

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

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Concerto in B Minor Johann Gottfried Walther
Adagio

Introit

“O, Bless the Lord, My Soul” Aaron Williams
arr. Theodore Hoelty-Nickel

*O, bless the Lord, my soul! Let all within me join and aid my tongue to bless
his name whose favors are divine.*

*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 of the past has rescued us from the slavery of sin.*

People: **We are here to thank God for our salvation.**

Leader: *God of the future is tearing down the old world
and building God’s reign in our midst.*

People: **We are here because we trust God.**

Leader: *God of the present created us to be one people.*

People: **We are here together to praise God.**

Leader: *God surprises us when we find life within us.*

People: **We celebrate God’s grace.**

*Hymn 716 “God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending”

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

You hold nothing back from us, generous God, yet we are determined to cling to what we have accumulated. You planted in us a hunger for you, but we fill ourselves with that which does not satisfy. You call us to share ourselves and our money with others, yet we focus primarily on our own needs and desires. You invite us to set aside our old ways to walk with you, but unfamiliar paths stir anxiety in us. Have mercy on us, Bread of Heaven, and bring us new life. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

Minister: *Friends, believe the good news.*

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Concerns of the Church

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter (*responsively*)

Psalm 107:1–9, 43 Old Testament, page 528

Anthem

“Peace at the Last” Bradley Ellingboe
O Lord, support us all the day long until the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and the work is done. Then in thy mercy, grant us a safe lodging and a holy rest and peace at the last. Amen.

First Lesson

Colossians 3:1–11 New Testament, page 190

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

Luke 12:13-21 New Testament, page 70

Minister: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“It’s Never All about You” Victoria G. Curtiss

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 175 “Seek Ye First”

*Affirmation of Faith (*unison*) From A Brief Statement of Faith (USA)

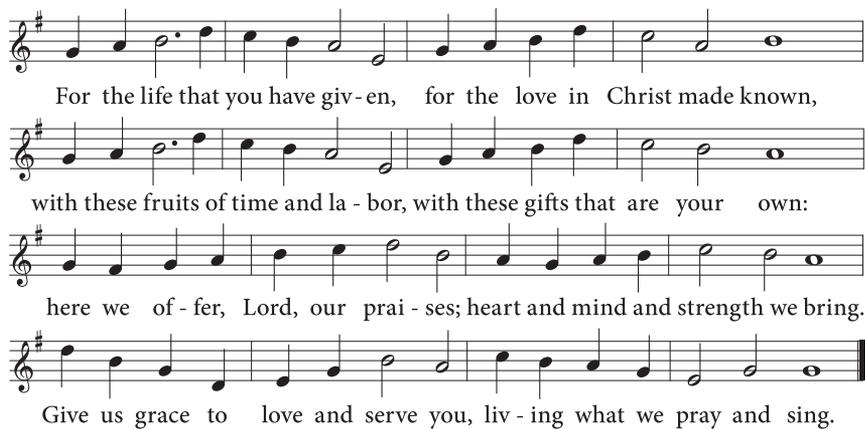
We trust in God the Holy Spirit,
 everywhere the giver and renewer of life.
 The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,
 sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,
 and binds us together with all believers
 in the one body of Christ, the church.
 The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles
 rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,
 engages us through the Word proclaimed,
 claims us in the waters of baptism,
 feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,
 and calls women and men to all ministries of the church.
 In a broken and fearful world
 the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing,
 to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
 to unmask idolatries in church and culture,
 to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
 and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.
 Amen.

Offering

Offertory Voluntary

“Blessed Jesus, We Are Here” Johann Sebastian Bach

*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 the 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 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.

The Communion

Communion Anthem

“Lamb of God” Nicolaus Decius

arr. F. Melius Christiansen

Lamb of God most holy and lowly, who on the cross didst suffer patient, still, and lowly, thyself to scorn didst offer; our sins by thee were taken, or hope had us forsaken: have mercy on us, O Jesu!

Prayer after Communion (*unison*)

Loving God, you graciously feed us with the bread of life and the cup of eternal salvation. May we who have received this sacrament be strengthened in your service. Help us so to know you that we may truly love you; so to love you that we may fully serve you. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 450 “Be Thou My Vision”

*Benediction and Response

Postlude

The Rejoicing from *Royal Fireworks*. George Frideric Handel

Worship Leaders

Victoria G. Curtiss, Roberta Dawson

The Music Today

Men of the Morning Choir

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

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

Worship Notes

TODAY'S MINUTE FOR DISCIPLESHIP is presented by Alison Gerlach Blaser on behalf of the Officer Nominating Committee.

THE MEN'S CHOIR is providing musical leadership during worship through September 4. The Men's Choir consists of men from the three adult choirs at Fourth Church: the Chancel Choir, Morning Choir, and Choral Society.

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.) Worshipers 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.

THE BULLETIN COVER image—which pairs a cross with the complex interwoven evocation of a heart—depicts the large hanging sculpture in Buchanan Chapel as viewed from Chestnut Street.

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 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

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