

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

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Toccat, Adagio, and Fugue Johann Sebastian Bach

Introit

“Jehovah, Let Me Now Adore Thee” German chorale
arr. Theodore Hoelty-Nickel

*Jehovah, let me now adore thee, for where is there a God such, Lord, as thou?
With songs I fain would come before thee; O, let thy Holy Spirit teach me now
to praise thee in his name through whom alone our songs can please thee,
through thy blessed Son!*

*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: *This is the house of God, and we are, by grace, the guests.*

People: Sing to God, who is our strength!

Shout and cheer the God of deepest joys!

Leader: *This is the house of God, and we are, by grace, the guests.*

People: Let us worship!

*Prayer of Praise

*Hymn 624 “I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art”

**Stand as you are able.*

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Merciful One, forgive us when we think too highly of ourselves,
and forgive us when we don't think we are worthy of your love.
Forgive us when we forget you are our strength,
and forgive us when we assume
we have to make it through this life on our own.
Open us up to your Spirit.
Help us to learn from and serve all people.
Teach us to walk in your way of mercy and grace. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

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

Concerns of the Church

Minute for Mission

Anthem

“Steal Away” African American spiritual
arr. Michael Richardson
Steal away to Jesus. Steal away home; I ain't got long to stay here.
My Lord, he calls me in the thunder. The trumpet sounds within my soul.
I ain't got long to stay here.

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter (*responsively*)

Psalms 81:1, 10–16 Old Testament, page 512

*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

Luke 14:1, 7–14 New Testament, page 72

Leader: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Shannon J. Kershner

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 754 “Help Us Accept Each Other”

*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.

Commissioning of Pastoral Resident

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

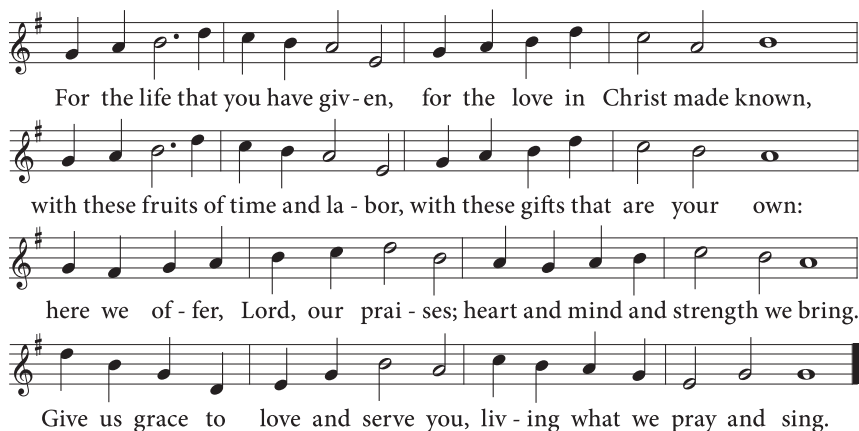
“Amen” Eric DeLamarter

Offertory Anthem

“Joshua” African American spiritual
arr. Robert Sells

Joshua fit the battle of Jericho, and the walls come tumbling down. He marched with spear in hand. Blow them ram horns, Joshua cried, 'cause the battle is in my hand. Then the lamb, ram, sheep horns begin to blow; trumpets begin to sound. Joshua commanded the children to shout, and the walls come tumbling down.

*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*)

Blessed are you, God of all creation:
through your goodness we have these gifts to share.
Accept and use our offerings for your glory
and for the service of your reign. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 20 “All Things Bright and Beautiful”

*Benediction and Response

Postlude

Toccata in G Major Théodore Dubois

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

Hardy H. Kim, John Dallas Jr., Victoria G. Curtiss, Shannon J. Kershner

The Music Today

The Men's Choir

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

Worship Notes

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. The Chancel Choir—which welcomes all singers—will resume rehearsals on Thursday, September 8 at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary Choir Loft.

TODAY'S MINUTE FOR MISSION is presented by Alex Cornwell, Director of Chicago Lights Tutoring and Summer Day. Chicago Lights—the nonprofit community outreach arm of Fourth Church—provides hope and opportunity to our city's children, youth, and adults who face the challenges of poverty. Each year its five programs—Tutoring, Summer Day, Elam Davies Social Service Center, Urban Farm, and Dance Academy—serve more than 4,000 individuals.

FOURTH CHURCH WELCOMES **ABBI HEIMACH-SNIPES**, our new Pastoral Resident. Abbi will be with us for the next two years, participating in the Pastoral Residency program, which began in 2000. This program provides recent seminary graduates with the opportunity to work in a congregational setting and as a member of a pastoral staff while being mentored—by staff and congregation—in the skills and disciplines of parish leadership. As her second year in the program draws to a close, Abbi will pursue a call to ministry elsewhere, sharing her gifts and leadership with others in the Presbyterian church.

THE BULLETIN COVER photo depicts flowers outside the Chestnut Street entrance to the Parish House.

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

Abbi Heimach-Snipes 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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