

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

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Ascension Suite. Olivier Messiaen

I. Majesty of Christ praying that his Father should glorify him

II. Serene alleluias from a soul longing for heaven

IV. Prayer from Christ ascending towards his Father

Introit

“Alleluia, Christ the Lord Has Ascended into Heaven” Iain Quinn

*Alleluia, Christ the Lord has ascended into heaven; come, let us adore him;
alleluia. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.*

*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: *Sing praises, people of God, sing praises!*

People: **Shout to God with loud songs of joy!**

Leader: *God is sovereign over creation. The earth belongs to God.*

People: **God is highly exalted. Sing praises!**

*Prayer of Praise

*Hymn 268 “Crown Him with Many Crowns”

Prayer of Confession (*please hold silence*)

Declaration of Pardon

Minister: *Friends, believe this good news:*

People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.**

**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)*

Psalm 47 Old Testament, page 490

Anthem

“O, Clap Your Hands” Ralph Vaughan Williams
*O, clap your hands, all ye people; shout unto God with the voice of triumph,
for the Lord most high is terrible; he is the great King over all the earth.
God is gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.
Sing praises to God, sing praises unto our King; for God is King over all the earth.
Sing ye praises everyone that hath understanding. God reigneth over the heathen;
God sitteth upon the throne of his holiness; sing praises unto our King.*

First Lesson

Ephesians 1:15–23 New Testament, page 181
Minister: *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

Acts 1:1–14 New Testament, page 110
Minister: *The Word of the Lord.*
People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Shannon J. Kershner

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 264 “At the Name of Jesus”

*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” John Stainer

Offertory Anthem

“God Is Gone Up” Gerald Finzi

*God is gone up with a triumphant shout; the Lord with sounding trumpet’s
melodies. Sing praise, sing praises out unto our King, sing seraphicwise!
Lift up your heads, ye everlasting doors; they sing and let the King of glory
enter in. Methinks I see heaven’s sparkling courtiers fly, in flakes of glory down
him to attend, and hear heart-cramping notes of melody surround his chariot
as it did ascend. Mixing their music, making every string more to enravish
as they this tune sing.*

*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*)

On the day of Ascension, you once again gifted us.
 You gave us the promise of your Spirit and power.
 May these gifts from our labor and our lives
 be symbols of our gratitude for the myriad of ways
 you pour yourself out for us.
 May we, as your people, pour ourselves out for this world. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 262 “Since Our Great High Priest, Christ Jesus”

*Benediction and Response

Postlude

Ascension Suite. O. Messiaen

III. Outburst of joy from a soul before the glory of Christ
 which is its own glory

“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:

Ava Caroline Bus, child of Stephen and Ashley Bus

Being baptized at the 11:00 worship service:

Preston Reynolds Paul, child of Justin and Johanna Paul

Thomson Michael Pease, child of Michael Pease and Nicole Klotz

Ray Bradley Seiler, child of Bradley and Melissa Seiler

Worship Leaders

9:30 Rocky Supinger, Debbie Frisch, Victoria G. Curtiss, Shannon J. Kershner

11:00 Judith L. Watt, Debbie Frisch, Victoria G. Curtiss, 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

FOURTH CHURCH OFFERS A VARIETY of worship opportunities on Sunday, including an 8:00 a.m. Communion service 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 May 27 at 7:30 p.m.

THE BULLETIN COVER image depicts one of the massive stone pillars in the Sanctuary, each of which is rooted firmly in the foundations and, like our praise, soars heavenward. The cover quote is from Walter Brueggemann's book of prayers, *Awed to Heaven, Rooted in Earth*.

SOURCES AND CREDITS: The Call to Worship is adapted from Psalm 47. 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 Ministry

Hardy H. Kim Associate Pastor for Evangelism

Rocky Supinger Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry

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

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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