and the work of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Hunger, and Self-Development of People programs. To make an OGHS gift, you can use the envelopes in the pew racks or designate "One Great Hour of Sharing" when giving at fourthchurch.org/give (or Venmo) or on the memo line of a check payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church.

Tom Are Jr. Interim 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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THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO

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