Fourth Presbyterian Church

Sixth Sunday of Easter May 25, 2025 • 10:00 a.m.

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

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: God, it is you who spoke the sun into being, All: and you who raised your Son. One: You have called us by name to meet you here, All: and you have raised us to new life.



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

*Hymn 49 . . .

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!

Prayer of Confession (unison)

God of unending mercy, with us, mercy has a limit. With us, forgiveness is calculated. With us, kindness can be a weakness. For these and more we need forgiveness. Praise be to you that your mercy is unending. In the name of Christ we pray. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

One: *Friends*, *believe the good news*. All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

*Sharing the Peace of Christ

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 text or email someone to let them know you are thinking of them.

Welcome and Announcements

Please take a moment to let us know you are with us today! There are information pads in the pews for those in person and a digital form (use the link or QR code on screen) for those online.

Anthem

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter
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
One: The grass withers, and the flower fades,
All: but the word of our God shall stand forever.
Sermon
Are You Saved?

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 475 "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"
Come, thou Fount of every blessing; tune my heart to sing thy grace; streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise. Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above; praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unchanging love!
Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come; and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home. Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God; he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.
O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be! Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee. Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love; here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.
*Affirmation of Faith (unison)
Jesus saves.
Salvation is not a work of our hands, but the work of God's heart.
Our salvation is the sure promise that nothing can separate us from the love of God.
We are claimed as God's own children
not because of our worthiness,
not even because of our faith
nor the love that is in our hearts,
but by the steadfast love that lives in the heart of God.
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.

Offertory

"The Peace May Be Exchanged" from <i>Rubrics</i>
*Offertory Response
A grateful heart is what I bring, a song of praise, my offering.
Among the saints I lift my voice: in you, O God, I will rejoice.
*Prayer of Dedication (unison)
Giving God,
it is a deep privilege and joy to be able to give back to you.
May the use of these gifts give you glory.
May our act of giving give you joy.
Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 550	"Give Praise to the Lord"
-	aise to the Lord, and sing a new song; amid all the saints God's praises prolong; ng to your Maker and Ruler now raise, all children of Zion: rejoice and give praise.
	mbrel and harp and joyful acclaim, with gladness, O God, we praise your great name; now in your people good pleasure you seek with robes of salvation you cover the meek.
e ;	v exult, all saints of the Lord; with song in the night high praises accord; orth in God's service and strong in God's might to conquer all evil and stand for the right.
	s is God's word: the saints shall not fail, but over the earth their power shall prevail; ingdoms and nations shall yield to their sway. To God give the glory; sing praises for aye.
*Charge and	d Benediction
*Choral Ber	nediction
Amen .	
Postlude	
"The Peo	ple Respond – Amen!" from <i>Rubrics</i>

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 as we live out our calling to love God and love one another.

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 at Fourth Church

Each summer Sunday our worshiping body—which is a wonderful mix of those online, on the phone, and in the pews—gathers at 10:00 a.m.

Entering the building

The doors open at 9:30 a.m. There is an entrance without steps that leads to the Sanctuary on Michigan Avenue, through the glass Loggia doors *(next to the courtyard)*. There are also two fully accessible entrances: one at 126 E. Chestnut—where the reception desk is located and one at 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 \$10 for 6 hours (and \$20 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.

Livestream

We livestream the worship service each Sunday on our YouTube channel—bit.ly/fpcvideos—which is also accessible from the home page of our website: fourthchurch.org

Worship can be viewed anytime after the service has begun. 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.

Sermon Transcripts

In addition to listening to sermons from Fourth Church via podcast (see p. 9), you can read the text of the previous Sunday's sermon (or past sermons in our archives). See fourthchurch.org/sermons or, to receive the sermons by email, subscribe at bit.ly/fpcsermon



Connections and Belonging

Come connect with others as we foster a welcoming and inclusive community where everyone feels supported in building meaningful relationships

Let Us Know You're Here!

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

In person

Those worshiping with us in person are asked to add their names to the pads in the pews, passing the pads to the center of the row and then back again so worshipers have opportunity to greet one another by name following worship.

Online

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

In-Person Coffee Hour

If you are worshiping with us in person, we invite you to stop by Anderson Hall after worship for Coffee Hour, an opportunity to greet each other and learn about ways to connect with one another and Fourth Church.

Online Coffee Hour

If you are worshiping with us via livestream, we would be delighted if you would also join us for opportunity to connect with one another in our online Coffee Hour. We gather via Zoom at 11:00 a.m., following the livestream of worship, for a time of fellowship.

Zoom link: bit.ly/coffeehourfpc; passcode: 676359

Recognizing Graduates

Today is the last day to submit names of those graduating from eighth grade, high school, college, or a graduate or professional program in 2025 and have them appear in the worship bulletin on Baccalaureate Sunday, June 1. To have names included, email them today (May 25) to Katie (kpatterson@fourthchurch.org).

Connecting Online

Whether you will be traveling this summer, live out of town, or have difficulty getting to Fourth Church, we invite you to explore our wide variety of ways to connect online with one another and Fourth Church, whether through Zoom Coffee Hour (see above), Bible studies, or Morning Prayer or as part of in-person classes with a Zoom component.

Get Connected

Benevolent Guild

Benevolent Guild meets on Wednesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. in Room 5B to create items for those in need. Sewing experience is not necessary.

Art Exhibition Opening

The next art exhibition in our Loggia Gallery opens on Thursday, June 5, with a reception from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

Cornerstones

Cornerstones, a group for those fifty and over, will enjoy dinner and the program "There's No Age Limit to Being a Debut Author!" on Friday, June 6 in Borwell Dining Room. Register (required) at bit.ly/cornerstones2506

Books by Women

The monthly book group Books by Women meets on Tuesday, June 10 at 6:00 p.m. in the Bumpus Room to discuss *Tom Lake* by Ann Patchett.

News, Updates, and Snapshots

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**

Camille Cook Howe: Our New Pastor!

We are overjoyed to share that last Sunday, the congregation of Fourth Church enthusiastically and resoundingly voted to call the Reverend Dr. Camille Cook Howe to serve as our next Pastor. We look forward to Camille and her family joining us in September and encourage you to learn more about her at bit.ly/fpc-cch

Caring for One Another

Pastoral care

If you would like to talk to a pastor or notify pastoral staff of personal concerns, illnesses, hospitalizations, or deaths, please email Gloria Fleming (gfleming@ fourthchurch.org). 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 a one-to-one listening presence through life challenges, we invite you to consider being paired with a Stephen Minister. To learn more about this resource, contact Nancy Benson-Nicol (nbenson-nicol@ fourthchurch.org) or call 312.573.3365.

Long-Range Plan Survey Results

Thank you to all who responded to our churchwide Long-Range Plan Progress Pulse Survey in spring. Next Sunday, June 1 all are invited to Borwell Dining Room at 11:00 a.m. to hear the high-level survey findings.

Tom Are's Final Sunday with Us: June 15

Join us for a special Coffee Hour on Sunday, June 15 when we thank Tom and Carol are for their ministry among us and wish them Godspeed in their retirement.

AAPI Heritage Month

The AAPI flag flying in our Michigan Avenue courtyard bears public witness to May as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. Our Racial Equity Council invites you to stop by Coffee Hour for related resources and to learn more.

Celebrating the Replogle Center

After forty-nine years of healing, care, and connection, the Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being will be closing on June 30, 2025. A Legacy Celebration of the Center and its work will be held on Friday, June 6 from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. in Anderson Hall. RSVP to Darlene at dcunneen@fourthchurch.org by this Friday, May 30.

Joining the Fourth Church Family

If you are interested in becoming a member of Fourth Church, please join us for a one-session Inquirers' Class on Sunday, June 1 at 11:10 a.m. in Room 5F (register at bit.ly/inquirers62025) or on Wednesday, August 7 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom (register at bit.ly/inquirers82025).



Community Engagements and Partnerships

Come alongside us as together, through programs and collaboration with partners, we advocate for social and community needs

The Diversity of Our Families

LGBTQ+ Widen Our Welcome (WOW) is creating a slideshow showcasing the diversity of families at Fourth Church. To participate, submit a digital photo of your family (plus, if you'd like, a brief description) to familyphotos@fourthchurch.org by Thursday, May 29. A family can be a couple, a single-parent household, you and your pet—whatever "family" means to you!

Bus Tour of North Lawndale

The Fourth Church Racial Equity Council invites you to join them on June 22 for a special Sunday afternoon bus tour of Chicago's historic North Lawndale neighborhood led by historian and storyteller Shermann "Dilla" Thomas. The bus will depart from Fourth Church at 1:45 p.m. and return by 6:00 p.m. Seating is limited, so register soon at bit.ly/bustour622



Faith Formation

Join us on our journey to grow spiritually through worship, educational opportunities, and programs that nurture faith across all ages

Children, Youth, and Family

Children in worship

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.

Also during morning worship, nursery care is available on the fourth floor of the Gratz Center for infants through two-year-olds.

Summer Sunday School

Sunday School is on break today. Next Sunday, June 1 at 10:00 a.m. Summer Sunday School begins.

Adult Education: Jesus' Parables

Associate Pastor Matt Helms will lead a Sunday morning class on Jesus' parables on Sundays, June 8, 22, and 29 at 11:15 a.m. in Borwell Dining Room and via Zoom. Each week we will discuss three parables along with their interpretations and applications to our lives. For details register at bit.ly/parables2025

Prayer

Sunday Morning Prayer with Deacons

If you would like to offer individual prayers of praise or concern with a Deacon, you are invited to do so in Stone Chapel (through the door to the right of the pulpit) following worship.

Wednesday Morning Prayer

On Wednesdays we gather for Morning Prayer via Zoom at 9:30 a.m. to remember in prayer members of the congregation, all those who are in need, and mission partners around the world. Email Nancy Benson-Nicol (nbenson-nicol@fourthchurch.org) for details.

Prayer requests

If you would like to submit a prayer request to our Deacon and Morning Prayer Ministries, please email Gloria Fleming (gfleming@fourthchurch.org).

Bible Studies

Tom Are Bible Study on the Gospel of Mark

Before Tom Are retires on June 15, join him for one more Bible study: "The Literary Design of Mark's Gospel." The study continues in person on Tuesday evenings, May 27 and June 3 at 6:30 p.m. in Anderson Hall. Register at bit.ly/markstudy2025

Men's Bible Study

Men's Bible Study—which focuses on scripture readings from the pulpit, with passages drawn from either the immediate past week's worship service or the upcoming Sunday—meets weekly via Zoom on Tuesday mornings at 7:30 a.m. For details, email Katie Patterson (kpatterson@fourthchurch.org).

Women's Bible Study

Women' Bible Studies will meet via Zoom on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at 12:00 and 6:30 p.m. beginning June 11. The noon gathering will study the *Horizons* Bible Study "Dispatches to God's Household: The General Epistles" by Associate Pastor Nancy Benson-Nicol. The evening gathering will study the Sunday lectionary readings, including a passage from the Old Testament, Psalms, a non-Gospel New Testament book, and a Gospel. For details, contact Katie Patterson (kpatterson@fourthchurch.org).

Podcasts and Devotions

Our weekly five-minute "Rhythm and Word" reflections by the pastors are available on multiple podcast platforms and at fourthchurch.org/podcasts as well as via video at bit.ly/fpcvideos

During the week the Sunday worship service and sermon are also available via podcast on those platforms.

Matt Helms and Rocky Supinger also invite you to tune in to their "Bible Top Ten" podcast, an exploration of the Bible through a rotating series of top ten lists.

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 online at fourthchurch.org/devotions, Facebook, and Instagram.

Calendar for May 25–31, 2025

10:00 a.m.	Worship
9:30 a.m.	Infants/Parents Comfort Room Hospitality Suite
9:30 a.m.	Nursery
11:00 a.m.	A Time of Prayer
11:00 a.m.	Coffee Hour
11:00 a.m.	Online Coffee Hour
4:00 p.m.	Sunday Night Supper (until 5:30) Anderson Hall
May 26 • Mei	norial Day • Church Offices and Campus Closed All Day
7:30 a.m.	Men's Bible Study
7:45 a.m.	Sacred Pause.
	Day School Preschool
	Heartland Alliance Medical Clinic
	SSC: Drop-In Program Morse Lounge
	CLL: Stronger Seniors
	CLL: Stage and Screen
	CLL: Basic Spanish
	Meals Ministry Bag Lunch.
	CLL: Watercolor and Art Concepts
-	
-	Labyrinth Available to Walk (until 3:00) Buchanan Chapel
-	Shower Ministry
-	CLL: Intermediate Tai Chi
-	Long-Range Plan Progress Task Force Zoom
6:30 p.m.	The Literary Design of Mark's Gospel Anderson Hall
7:30 a.m.	Men's Faith Study
9:00 a.m.	Day School Preschool
9:30 a.m.	Day School Twos Program
9:30 a.m.	Benevolent Guild
9:30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
9:30 a.m.	SSC: Drop-In Program Morse Lounge
9:30 a.m.	CLL: Tap Too
10:30 a.m.	CLL: Explorations with Jane Hunt Room 5G
	CLL: Zing
	CLL: Midweek MeditationRoom 4D
	Meals Ministry Bag Lunch
	CLL: Current Events
12:00 p.m.	Women's Noon Bible Study Zoom
-	Labyrinth Available to Walk (until 3:00) Buchanan Chapel
1.00 n m	
1:00 p.m.	• -
1:30 p.m.	CLL: Artificial Intelligence and Art Zoom Room 4K
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Calendar for May 25-31, 2025

9:30 a.m. SSC: Drop-In Program. Morse Lounge 9:30 a.m. CLL: Silver Barre Zoom 10:30 a.m. CLL: Golden Grooves. Zoom 11:00 a.m. CLL: The "Art" of Conversation Room 4D 11:30 a.m. CLL: Mitters of Health. Room 4D 11:30 a.m. CLL: Mitters of Health. Room 4F 12:15 p.m. AA Meeting . Anderson Hall 12:15 p.m. AA Meeting . Room 4F 1:00 p.m. Labyrinth Available to Walk (until 3:00) Buchanan Chapel 1:00 p.m. CLL: Literary Salon Room 4F 1:00 p.m. CLL: Music History. Zoom 2:00 p.m. CLL: Music History. Zoom 2:00 p.m. CLL: Intermediate Tai Chi. Anderson Hall Zoom 6:00 p.m. AA Meeting . Room 4F 6:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal. Buchanan Chapel Friday 9:30 a.m. SSC: Drop-In Program. Morse Lounge May 30 10:30 a.m. Sacred Pause. Sanctuary / Online May 31 9:00 a.m. Trauma Informed Care Training. Son Mell Dining Room (There are n	Thursday	9:00 a.m.	Day School Preschool
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2:45 p.m. CLL: Intermediate Tai Chi. Anderson Hall Zoom 6:00 p.m. AA Meeting Room 4F 6:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal. Buchanan Chapel Friday 9:30 a.m. SSC: Drop-In Program. Morse Lounge May 30 10:30 a.m. CLL: Nia Zoom 12:10 p.m. Noonday Concert Sanctuary / Online aturday 8:30 a.m. Sacred Pause Online May 31 9:00 a.m. Trauma Informed Care Training. Borwell Dining Room (There are no other events scheduled for Saturday)		1:00 p.m.	CLL: Music HistoryZoom
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Preaching: Tom Are Jr.			
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Worship Leaders

Joseph L. Morrow, Sarah Pierce, Nanette Sawyer, Tom Are Jr.

The Music Today

The Morning Choir Ross Updegraff, Guest Organist

Worship Notes

- OUR HYMNS TODAY, beginning with "The God of Abraham Praise," share a theme of praise and thanksgiving. "Come, Thou Font of Every Blessing" does so by drawing on biblical terms such as "Ebenezer" (1 Samuel 7:12), which is Hebrew for "a stone of help" set up to give thanks for God's assistance. The closing hymn, "Give Praise to the Lord," is an adaptation of Psalm 145 "organized by themes of praise and service, with a strong implication that they are not really separable but are two aspects of the same God-centered impulse," our hymnal says.
- ABOUT TODAY'S SERMON: Jesus and Nicodemus talk about salvation. The conversation completely confused Nicodemus. It's understandable. There are not many days we wake up thinking "I need to be saved!" But perhaps there are days when that is exactly what we should think.
- 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 Rocky Supinger Senior Associate Pastor Nancy Benson-Nicol Associate Pastor Matt Helms Associate Pastor Joseph L. Morrow Associate Pastor Nanette Sawyer Associate Pastor Amy Pagliarella Parish Associate for Caring Ministries Sources: All hymns in this service are in the public domain.

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