

The beginning of the prelude is a call to silent, personal preparation for the worship of God.

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Prelude in B-flat Major André Fleury
Sonata in F-Major George Frideric Handel

Introit

“Alleluia” Anonymous
*Alleluia, sing praise happy company; sing we all happy family;
strike the timbrels; pluck the harp strings; happy quills with joyful harmony.
Sing praise to the Lord your God on high. Alleluia.*

*Doxology (*sung*). The Hymnal, 592

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Call to Worship

Minister: *Our God is the God of all people,*
People: *people of pain and fear, people of anger and joy,*
Minister: *people of compassion and grace.*
People: *Let us worship God who makes all people one.*

*Prayer of Praise

*Hymn 471 “O Praise the Gracious Power” (*verses 1–4*)

Prayer of Confession

God of all,
you call us to welcome strangers as neighbors
and open our hearts to those who need a home,
yet we turn away from the poor and vulnerable,
guarding our own space and time, land and possessions.
Forgive our isolation and ignorance, our apathy and stinginess.
Break open all barriers so we may love our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

Minister: *Friends, believe the good news.*
People: *In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.*

**Stand as you are able.*

Sacrament of Baptism

Unison Prayer

Holy God, remind us of the promises given in our own baptism
and renew our trust in you.

Make us strong to obey your will and to serve you with joy;
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Concerns of the Church

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter (*responsively*)

Psalms 85:8–13 Old Testament, page 514

Anthem

“All Who Are Thirsty, Come to the Spring” G. F. Handel
arr. Walter Ehret

*All who are thirsty, come to the spring,
which shall never run dry.
Drink deep of the spring of eternal life.
Come to the spring,
which is the living word of God.*

First Lesson

Leviticus 19:17–18, 33–34 Old Testament, page 102

Minister: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: Thanks be to God.

*Gloria Patri (*sung*). The Hymnal, 579

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

Matthew 25:31–46. New Testament, page 27

Sermon

Alien No More Victoria G. Curtiss

Responding to the Word

*Hymn “The Children Come”

1. The children come, not sure where they are going;
some little ones have seen their siblings die.
They’ve traveled north—a tide that keeps on growing,
a stream of life beneath the desert sky.
Their welcome here? Detention, overflowing.
O Lord of love, now hear your children’s cry!
2. The children come in search of something better;
they’ve traveled here with nothing in their hands.
On one boy’s belt, a number carved in leather
leads to a phone, a brother here, a plan.
They come alone—or sometimes band together;
they bring a plea that we will understand.
3. O Christ our Lord, you welcomed in the stranger;
you blessed the children, telling them to stay.
Be in the desert, with the tired and injured;
be at the border where they are afraid.
Be on each bus where children sense the danger,
as angry crowds are shouting, “Go away!”
4. God, let each one know justice, peace, and welcome—
and may your gift of mercy start with me.
For unto such as these belongs your kingdom,
and in each child, it is your face we see.
May we, your church, respond in truth and action,
and with you, Lord, say, “Let them come to me.”

*Affirmation of Faith (*unison*)

(from Salvadoran refugees in Honduras to Guatemalan refugees in Mexico)

We still pray, we still sing,
we still dream of the day when the birds will return
and the flowers and our lost loved ones.
We still live with the belief that love and gentleness and faith
will blossom forth one day like roses in winter.
We still believe that God will be born again in our land
as we prepare the stable of our hearts for the birth of a new people.
By Christ’s coming to the world in the form
of a stranger seeking welcome and as an exile
looking for the promise of refuge and hope,
may the God of Ruth and Moses bless us all. 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.

Prayer Response

“Breathe on Me, Breath of God” Robert Jackson
arr. Norman J. Clayton

*Breathe on me, breath of God; fill me with life anew,
that I may love what thou dost love and do what thou wouldst do.*

Offering

Offertory Anthem

“Let’s Imitate Her Notes Above” G. F. Handel
*Your voices tune and raise them on high, till the echo from the vaulted sky,
the blest Cecilia’s name, music to heaven and her we owe, the greatest blessing
that’s below; sound loudly then her fame. Let’s imitate her notes above and may
this morning ever prove, sacred to harmony and love.*

*Presentation of the Offering and Response

For the life that you have giv-en, for the love in Christ made known,
with these fruits of time and la - bor, with these gifts that are your own:
here we of - fer, Lord, our prai - ses; heart and mind and strength we bring.
Give us grace to love and serve you, liv - ing what we pray and sing.

*Prayer of Dedication (*unison*)

O God, take our lives and let them be consecrated
to obeying what Christ commands.
Take our gifts and use them as means of hope
to those who need food, drink, shelter, and friends.
Take our time and fill it with a sense of your abiding Spirit,
that others may know your redeeming grace. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Hornpipe from *Water Music*. G. F. Handel

Baptism at Fourth Presbyterian Church

On the second Sunday of each month, Fourth Church includes the Sacrament of Baptism in morning worship. Baptism is the sign and seal of God’s grace and covenant in Christ. As *The Book of Order* of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) explains, baptism signifies the faithfulness of God, the washing away of sin, rebirth, putting on the fresh garment of Christ, and adoption into the covenant family of the church.

The baptism of children witnesses to the truth that God’s love claims people before they are able to respond in faith. The congregation, on behalf of the whole church, assumes responsibility for nurturing the baptized children in the Christian life, and it is for this reason that the congregation makes such a promise during the service. In the unison prayer we also remember that we too were baptized and as children of God are part of the worldwide family of faith.

Those being baptized at the 9:30 worship service are

Tate Audrey Bowman, daughter of Wade and Allison Bowman
Grace Hoy-Ling Temple, daughter of Kevin Temple and Medora Lee Anderson
Alan Yorg, son of Jeffrey and Kathryn Yorg

Those being baptized at the 11:00 worship service are

Charlotte Elizabeth Brougham,
daughter of Alexander and Carolyn Brougham
Eliana Marie Hooper, daughter of Justin and Amanda Hooper
Jonathan Karna Oen, son of Nathan and Evi Oen
Ruby Ruth Robertson, daughter of John and Andrea Robertson
Jaxon Henry Sampson, son of Eric and Casey Sampson

Worship Leaders

Joyce Shin, Ken Walker, Matt Helms, Victoria G. Curtiss

The Music Today

Women of the Chancel and Morning Choirs; Beena David, soloist;
Carol Carpenter, flutist
Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

Worship Notes

TODAY'S PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (PDA) OFFERING will support PDA's efforts to minister to the immigrant children flooding our country to escape dire conditions in Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala. Gifts to this offering can be made using the envelopes in the pew racks, by writing "PDA-children" on the memo line of a check made payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church, or online at www.bit.ly/PDAGifts

SHANNON KERSHNER is in Scotland, participating in a seminar that had been planned prior to her call to Fourth Church. There she is joining with Presbyterian pastors from North Carolina and from Scotland to talk about the church today. She returns on August 19.

AS THE BULLETIN HEADINGS remind us, the center of our worship is the Word—by which we mean both Scripture, and also the Living Word of God, Jesus Christ. When Scripture is read and proclaimed, Jesus Christ the Living Word is present by the inward witness of the Holy Spirit. It is this Living Word that is the center of everything we do in worship. That worship follows the pattern we see in Isaiah 6: adoration, confession, absolution, thanksgiving, and service. We listen for the Word of God. We respond in song, affirmation of our faith, prayer, and the giving of our gifts and dedication of our lives, and then God sends us back into the world to live out our faith, looking for God's work all around us.

THE BULLETIN COVER PHOTO depicts water drops and ripples in the fountain of the Michigan Avenue courtyard. The cover quote is by Guatemalan Julia Esquivel from the poem "Revelation."

SOURCES AND CREDITS: Hymn tune names—as well as composers of the music and authors of the text—are listed in the hymnal with each hymn. The words to "The Children Come" are by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette © 2014. All rights reserved. Used by permission. The words to "For the Life that You Have Given" are by Carl P. Daw Jr. © 1987; music is by Morgan Simmons © 1990, 1992 Hope Publishing Co.

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This worship bulletin is printed on recyclable paper that contains recycled post-consumer waste and is acid free. All bulletins and inserts left in the baskets by the doors are recycled.

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