

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

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Benedictus Max Reger

Vocalise Sergei Rachmaninoff; arr. Patricia Bird.

Introit

“Now That the Daylight Fills the Sky” Plainsong

*Now that the daylight fills the sky, we lift our hearts to God on high,
that he, in all we do or say, would keep us free from harm this day.
To God the Father, heavenly light, to Christ, revealed in earthly night,
to God the Holy Ghost we raise our equal and unceasing praise.*

*Doxology (*sung*). The Hymnal, 606

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 from Ephesians 2

Minister: *In Christ we are a new humanity, no longer strangers
but members of the household of God,
built upon the foundation of the apostles and the prophets,
with Jesus Christ himself as the chief cornerstone.*

People: We rejoice that Jesus holds us together,
reconciling us to God and to one another.
Let us worship!

*Prayer of Praise

*Hymn 309 “Come, Great God of All the Ages”

**Stand as you are able.*

Prayer of Confession

Steadfast God,
sometimes we are so busy putting up walls between ourselves and others
that we cannot see the home you are building for all of us.
We can spend so much time noting the differences between us and others
that we might not notice you are embracing everyone as your child.
We might run to welcome those who look, talk, and act like us,
but you throw open your doors to the stranger in our midst.
Forgive us.
By your grace, help us to see the fullness of your household, your reign.
Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

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

Concerns of the Church

Minute for Mission

Anthem

“Salvation Is Created” Pavel Chesnokov; arr. Mark Schweizer
Salvation is created; salvation of the world is come. Alleluia.

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter *(responsively)*

Psalms 139:1–18 Old Testament, page 545

*Gloria Patri *(sung)*. The Hymnal, 581

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.

Scripture Lesson

Ephesians 2:11–22 New Testament, page 181

Minister: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Shannon J. Kershner

*“For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken
down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us.” Ephesians 2:14 (NRSV)*

Responding to the Word

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

*Affirmation of Faith (*unison*) From *A Declaration of Faith* (PCUSA)

The Holy Spirit unifies the Christian church.

The diversity in the early church caused tension and conflict.

Yet the Spirit bound them into one body, enriched by their differences.

We know that the same Spirit gives us a unity
we cannot create or destroy.

The Spirit moves among us
not to end diversity or compel uniformity,
but to overcome divisiveness and bitterness.

The Spirit leads us to struggle against
the lines of race and class,
the ambitions of competing parties,
the loyalties to individuals and traditions, that divide us.

The Spirit impels us
to make the unity of Christians visible to a divided world,
and assures us that we shall be one.

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

“Amen” Clarence Dickenson

Offertory Anthem

“O Praise the Lord, My Soul” Mikhail M. Ippolitov-Ivanov
arr. Gwynn S. Bement

O praise the Lord, O praise thou the Lord, my soul; forever praised be God, the Lord. Every power that within me dwells, praise thou his holy name; praise him and forget not all his benefits. It is he who forgiveth every iniquity of thine; it is he who healeth all diseases of thine; it is he who even doth redeem thee from destruction and crowneth thy life with goodness and mercy and tenderness. O praise the Lord, O praise thou the Lord, my soul; forever praised be God, the Lord. Every power that within me dwells, praise thou his holy name; forever praised be God the Lord.

*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*)

Christ, you are before us.
This is what gives us courage to go on.
It is you who directs. It is you who beckons.
So we dedicate these gifts, we dedicate ourselves,
to you and to your work in this world. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 320 “The Church of Christ in Every Age”

*Benediction and Response

Postlude

Rigaudon André Campra

Worship in the Reformed Tradition

As the headings in our bulletin remind us each week, the center of our worship is **the Word**—by which we mean both Scripture and the Living Word of God, Jesus Christ. Our Scripture witnesses to God and God’s activity. When it 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 (page 597 of the Old Testament): adoration, confession, absolution, thanksgiving, and service. Overwhelmed by God’s majesty and glory, we **gather together in praise** offered through song and prayer.

In the face of that great goodness of God, we also see how we fall short of being who we were created to be and so we join in a **prayer of confession**. We then proclaim the **forgiveness** that we know in Jesus Christ. We live our lives in this cycle of realizing where we fall short, being honest to God about that, and then recognizing that God always forgives us, even before the words are on our lips, and lets us start new.

As we listen for the Word of God, **Scripture** is read. The **sermon** is proclaimed. We respond to the Word with thanksgiving, joining in **song** and **affirming our faith**, using words from the Presbyterian Church (USA)’s *Book of Confessions*—whether it be the Apostles’ Creed, a Brief Statement of Faith, or one of the other professions of faith—or words taken directly from Scripture.

Following Jesus’ instruction to pray, in the **Prayers of the People** we bring human need before God in hope, trust, and thanksgiving for God’s faithfulness, concluding with the **Lord’s Prayer**. Our response of thanksgiving also includes the giving of our material goods, bringing to God the **offerings** of our work as symbols of our gratitude and our acknowledgment that everything we have comes from God. In prayer we **dedicate** these gifts and our lives to the work of the church and God’s mission.

God then **sends** us, like Isaiah, back out into the world in service. Our final **hymn** of grateful praise moves directly into a **charge and blessing** to take what we have heard, to take what we have learned, and to actively live it out in the world, looking for God’s work all around us.

Worship Leaders

Joyce Shin, Lisa Stracks, Victoria G. Curtiss, Shannon J. Kershner

The Music Today

Men of the Chancel and Morning Choirs

John W. W. Sherer, Organist and Director of Music

Worship Notes

TODAY'S MINUTE FOR MISSION is presented by Michelle Weitz on behalf of Presbyterian Women's School Supply Drive.

FOURTH CHURCH EXPRESSES ITS GRATITUDE to the men of the Chancel and Morning Choirs for their musical leadership during morning worship this summer. Beginning next Sunday, July 26, the women of both choirs will be singing in Sunday morning worship through September 6. Anyone interested in joining a Fourth Church choir is encouraged to contact John Sherer (312.981.3592; jsherer@fourthchurch.org).

THE TEXTILE BANNERS AND PULPIT PARAMENT, "UNWEAVINGS," created by fiber artist Laurie Wohl, were commissioned by Fourth Church for use during the liturgical season of Ordinary Time, the longest season of the church year (the season between Epiphany and Lent and between Pentecost and Advent). Through their combination of scripture texts and images, these banners celebrate and elevate the perception of the sacred in the "ordinary" as we make our faith journey day to day.

THE BULLETIN COVER photo depicts a flower in the Michigan Avenue courtyard after a summer rain. The cover quote is from Virginia Ramey Mollenkott's book *Godding: Human Responsibility and the Bible*.

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 "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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Victoria G. Curtiss Associate Pastor for Mission

Matt Helms Minister for Children and Families

Hardy H. Kim Associate Pastor for Evangelism

Joyce Shin Associate Pastor for Congregational Life

Judith L. Watt Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care

Jeffrey Doane Parish Associate for Older Adults

Layton Williams Pastoral Resident

John Buchanan Pastor Emeritus

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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