



May 5, 2024

The Gathering

Communion at 2:00

We Gather.

Gathering Music

Song "All Are Welcome" (Hymnal 301, v. 1, 4, 5)

Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

Refrain:

all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger: *(Refrain)*

Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace;
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: *(Refrain)*

**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.

Psalter Psalm 22:25–31

***Song** “Amazing Grace” (Hymnal 649, v. 1, 2, and 5)

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved.

How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

***Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Song “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

We Hear.

Scripture Reading Acts 8:26–40

Sermon Nancy Benson-Nicol

We Respond.

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 online at www.fourthchurch.org/give or via Venmo (@Fourth-Church)

Song “In the Beauty of Holiness” (Nettie Sawyer Lester)

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 “Do This in Remembrance of Me” (Glenn Burleigh)

***Song** "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"

I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus;
no turning back, no turning back.

Though none go with me, I still will follow;
though none go with me, I still will follow;
though none go with me, I still will follow;
no turning back, no turning back.

The world behind me, the cross before me;
the world behind me, the cross before me;
the world behind me, the cross before me;
no turning back, no turning back.

***Blessing**

Worship Leader

Nancy Benson-Nicol

The Music Today

Voices of Light; Cicely Perry, director

Ensemble: 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 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.”**

Worshiping in Person at Fourth Church

Each Sunday our worshiping body is a wonderful mix of those online, on the phone, and in the pews. If you like to worship with us in person, we gather at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. (See the back cover for summer worship schedule.)

Entering the building

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*) as well as at 126 E. Chestnut—where the reception desk is located—and 115 E. Delaware.

Sound

- Worship can be heard through “T” or “T-coil” settings of hearing aids.
- Please silence electronic devices during worship.

Parking

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*) for \$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.

Ensure you receive the latest updates, stories, and snapshots from Fourth Church by adding your email address to our distribution list. Simply sign up at www.bit.ly/newsfromfpc

Worshipping Online

We livestream our 9:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. services on our YouTube channel: bit.ly/fpcvideos

Accessing the services

Worship can be viewed anytime 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

Online extras

Links to make an online offering gift, view or print the worship bulletin, and more can be found in the descriptive text below the worship video (*after exiting full screen*) as well as on our website.

For those without Internet

Those without Internet access are invited to listen via phone by calling 888.916.9166 at 9:30 a.m.

Let Us Know You're Here

We are grateful to be worshipping with you today and would welcome knowing you are here. Please take a moment to fill out the information form.

In person

Those worshipping with us in person are asked to add their names to the information pads in the pews, passing them down their pew so worshipers have opportunity to greet one another by name following the service. If your contact information has changed, please indicate that too.

Online

Those worshipping with us via livestream will find a link to the online form included in the descriptive text below the video (*after exiting full-screen view*); a QR code is also displayed during the “Welcome” that can be scanned with a phone camera to take you to the form.

Prayer, Reflection, and Meditation

Daily devotions

We invite you to use our daily devotions for your personal reflection. To receive them by email, subscribe at bit.ly/fpcdevotions; you can also find them daily at fourthchurch.org/devotions and on Facebook and Instagram.

Weekly “Rhythm and Word” videos

Each Wednesday we release a ten-minute video of music, scripture, and prayer led this month by Matt Helms and the Gathering musicians. You can receive notice of new videos by subscribing to our YouTube channel: bit.ly/fpcvideos; sign up at bit.ly/rhythmandword to receive them by email.

Sacred Pause

You are 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

Wednesday Morning Prayer

Each Wednesday we gather at 9:30 a.m. for Morning Prayer via Zoom. For details, email Nancy Benson-Nicol (nbenson-nicol@fourthchurch.org). On the first Wednesday of the month (*June 5*) we gather for in-person Morning Prayer at 10:00 a.m. in Buchanan Chapel.

Podcasts

During the week the Sunday morning service and sermon are made available via podcast. You can find them on multiple podcast platforms as well as at fourthchurch.org/podcasts

You will also find there Matt Helms and Rocky Supinger’s podcast “Bible Top Ten.” This lively, informative, and often amusing podcast explores the Bible through a rotating series of top ten lists.

Making Music

Celebrate John Sherer's music ministry

John Sherer's last Sunday as our Organist and Music Director will be June 23. As we celebrate and give thanks for his twenty-eight years of ministry among us, we hope you will mark these special opportunities on your calendar. This will be John Sherer's final season of directing the Choral Society before he moves to Rochester, New York, in late June.

- Sunday, May 19 at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.: John directs the Choral Society.
- Fridays, May 31 and June 14 at 12:10 p.m.: John plays his last Friday Noonday Organ Concerts.
- Tuesday, June 4, 5:30–7:00 p.m.: Reception celebrating John's ministry; RSVP required at bit.ly/sherercelebration
- Friday, June 21 at 7:00 p.m.: John plans an Organ Recital followed by a festive reception.
- Sunday, June 23 at 10:00 a.m.: John's last Sunday leading us in worship music. If you would like to sing with the choir that day, please come for an 8:45 a.m. rehearsal that morning.

Get Connected

Bible studies

Three Bible studies meet via Zoom: Men's Bible Study at 7:30 a.m. on Tuesdays and *Horizons* Women's Bible Study this Wednesday, May 8 at 12:00 and at 6:30 p.m. Email Simon Crow (scrow@fourthchurch.org) for details.

Becoming a member of Fourth Church

To become a member of Fourth Church, please join us for a one-session Inquirers' Class next Sunday, May 12 at 12:15 p.m. in Room 4F (register at bit.ly/inquirers524). For more information, email Matt Helms (mhelms@fourthchurch.org).

Book group

The Books by Women group meets on Tuesday, May 14 at 6:00 p.m. in the Bumpus Room to discuss *Empress of the Nile* by Lynne Olson

Deep Listening Dinner

Friendship will be the theme of our next Deep Listening Dinner, a time to get to know one another through conversation over a shared meal. To join the discussion, which will take place on Friday, May 31 at 6:00 p.m. in Anderson Hall, register (required) at bit.ly/deeplisting524

Black history tour

Our Racial Equity Council invites you to join them for a Black history tour on Sunday, June 2 from 2:00 to 5:30 p.m. Traveling by bus (from our Delaware Place entrance), we will tour Bronzeville with Chicago historian Sherman "Dilla" Thomas as our guide. Register at bit.ly/june2tour

Civil rights pilgrimage

Fourth Church is cosponsoring an October 18–27 Civil Rights Trail Pilgrimage to New Orleans, Jackson, Montgomery, and Birmingham. To learn more about this opportunity, see the trip description at www.bit.ly/civilrightstrailinfo2024

Stay Connected

You can find details about ways to connect with one another and this congregation as well as discover various resources and opportunities on our website: fourthchurch.org

Weekly newsletter

Look for information, updates, and snapshots of life at Fourth Church in our weekly email newsletter. Subscribe at bit.ly/newsfromfpc and visit our news archive at fourthchurch.org/news

YouTube, Facebook, and Instagram

Follow us at bit.ly/fpcvideos; facebook.com/fourthchurch; and instagram.com/fourthchurch

Caring for One Another

Prayer requests and pastoral care

To submit a prayer request to our Deacon and Morning Prayer Ministries, please email Gloria Fleming (gfleming@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.

Stephen Ministry

For those facing life's challenges, Stephen Ministers provide a listening presence. To talk with a Stephen Minister, leave a confidential message at 312.573.3365.

Counseling and well-being

To explore options for counseling or well-being offerings, call our Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being at 312.787.2729, ext. 2260 or visit reploglecenter.org

To learn about the next Grief Group, which will meet via Zoom beginning May 15, email the facilitator, Sharon, at stucker@fourthchurch.org.

News and Updates

Congregational meeting

Session has called a congregational meeting for Sunday, May 19 at 12:15 p.m., both in person and via Zoom, for the purpose of electing a Pastor Nominating Committee to begin the search process for our next pastor.

Summer worship schedule

Our summer worship schedule will begin Memorial Day weekend and run through the weekend of Labor Day. From May 26 through September 1, we will gather for two worship services: at 10:00 a.m. and at 2:00 p.m.

AAPI Heritage Month

The AAPI flag flying in our courtyard bears public witness to May as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

Older Americans Month

May is when we join in celebrating Older Americans Month. Visit fourthchurch.org/cll to explore our Center for Life and Learning offerings for adults sixty and over.

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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