



Fourth Presbyterian Church

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 17, 2025 • 10:00 a.m.

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Alleluia Meditation Aaron David Miller

Adagio in A Minor Johann Sebastian Bach

Introit

Praise Ye the Lord Donald Cashmore

Praise ye the Lord. Praise, O ye servants of the Lord. Praise the name of the Lord.

*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 *(responsively)*

One: *Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!*

All: Worship the Lord with gladness; come into God's presence with singing.

One: *Know that the Lord is God.*

It is our Creator who made us, and we belong to the Lord;

People: We are God's people, and the sheep of God's pasture.



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

***Hymn 667 “When Morning Gilds the Skies”**

When morning gilds the skies, my heart awaking cries: may Jesus Christ be praised!

Alike at work and prayer to Jesus I repair: may Jesus Christ be praised!

Does sadness fill my mind? A solace here I find: may Jesus Christ be praised!

Or fades my earthly bliss? My comfort still is this: may Jesus Christ be praised!

Let earth’s wide circle round in joyful notes resound: may Jesus Christ be praised!

Let air and sea and sky from depth to height reply: may Jesus Christ be praised!

Be this, while life is mine, my canticle divine: may Jesus Christ be praised!

Be this the eternal song through all the ages long: may Jesus Christ be praised!

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Gracious and compassionate God,

your love for us is unflinching and unfailing,

but we confess that our love for you is uneven.

We ask for your help but act as though we saved ourselves.

We ask for your forgiveness but repeat the same mistakes.

We ask for your grace but live as though it wasn’t present.

So renew us once again, O Lord.

Set us free from a past we cannot change;

open us to a future in which we can be changed;

and guide through the gift of your Holy Spirit.

We pray all of this in Jesus’ name. 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.

Solo

“Hear Ye, Israel” (from *Elijah*) Felix Mendelssohn
*Hear ye, Israel, hear what the Lord speaketh: “O, hadst thou heeded my commandments!”
Who hath believed our report! To whom is the arm of the Lord revealed! Thus saith the Lord,
the Redeemer of Israel, and his Holy One to him oppressed by tyrants, thus saith the Lord: “I am
he that comforteth; be not afraid, for I am thy God! I, the Lord, will strengthen thee! Say, who art
thou that thou art afraid of a man that shall die? And forgettest the Lord thy Maker, who stretched
forth the heavens, and laid the earth’s foundations? Say, who art thou! I am he that comforteth!
Be not afraid, for I am thy God! I, the Lord, will strengthen thee!*

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson Ezekiel 17:22–24

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 Luke 13:18–30

One: *Lord, your Word is a lamp unto my feet,*

All: *and a light unto our path.*

Sermon

Hidden in Plain Sight Matt Helms

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

Responding to the Word

***Hymn 317** “In Christ, There Is No East or West”

In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,
but one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth.

In Christ shall true hearts everywhere their high communion find;
his service is the golden cord close-binding humankind.

Join hands, disciples of the faith, whate’er your race may be.
All children of the living God are surely kin to me.

In Christ now meet both east and west; in him meet south and north.
All Christly souls are one in him throughout the whole wide earth.

***Affirmation of Faith** (*unison*) from A Brief Statement of Faith (PCUSA)

We trust in God the Holy Spirit,
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.

The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,
sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,
and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church.

In a broken and fearful world
the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

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 Anthem

“Know That the Lord Is God” Georg Friederic Handel

Know ye now that the Lord he is God. It is he that hath made us and not we ourselves.

We are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

***Offertory Response** Hymn 652, v. 1

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*)

God of wonder, we offer you these humble gifts,

hoping to share your goodness and mercy.

May they be a source of life for many,

so that your kingdom may grow in the hearts of all. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

***Hymn 848** “Trust in God”

Trust in God and you will be sheltered for eternity;

like a mountain, strong and sure, by God’s grace you will endure.

Lift your eyes to see the hills, through the ages standing still,

wrapped around the city walls: so our God surrounds us all.

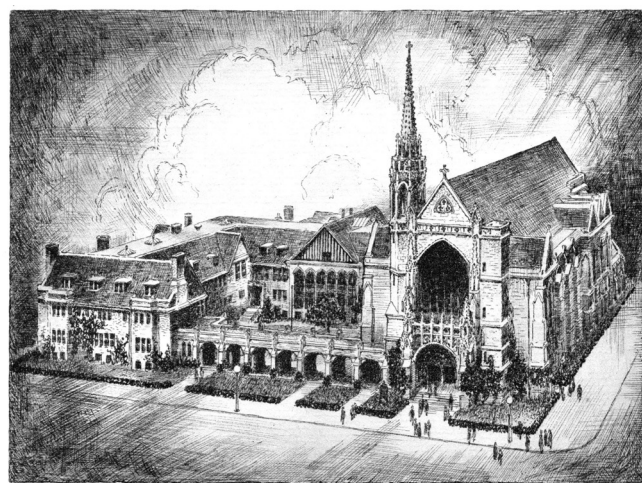
In the promised, holy land may the wicked never stand;

but where good and kindness reign, may the peace of God remain.

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

Allegro Vivace from *Symphony No. 5* Charles-Marie Widor



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.”**

Worshipping in Person at Fourth Church

Each summer Sunday our worshipping body—which is a wonderful mix of those online, on the phone, and in the pews—gathers at 10:00 a.m. (*Beginning September 7, we will have two services each Sunday: 9:30 and 11:00 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 up to 6 hours between 7:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. and at the Hancock garage (875 N. Michigan, *enter from Delaware or Chestnut*) for \$10 between 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Today, validation tickets for the garages must be picked up from ushers. *See p. 11 for changes going into effect August 18.*

Worshipping Online

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.

Podcast

Podcast offerings from Fourth Church—available on multiple platforms and at fourthchurch.org/podcasts—include the Sunday worship service and sermon; weekly “Rhythm and Word” reflections; and “Bible Top Ten.”

Chicago Triathlon Is Next Sunday

The Chicago Triathlon takes place next weekend, including Sunday morning, August 24, and includes courses along DuSable Lake Shore Drive as well as in the Loop. As you plan your route to worship you may want to consult by.supertri.com/chicago-triathlon

Welcoming Camille Cook Howe: Sept. 21

Be sure to mark Sunday, September 21 on your calendar, as that will be the day when the Reverend Dr. Camille Cook Howe, our next Pastor, preaches and leads us in worship for the first time.

Sunday, October 19 will also be a special day in our relationship with Camille: she will be officially installed as Pastor of the Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago during the 9:30 a.m. service that morning. Please plan to be with us to celebrate this exciting new chapter in the life of our congregation!

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 an information form.

In person

Those worshipping 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 worshipping 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 scanned with a phone camera to take you to the form.

Congregational Meeting Today

Session has called a Congregational Meeting for today, Sunday, August 17, at 11:15 a.m. in the Sanctuary and via Zoom at bit.ly/fpcmeeting202508 (which is also linked from the home page of fourthchurch.org).

At the meeting, the Manse Disposition Task Force will ask the congregation to approve putting the Walton Manse (located at 220 E. Walton, Unit 8W) on the market and authorizing the task force to complete the sale.

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 (gffleming@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 Associate Pastor Nancy Benson-Nicol (nbenson-nicol@fourthchurch.org), or to request support from a Stephen Minister, please leave a confidential message at 312.573.3365.



Connections and Belonging

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

In-Person Coffee Hour

Today's special Coffee Hour is sponsored in honor of June Bekken's 100th birthday—which was on Monday—by her daughter Carole. Happy Birthday, June!

All who are worshipping with us in person today are invited to stop by Anderson Hall and the Commons after the service for our weekly Coffee Hour opportunity to greet each other and learn about ways to connect with one another and Fourth Church.

Online Coffee Hour

If you are worshipping 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

Cornerstones for Those Fifty and Over

The Cornerstones fellowship group will gather for dinner and a program on "The Case for a City Charter" on Friday, September 5 at 5:30 p.m. in Anderson Hall. Register (required) at bit.ly/cornerstones2509

Get Connected Sunday: September 7!

Mark Sunday, September 7 on your calendar and plan to be with us as we kick off a new program year with our annual Get Connected Sunday!

A new season of Sunday School classes and youth groups will begin that day, and a festive Coffee Hour will offer opportunity to reconnect with one another and with Fourth Church, as our ministries highlight programs and events for you to explore this fall.

Purposeful Retirement

The "Purposeful Retirement" program invites you to join a new cohort of people, beginning September 10, who collaborate and support each other in rediscovering passions and planning or retooling retirement to combine those passions and service for greater impact. Learn more and register at bit.ly/purposeful2025

August Is National Make-a-Will Month

Our Legacy Society encourages individuals with any assets to begin the process of writing or updating a will or trust. At fourthchurch.org/giving/will you will find useful links to estate planning guides and websites to help you get started.



Community Engagements and Partnerships

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

Serving with Meals Ministry

Fourth Church Meals Ministry has openings for volunteers to serve between now and September 30. You can sign up for them at bit.ly/fpcvolunteers

For more information about how you can support this program, contact Mike Usiak (musiak@fourthchurch.org), Meals Ministry Manager.

Art Exhibition in the Loggia

The summer art exhibition in our Loggia Gallery features works by Charlene Moy, a Chicago-based Chinese American artist who assembles and weaves artificial materials with artist media to draw attention to the impact plastics have on our environment.



Faith Formation

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

Two Worship Services on September 7

Our summer worship schedule wraps up when August ends: on Sunday, September 7, we return to gathering for two Sunday worship services: 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.

That Sunday will also be our annual Get Connected Sunday, when you will have opportunity to learn about the many groups and programs being offered this fall!

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.

Sunday School

Sunday School is taking a break during August and will resume on Get Connected Sunday on September 7!

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 online at fourthchurch.org/devotions as well as on Facebook.

“Rhythm and Word” Videos and Podcast

Each week we share a five-minute video and podcast reflection by one of the pastors. Sign up at bit.ly/rhythmword or subscribe to our YouTube channel (bit.ly/fpcvideos). You can also listen to these reflections via podcast (fourthchurch.org/podcasts).

Joining the Fourth Church Family

If you are interested in becoming a member of Fourth Church, join us for Inquirers’ Class on August 27 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom (register at bit.ly/inquirers82025).

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 (gffleming@fourthchurch.org).

Fourth Church’s Antiracism Covenant

The Racial Equity Committee welcomes hearing from those who have questions or comments about our recently adopted Antiracism Covenant, which can be found at bit.ly/covenantfpc; the REC also invites those who would like to join them in supporting this important work to email the committee at rec@fourthchurch.org

Bible Studies via Zoom

Men’s Bible Study

Men’s Bible Study—which focuses on recent or upcoming scripture readings from the pulpit—welcomes new participants to join them for their weekly gathering via Zoom on Tuesday mornings at 7:30 a.m. For details, email Katie Patterson (kpatterson@fourthchurch.org).

Women’s Summer Bible Studies

Women’s Bible Studies meet via Zoom on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month, with the next study on Wednesday, August 27, at 12:00 and 6:30 p.m.

For Zoom details for either group, contact Katie Patterson (kpatterson@fourthchurch.org).

Calendar for August 17–23, 2025

Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Worship	Sanctuary / Online
August 17	10:00 a.m.	Infants/Parents Comfort Room.	Hospitality Suite
	10:00 a.m.	Nursery.	Room 4A
	11:00 a.m.	A Time of Prayer	Stone Chapel
	11:15 a.m.	Congregational Meeting	Sanctuary / Zoom
	11:30 a.m.	Coffee Hour	Anderson Hall
	11:30 a.m.	Online Coffee Hour.	Zoom
	11:30 a.m.	Mission and Justice Committee.	Room 5E
	11:30 a.m.	Long-Range Plan Progress Task Force	Room 4E
	4:00 p.m.	Sunday Night Supper (until 5:30).	Anderson Hall

Monday	10:30 a.m.	CLL: Stronger Seniors	Zoom
August 18	11:30 a.m.	CLL: Sit Down and Tap!	Zoom
	12:00 p.m.	CLL: Pullman District Trip	Offsite
	2:30 p.m.	CLL: Yoga	Room 4F / Zoom

Tuesday	7:30 a.m.	Men's Bible Study	Zoom
August 19	9:00 a.m.	Heartland Alliance Medical Clinic.	Randolph Room
	9:30 a.m.	SSC: Drop-In Program.	Morse Lounge
	9:30 a.m.	CLL: Stronger Seniors	Zoom
	11:30 a.m.	Meals Ministry Bag Lunch.	Anderson Hall
	1:00 p.m.	Labyrinth Available to Walk (until 3:00)	Buchanan Chapel
	1:00 p.m.	Shower Ministry	Showers
	1:00 p.m.	CLL: Walk with Ease	Room 4K
	2:30 p.m.	CLL: Intermediate Tai Chi.	Anderson Hall / Zoom

Wednesday	7:30 a.m.	Men's Faith Study	Offsite
August 20	9:30 a.m.	Morning Prayer / Zoom	
	9:30 a.m.	SSC: Drop-In Program.	Morse Lounge
	9:30 a.m.	CLL: Yoga for Osteoporosis	Zoom
	10:30 a.m.	CLL: Zing	Zoom
	11:00 a.m.	CLL: Midweek Meditation.	Room 4F
	11:30 a.m.	Meals Ministry Bag Lunch.	Anderson Hall

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

Calendar for August 17–23, 2025

12:00 p.m.	CLL: Current Events	Room 4G
1:00 p.m.	CLL: Walk with Ease	Room 4K
1:00 p.m.	Labyrinth Available to Walk (until 3:00)	Buchanan Chapel
2:00 p.m.	CLL: Film Series.	Room 4G
4:00 p.m.	Finance Council.	Zoom

Thursday August 21	9:00 a.m.	Meals Ministry Sandwich-Making	Borwell Dining Room
	9:30 a.m.	SSC: Drop-In Program.	Morse Lounge
	9:30 a.m.	CLL: Chair-Based Ballet	Zoom
	10:30 a.m.	CLL: Golden Grooves.	Zoom
	11:00 a.m.	CLL: The Art of Conversation.	Room 4K
	11:30 a.m.	Meals Ministry Bag Lunch.	Anderson Hall
	12:15 p.m.	AA Meeting	Room 4F
	1:00 p.m.	CLL: Street Safe	Room 4G
	1:00 p.m.	Labyrinth Available to Walk (until 3:00)	Buchanan Chapel
	2:30 p.m.	CLL: Intermediate Tai Chi.	Anderson Hall / Zoom
	6:00 p.m.	AA Meeting	Room 4F

Friday August 22	9:30 a.m.	SSC: Drop-In Program.	Morse Lounge
	10:30 a.m.	CLL: Nia	Zoom
	12:10 p.m.	Music by the Fountain	Michigan Avenue Courtyard
	1:00 p.m.	CLL: Walk with Ease	Room 4K

No events are scheduled for Saturday, August 23.

Sunday, August 24 • 10:00 a.m. • Nancy Benson-Nicol preaching

Important Notice about Upcoming Parking Changes

As of Monday, August 18, the 900 N. Michigan garage will no longer have pay stations to receive parking payment. Instead the garage will use a mobile-device payment system, and they will issue QR codes for discounted Sunday and weekday-evening parking.

See fourthchurch.org/parking for details.

Worship Leaders

Nancy Benson-Nicol, Carol Carpenter, Matt Helms

The Music Today

The Summer Choir and Quartet; Laura Bumgardner, soloist
Doug Cleveland, Interim Organist and Director of Music

Worship Notes

THE SETTING OF THE SERMON HYMN, “In Christ There Is No East or West,” “expands and enhances the thematic inclusiveness of an early twentieth-century text by adapting the melody of a traditional spiritual to carry these words,” our hymnal tells us. “This 1940 pairing marked the first use of African American musical materials in a mainline North American hymnal.”

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

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 AND CREDITS: The Prayer of Dedication is adapted from *Worship Sourcebook*. “Trust in God” text © 2011 David Gambrell (admin. Presbyterian Publishing Corp.). OneLicense.net License A-712340. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO

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