

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

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

March of the Magi Kings Théodore Dubois

Introit

“We Have Seen His Star” Richard Proulx
We have seen his star in the east, and we have come to adore the Lord.

*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

Leader: *God has delivered us by sending Jesus Christ
as Light for the nations.*
People: **Christ is the glory and radiance of God’s compassion and care.**
Leader: *God illumines our darkness with the hope of justice and peace.*
People: **We stand in awe of God’s splendor and bow down to worship.**
Leader: *Let us lift our voices in praise of God’s goodness,
and give heed to God’s instruction.*

*Hymn 133 “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

We confess, God of Wonder and Might,
that we have not allowed your light to permeate our lives.
We become discouraged, even despondent,
by the darkness we encounter in the world and in ourselves.
Yet it was precisely into such a world that you came
to dwell in our midst, shining light that nothing can quench.
Rekindle in us your everlasting hope and promise
that our lives may shine forth your love. Amen.

*Stand as you are able.

Declaration of Pardon

Minister: *Friends, believe the good news.*

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Concerns of the Church

Minute for Discipleship

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter (*responsively*)

Psalms 147:12–20 Old Testament, page 550

Anthem

“The Morning Star” Virgil Thomson

*How splendid shines the morning star, God’s gracious light from darkness far,
the root of Jesse blessed. Thou David’s son of Jacob’s stem, my bridegroom,
king, and wondrous Lamb, thou hast my heart possessed. Sweetly, friendly,
O thou handsome precious ransom, full of graces, set and kept in heavenly places.*

First Lesson

Jeremiah 31:7–14 Old Testament, page 690

Leader: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: Thanks be to God.

*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.

Second Lesson

John 1:1–8 New Testament, page 86

Leader: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“The Word Became Flesh” Victoria G. Curtiss

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 152 “What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright”

*Affirmation of Faith (*unison*) 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.

Offering

Offertory Voluntary

Prelude on the Introit for Epiphany Maurice Duruflé

*Offertory 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.

Sealing the Word

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation

Great Thanksgiving

Minister: *The Lord be with you.*

People: **And also with you.**

Minister: *Lift up your hearts.*

People: **We lift them to Lord.**

Minister: *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Prayer

Minister: *It is truly right and our greatest joy . . .*

. . . who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Sanctus (*sung*) The Hymnal, 552

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest,

hosanna in the highest.

Minister: . . . *Great is the mystery of faith:*

Memorial Acclamation (*sung*) The Hymnal, 553

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

The Lord's Prayer (*unison*)

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

The Communion

Communion Anthem

“’Twas in the Moon of Wintertime” French carol
arr. Barrie Cabena

*’Twas in the moon of wintertime, when all the birds had fled,
great Spirit, Lord of all the earth, sent angel choirs instead.
Before their light the stars grew dim and wandering hunters heard the hymn,
Jesus, your king is born, in excelsis gloria.
O children of the forest free, the angel song is true:
the holy child of earth and heaven is born today for you.
Come kneel before the radiant boy who brings you beauty, peace, and joy.
Jesus, your king is born, in excelsis gloria.*

Prayer after Communion (*unison*)

Loving God, you have given us a share in the one bread
and the one cup and made us one in Christ.
Help us to shine your light and bring your joy and salvation
to all the world. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 150 “As with Gladness Men of Old”

*Benediction and Response

Postlude

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright Niels Gade

This morning, Communion is served by intinction.

The congregation comes forward by the center aisle to receive
the bread, which they then dip into the chalice of grape juice.
(Gluten-free bread is available in a small tumbler in each basket of bread.)

Worshippers return to their pews by the side aisles.

The invitation to the Lord’s Supper is not just for Presbyterians
or “members of the church.” All who confess Jesus Christ as Savior
and Lord are invited to partake of the Lord’s Supper.

Even one who doubts or whose trust is wavering may receive
the bread and grape juice (in place of wine) in order to be
assured of God’s love and grace in Jesus Christ.

Worship Leaders

Victoria G. Curtiss

The Music Today

The Chancel Choir

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

Chelsie Coren, Organ Scholar

Worship Notes

TODAY'S MINUTE FOR DISCIPLESHIP is presented by Lesley Conzelman on behalf of the Adult Education Committee.

CHELIE COREN IS A THIRD-YEAR STUDENT at the University of Chicago and is participating in a church music training program sponsored by Fourth Presbyterian Church and the University of Chicago.

FOURTH CHURCH OFFERS A VARIETY of worship opportunities on Sunday, including this 8:00 a.m. Communion service, worship at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m., and a jazz service with Communion at 4:00 p.m. Each Wednesday at 9:30 a.m., Morning Prayer is held in Buchanan Chapel as a time to remember in prayer members of the Fourth Church congregation and those in need. We also offer a monthly fourth-Friday prayer service in the style of Taizé, which meets this month on January 22 at 7:30 p.m.

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.

Shannon J. Kershner Pastor
Victoria G. Curtiss Associate Pastor for Mission
Matt Helms Associate Pastor
for Children and Family Ministries
Hardy H. Kim Associate Pastor for Evangelism

Judith L. Watt Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care
Nanette Sawyer Minister for Congregational Life
Jeffrey Doane Parish Associate for Older Adults
Layton Williams Pastoral Resident
John Buchanan Pastor Emeritus

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THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO
Church office: 126 E. Chestnut Street, Chicago, IL 60611.2014
www.fourthchurch.org | www.facebook.com/fourthchurch
312.787.4570 | Voicemail 312.787.2729 | Fax: 312.787.4584