

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

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

O God of Love. John Corigliano
Pastorale. Valentin Rathgeber
Meditation on “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” . . . Christopher Pardini

Introit

“The Best of Rooms” Gerald Near
*Christ, he requires still, wheresoe’er he comes
to feed or lodge, to have the best of rooms:
give him the choice; grant him the nobler part
of all the house: the best of all’s the heart.*

*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: *To you, O God, we lift our souls.*
People: **You are our refuge and our fortress; in you we place our trust.**
Leader: *Lead us in the ways of righteousness and truth;*
People: **save us from the time of trial.**
Leader: *Make us to know your ways, O Holy One.*
People: **Help us as we begin to walk the way of the cross.**

*Prayer of Praise

*Hymn 757 “Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples”

**Stand as you are able.*

Prayer of Lenten Confession (*unison*)

Gracious God, we come before you in need of forgiveness and grace. You call us to trust in you completely, but we do not. We can be timid and fearful as we follow your lead. We struggle to understand the new life Christ offers, preferring old habits to risky change. We have harbored uncharitable thoughts toward our enemies and friends and have avoided difficult responsibilities to our neighbors. Forgive us, we pray. Free us from our timidity and our selfishness. Help us to be shaped and reshaped by your willing-to-risk-all Love. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Extinguishing the First Lenten Candle

Kyrie (*sung*) The Hymnal, 576

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy on us.

Declaration of Pardon

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

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

Anthem

“God Is Seen” Alice Parker

*Through all the world below, God is seen all around;
search hills and valleys through, there he's found.
The growing of the corn, the lily and the thorn, the pleasant and forlorn,
all declare, God is there. In meadows drest in green, God is seen.
See springing waters rise, fountains flow, rivers run.
The mist that veils the sky hides the sun.
Then down the rain doth pour, the ocean it doth roar and beat upon the shore,
and all praise, in their ways, the God who ne'er declines his designs.
The sun with all his rays speaks of God as he flies.
The comet in her blaze, "God," she cries.
The shining of the stars, the moon when she appears his awe-full name declares;
see them fly through the sky and join the solemn sound all around, all around.*

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter (*responsively*)

Psalms 15 Old Testament, page 469

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

Glorify 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

Luke 10:25–37 New Testament, page 67

Minister: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Shannon J. Kershner

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 343 “Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life”

*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.

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” Milton Dieterich

Offertory Anthem

“Love Bade Me Welcome” Roland E. Martin

Love bade me welcome, yet my soul drew back, guilty of dust and sin. But quick-ey'd Love, observing me grow slack from my first entrance in, drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning if I lack'd anything. "A guest," I answer'd, "worthy to be here"; Love said, "You shall be he." "I, the unkind, the ungrateful? Ah my dear, I cannot look on thee." Love took my hand and smiling did reply, "Who made the eyes but I?" "Truth, Lord, but I have marr'd them; let my shame go where it doth deserve." "And know you not," says Love, "who bore the blame?" "My dear, then I will serve." "You must sit down," says Love, "and taste my meat." So I did sit and eat.

*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*)

Gracious God, we dedicate to you not only these gifts,
but also ourselves, in deep gratitude—
for your call on our lives, your guidance in the baptismal journey,
and for blessing us so that we might be a blessing to others.
Accept what we bring for your own good purposes.
In Christ we pray. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 366 “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

*Benediction and Response

Postlude

Toccata on “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” Christopher Pardini

“Let the little children come to me . . .
for it is to such as these that the
kingdom of heaven belongs.”

Matthew 19:14 (NRSV)

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.

Being baptized at the 9:30 worship service:

Milan Astoria Sharma, child of Samir and Noel Sharma

Asher Willem Soni, child of Ravi and Terri Soni

Being baptized at the 11:00 worship service:

Maeve Kelley Cameron, child of Matthew and Sarah Cameron

Madison Danielle Coklow, child of Marvin Coklow and Marcise Clear

Charlotte Frances Delgado, child of Amanda Delgado

Olivia Shirley Meyer, child of Paul Meyer and Kelly Spence

Worship Leaders

Judith L. Watt, Daniel Miller, Hardy H. Kim, Shannon J. Kershner

The Music Today

The Morning Choir

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

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

Worship Notes

EACH SUNDAY DURING LENT we will be extinguishing a candle at the front of the Sanctuary. Just as we lit candles on the Advent wreath to symbolize the light coming into the world through the birth of Christ, so now our extinguishing of candles points to the Lenten progression from light to darkness as we make our way to Good Friday and the crucifixion.

THE ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING is being received throughout Lent. Gifts to this offering support Chicago Lights Tutoring and Elam Davies Social Service Center as well as the work of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Hunger, and Self-Development of People Programs. To make a “One Great Hour of Sharing” gift, you can use the envelopes in the pew racks or write “Lenten Offering” on the memo line of a check made payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church.

THE SEASON OF LENT calls Christians to embrace the faith journey by reflecting upon and deepening their relationship with God and by acting upon their Christian beliefs. During this season, we are invited to thoughtfully take up the gifts of faith—worship, study, prayer, and service—in preparation for Holy Week and Christ’s journey to the cross.

THE BULLETIN COVER IMAGE is a night photograph of the Fourth Church steeple (*at left*) and the rooftop cross (*at right*). The cover quote is from “Why I Love Ash Wednesday and Lent” by Nadia Bolz-Weber.

SOURCES AND CREDITS: The Call to Worship is based on Psalms 25 and 91. 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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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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