

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

AUGUST 23, 2026 • 10:00 A.M.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

Prelude

Just As I Am William Bolcom
Sweet Hour of Prayer William Bolcom

Introit

Let All the World in Every Corner Sing Erik Routley
Let all the world in every corner sing, my God and King! The heavens are not too high, God's praise may thither fly; the earth is not too low, God's 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, more than all, the heart must bear the longest part. Let all the world in every corner sing, my God and King!

*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: Make a joyful noise to the LORD. Serve the LORD with gladness; come into God's presence with singing.

All: For the Lord is good; God's steadfast love endures forever and God's faithfulness is to all generations. Make a joyful noise to the Lord!

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

***Hymn #664 Morning Has Broken**

**Morning has broken like the first morning;
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!**

**Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.**

**Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning,
born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation; praise every morning,
God's re-creation of the new day!**

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

**Eternal God, our mouths sing praise for this new day and for your abundant gifts.
Yet we humbly confess those other words our mouths readily sing as well:
doubt, fear, shame, wrath.**

(pause for silent confession)

**Merciful God, forgive us; make praise our very breath, for the love of our
neighbor and for your great glory.**

Declaration of Pardon

One: Friends, believe the good news.

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

***Sharing the Peace of Christ**

One: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

All: 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.

Children from age three through 5th grade are invited to come forward during the passing of the peace.

Time with Children

Following the Time with Children, children will return to sit with their families, as there is no Sunday School today.

Welcome

Please let us know if you are worshiping in person or online with us today. If you're in the Sanctuary, scan the QR code on page 7 of your bulletin or sign in using the pew pad. If you're worshiping online, scan the QR code displayed on your screen.

Anthem

Lead Me, Lord Samuel Sebastian Wesley
*Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy righteousness, make thy way plain before my face. For it is thou,
Lord, thou, Lord only, that makest me dwell in safety.*

LISTENING FOR THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Lesson Psalm 138

One: The Word of the Lord.

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 Scripture Lesson Matthew 18: 21-35

Sermon

Holy Practices for Life in the Real World: Work Nancy Benson-Nicol

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***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.

***Affirmation of Faith Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic Church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. 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

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need. Howard Helvey
My Shepherd will supply my need; Jehovah is His Name; In pastures fresh He makes me feed beside the living stream. He brings my wand'ring spirit back when I forsake His ways, and leads me, for His mercy's sake, in paths of truth and grace. When I walk thru the shades of death, Thy presence is my stay; A word of Thy supporting breath drives all my fears away. Thy hand, in sight of all my foes, Doth still my table spread; My cup with blessings overflows; Thine oil anoints my head. The sure provisions of my God attend me all my days; O may Thy house be mine abode, and all my work be praise! There would I find a settled rest while others come and go. No more a stranger or a guest, but like a child at home.

***Offertory Response Hymn #33 Praise the Lord! God's Glories Show**

Praise the Lord! God's glories show, Alleluia!

Saints within God's courts below, Alleluia!

Angels round the throne above, Alleluia!

All who see and share God's love. Alleluia!

*Prayer of Dedication

**Holy God, there is so much around us we wish could be reshaped and remade
through your grace and love. We bring these offerings to you today as a sign
of our commitment to your work and ministry, that through our efforts,
and the work of your Holy Spirit, our world would indeed be transformed.
We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

***Hymn #442** Just As I Am, Without One Plea

Just as I am, without one plea but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou biddest me come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come; I come!

Just as I am, though tossed about with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come; I come!

Just as I am, thou wilt receive, wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
because thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come; I come!

Just as I am, thy love unknown has broken every barrier down;
now to be thine, yea, thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come; I come!

***Charge and Benediction**

Choral Benediction

God Be with You Till We Meet Again Jeremiah Rankin

*God be with you till we meet again, by His counsels guide, uphold you,
with His sheep securely fold you; God be with you till we meet again.*

Postlude

Grand Chœur in B^b Major Théodore Dubois

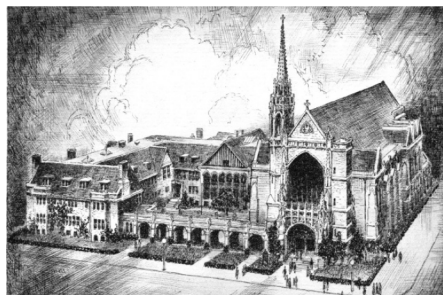
YOU BELONG HERE

Whether this is your first time worshipping at Fourth Presbyterian Church or you worship here regularly and call Fourth Church “home,” we are grateful you are here today. Inspired by the **radical hospitality of Jesus Christ**, we welcome everyone—without exception—into the life of this congregation.

Wherever you are in your faith journey, and whatever questions or burdens you carry, we affirm that God’s love is for everyone.

You belong here.

Each Sunday we gather to hear biblical stories, sing hymns of faith, and engage the world around us through prayer, worship, and preaching. As we connect the story of our lives with the story of Christ’s life, we discover



hope and joy and are inspired to reflect the light of Christ in our city as we live out our calling to love God and love one another.

Guided by our Antiracism Covenant, we seek to embrace values and practices that help us experience **Beloved Community**, where

differences are recognized as assets, celebrated, and experienced as strengths.

WORSHIPING IN PERSON AT FOURTH CHURCH



Let Us Know You’re Here!

All worshipers are invited to check in through the Church Center app (our church’s app for staying connected, exploring events, and checking in).

Please check in through Church Center to let us know you’re worshipping with us today. It’s an easy way to stay connected with our faith community. If you’re checking in for the first time, you can download the Church Center app from the Apple or Android app store or access it through our website homepage at FourthChurch.org

Sound

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

FIRST-TIME VISITOR



If you’re a first-time visitor at Fourth Church, we want to get to know you. Scan this QR code to complete our first-time visitor form or add your name to one of the pew pads.

WORSHIPING ONLINE

Livestream

Watch the 10:00 a.m. Service live or anytime on our YouTube channel: bit.ly/fpconline

Online Giving

Make an offering online at FourthChurch.org/giving

Phone Access (10:00 a.m.)

Listen to worship by phone for those without internet access: 888-916-9166.

Online Coffee Hour (following worship)

Join us via Zoom for conversation and connection: bit.ly/coffeehourfpc

CONNECT WITH US

Discover more opportunities to connect with us online at FourthChurch.org/online/connections

News at Fourth

Stay up to date on the latest news, events, and opportunities at Fourth Church. Subscribe to the News at Fourth weekly newsletter, delivered to your inbox every Friday. bit.ly/newsfromfpc

Follow Fourth Church

Connect with Fourth Church on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn at [@FourthChurch](https://www.facebook.com/FourthChurch) for updates, stories, and ways to engage with our community.

GUEST LECTURE – DR. ERIC BARRETO

Guest Lecture

Join Dr. Eric Barreto, Associate Professor of New Testament at Princeton Theological Seminary, for a thought-provoking public lecture: *The Story Continues: The Early Church and the Power of Holy Imagination*. Together, we'll explore how the courage, creativity, and faith of the early Christians can inspire the church's mission today.



Saturday, September 19 | 11:00 a.m.

Free admission, registration required
Scan the QR code to register

Dr. Eric Barreto will also preach during worship on Sunday, September 20.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Grief Support Series at Fourth Church

If you are grieving the loss of a loved one, you don't have to walk through it alone. Circle of Support is a compassionate, grief support group offering community, encouragement, and hope. The four-week series meets on Sundays, September 13–October 4, from 12:15–1:45 p.m. in the Parish Manse at the church. Whether your loss is recent or occurred some time ago, all are welcome. Space is limited. For more information, please contact Pastor Nancy Benson-Nicol at nbenson-nicol@FourthChurch.org

FOURTH CHURCH DAY SCHOOL

Day School Enrollment

The Day School is now accepting enrollment for fall classes. Five Morning Preschool Class for children 3–4 years old, Monday–Friday, 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Twos Program for 2-year-olds, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30–11:15 a.m.

For more information, please contact Fourth Church Day School Director Kathy Hager at khager@FourthChurch.org

GET CONNECTED SUNDAY

Get Connected Sunday, September 13

On Sunday, September 13, Fourth Church will celebrate Get Connected Sunday, our annual celebration of community and connection. It's an opportunity to learn more about the many ways to get involved, build relationships, and find your place in the life of our church.

Come discover the people, programs, ministries, and opportunities that make Fourth Church a vibrant community—and find a way to get connected!

For more information, please contact Rocky Supinger, rsupinger@FourthChurch.org

CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER

Pastoral Care

If you have a prayer request or would like to alert the pastoral staff to a care need, illness, hospitalization, or death, please contact the church office at 312-787-4570 or email Gloria Fleming (gffleming@FourthChurch.org). For emergencies, please call the church to be connected with the Minister on Call.

Fourth Church maintains a practice of praying for each member's household throughout the year. On Wednesday mornings, you are invited to gather for Morning Prayer via Zoom at 9:30 a.m. to pray for members by name, all those who are in need, and mission partners around the world. For details, email Nancy Benson-Nicol (nbenson-nicol@FourthChurch.org)

Morning Prayer

Join us on Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom as we pray for members of our congregation, those in need, and mission partners around the world. If you are interested in joining, please email Gloria Fleming (gffleming@FourthChurch.org) to receive the link.

Connections and Belonging

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

MUSIC AT FOURTH

Join us for live music each Friday in August in our courtyard. This week's concert on August 28 will feature jazz vocalist Libby York and Chris White on piano.

For a full list of upcoming concerts, please visit FourthChurch.org/concerts

Summer Noonday Concerts by the Fountain Each Friday through August 28 | 12:10 p.m.

In the case of inclement weather, outdoor concerts will be moved indoors to the Sanctuary.

EUROPEAN CHOIR TOUR 2027

Register for Choir Trip

Registration is open for the Fourth Church Choir Tour, taking place February 24–March 9, 2027. The tour is open to both singers and non-singers for a musical and cultural journey through Slovenia, Hungary, and Croatia. Choir members will perform in historic churches and cathedrals from the Slovenian mountains to the Dalmatian Coast, while all participants will enjoy the rich history, culture, and scenic beauty of the region.

Registration is open through September 13, 2026.



To learn more and register, scan this QR code or contact Fourth Church Organist and Director of Music Andrew Herbruck at aherbruck@FourthChurch.org

CORNERSTONES

Join Cornerstones for a presentation by Dr. Emily Hoyler O'Hare, associate professor at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and historian for the Musicians' Club of Women. Dr. O'Hare will share the history and mission of this remarkable organization, which has supported women musicians through scholarships and performance opportunities since 1875.



Friday, Sept. 4 | 5:30–7:30 p.m.
Borwell Dining Room
Please register in advance using this QR code. For more information, please contact Katie Patterson, kpatterson@FourthChurch.org

DEMENTIA SYMPOSIUM

Creating a Dementia-Friendly Neighborhood

Join the Center for Life & Learning and Skyline Village Chicago for the Destigmatizing Dementia Symposium on Wednesday, Sept. 9, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel. Learn practical ways to better support and communicate with people living with dementia through a keynote presentation, expert panel discussion, and community resources.

The event is free and includes lunch. Registration is



required due to limited seating. The event will also be livestreamed. To register, scan this QR code. For more information, please email Annette Mileski, amileski@FourthChurch.org

TWENTIES & THIRTIES MEETS TODAY

Coffee with Questions

Today following worship join our Young Adults group, Twenties & Thirties, for coffee, conversation, and connection. Whether you're new or already part of the group, this relaxed gathering is a great opportunity to meet others, build friendships, and get to know our young adult community.

Sunday, August 23 | 11:15 a.m.

Meet in Gignilliat Commons following worship, then we will walk together to Aster Hall, 900 N. Michigan.

For more information, please email Nance Bartell, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries, nbartell@FourthChurch.org

INTERGENERATIONAL MEN'S GATHERING

Men of all ages are invited to gather following worship to connect in a relaxed setting to engage and explore the intersection of faith and life. For more information, contact Rocky Supinger, rsupinger@FourthChurch.org



**Sunday, August 30
11:15 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
Gratz Center Room 5G**
Scan this QR code to register.

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 a quieter space, the Hospitality Suite (2nd floor, Gratz Center) offers a place where the service is livestreamed.

Nursery Care

Nursery care is available during morning worship for infants through age two on the 4th floor of the Gratz Center.

Please note: Sunday School will resume on Sunday, September 13.

Sunday School and Jr. High Volunteers Needed

Help nurture the faith of our children and youth this year!

As we prepare for a new program year, we're looking for volunteers to serve as Sunday School teachers and Jr. High Youth leaders on Sunday mornings.

Volunteers serve from September through May and are part of a supportive team of teachers and leaders.

Whether you've volunteered before or are considering it for the first time, we'd love to have you join us!

To explore this opportunity, please email Matt Helms (mhelms@fourthchurch.org) for Sunday School, or Nance Bartell (nbartell@fourthchurch.org) for Jr. High.

SUMMER SERMON SERIES

Holy Practices for Life in the Real World Sundays through August 30

Life is busy. The demands on our time, attention, and energy can leave us feeling disconnected from ourselves, one another, and God.

This summer, we are exploring **Holy Practices for Life in the Real World**—a sermon series focused on simple, meaningful Christian practices that help us live with greater purpose, peace, connection, and faith. Together, we will reflect on Jesus' invitation to slow down, reconnect, and grow in our relationship with God and one another.

Join us each Sunday as we discover practical ways to cultivate a deeper and more abundant life.

DAILY DEVOTIONS



Start your day with reflections written by our pastors and church members. Subscribe to receive daily devotions by email at bit.ly/fpcdevotions or scan this QR code.

ZOOM BIBLE STUDIES

To receive the Zoom link to join the Bible studies below, email Katie Patterson, kpatterson@FourthChurch.org

Men's Bible Study

Tuesdays at 7:30 a.m.

Summer Women's Bible Study

Keeping Your Heart in Tune with Whatever Life Brings

August 26 | 12:00 p.m.

Climate Justice Climate Hope: Building a Moral Economy

August 26 | 6:00 p.m.

Women's Horizons Bible Study

2026–2027 Series: United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other

Join us on Zoom at noon or 6:00 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month, beginning September 9.

This year, we'll explore Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians and consider what it means to trust in Christ's saving love—and to reflect that love in the way we live and care for one another. All are welcome.

2026–2027 CONFIRMATION REGISTRATION

Registration is now open for the 2026–2027 Confirmation class. Confirmation prepares young people to become members of Fourth Church through exploration of faith and Christianity, learning what it means to be an active part of a faith community, and discovering what it means to love your neighbor through service.



Youth entering 8th grade and older are invited to register for the 2026–2027 Confirmation class.

To register, scan this QR code.

Community Engagements and Partnerships

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

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Meals Ministry

Meals Ministry continues to seek more volunteers to help serve meals on Sundays and Mondays to our neighbors in need this summer. Volunteers assist with setting up the dining room, serving meals and beverages, and helping with cleanup.

Sundays: Volunteers are needed from 3:00–6:00 p.m. in Anderson Hall.



Mondays: Volunteers are needed from 3:30–6:00 p.m. to help serve a meal at Catholic Charities (721 N. LaSalle St.). To sign up via VOMO, please scan this QR code.

Coffee Hour Hosts (Anderson Hall)

Following Sunday worship, Coffee Hour in Anderson Hall offers a time for connection and community. Hosts help prepare and serve refreshments, welcome guests, and assist with light setup and cleanup. We are especially in need of additional volunteers this summer.

You do not need to be a member of Fourth Church to volunteer and serve—all are welcome.

To learn more or sign up, please contact Robert Crouch, Director, Volunteer Ministry, at rcrouch@FourthChurch.org or 312-981-3382.

VOLUNTEER AT THE URBAN FARM

The Chicago Lights Urban Farm is looking for volunteers to support Community Farm Days. We welcome individual volunteers on Saturdays and group experiences during the week.



Find upcoming dates, times, volunteer requirements, and sign-up information by scanning here.

For more information, contact Deja Stout, dstout@chicagolights.org

Come grow with us!

2026 CUBA TRIP

Cuba Partnership Trip

Our mission trip to Havana, Cuba will take place November 9-16, 2026. This is a meaningful opportunity to visit our ministry partners at First Presbyterian Church of Havana, Cuba.

Participants will stay with our partners, serve alongside them in ministry, and, as circumstances allow, experience daily life in Havana and beyond.

Applications for the trip are due Monday, September 7, and require a \$750 nonrefundable deposit.



To register for the Cuba mission trip, please scan this QR code.

For more information, email Pastor Joe Morrow, jmorrow@FourthChurch.org

CHICAGO LIGHTS SOCIAL SERVICE CENTER

The Chicago Lights Social Service Center is in urgent need of new or gently used men's clothing and shoes in all sizes to stock the Social Service Center's Share Shop. Donations may be dropped off at the church daily. You can also help by purchasing clothing and everyday essentials through the SSC Amazon Wishlist. To view the wishlist and donate, please scan the QR code.



Your gifts go directly to the Share Shop, where neighbors in need can choose the clothing they need with dignity. Thank you for supporting Chicago Lights.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

Come hear from Chicago Presbytery commissioners to the General Assembly—including Fourth's own Brian Satre—as they share highlights and important actions from this year's assembly on issues including artificial intelligence, immigration, and global mission.

227th General Assembly Commissioners' Report
Sunday, August 30 | 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
Borwell Dining Room

Worship Leaders

Nancy Benson-Nicol, Joe Morrow, Matt Helms

Beadle: Christiane Knapp-Andrews

Liturgist: James Young

The Music Today

Andrew Herbruck, Organist and Director of Music

Summer Choir

Fourth Church Calendar



Stay up to date with worship services, programs, and special events by visiting the full Fourth Church online calendar. Scan the QR code or visit the link below to view upcoming events.

FourthChurch.org/calendar

Giving to Support the Ministry of Fourth Church



GIFTS TO SUPPORT THE MINISTRY AND MISSION OF FOURTH CHURCH can be placed in the plates passed during the service or afterward in an offering box at the exit from the Sanctuary. They can also be given online (FourthChurch.org/give), or via Venmo (@Fourth-Church).

Camille Cook Howe Pastor

Rocky Supinger Senior Associate Pastor

Nancy Benson-Nicol Associate Pastor

Matt Helms Associate Pastor

Joseph L. Morrow Associate Pastor

Amy Pagliarella Parish Associate for Caring Ministries

THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO

126 East Chestnut Street, Chicago, IL 60611

FourthChurch.org | facebook.com/FourthChurch

312-787-4570 | Voicemail 312-787-2729

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Sunday parking is available at 900 N. Michigan (access from Rush or Walton; online payment only) for \$11 for up to 6 hours between 7:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. when using the Metropolis Parking app (iPhone) or metropolis.io/join (Android) to scan the discount QR code at left, no more than 10 minutes before leaving the garage. The code is also available on cards from the ushers; you might leave a card in your car for future Sunday use.

Sunday parking is available at the Hancock garage (enter from Delaware or Chestnut) for \$10 between 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. by using a validation ticket from the ushers.