

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

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

- A Song without Words Craig Phillips
Symphony III in F-sharp Minor Louis Vierne
 IV. Adagio
Elegy Gabriel Fauré

Introit

“Worship the Lord in the Beauty of Holiness” Iain Quinn
*Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; come, let us adore him.
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: *We come to this place seeking something.*

People: **But even more importantly, we come as people
who are sought by the One whose other name is Love.**

Leader: *Let us enter this time of worship with hearts and minds open.*

People: **Come, let us worship God.**

*Prayer of Praise

*Hymn 327 “From All That Dwell Below the Skies”

**Stand as you are able.*

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Lord God, in the light of your glory we see the evil we have done,
the suffering we have caused, the good we have refused,
and the truth we have denied. Forgive us. Wash us in your mercy
and heal us with your grace, so that we may follow your way
and live the good news of the gospel. Amen.

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

“Caritas et Amor” Z. Randall Stroope
*Where charity and love are, God is there. Christ’s love has gathered us into one,
alleluia, the joy that is immense.*

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter (*responsively*)

Psalm 30 Old Testament, page 478

*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

Acts 9:1–9 New Testament, page 119

Leader: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Could You Be Wrong about God?” Craig Barnes

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 662 “Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies”

*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

“Greater Love Hath No Man” John Ireland

Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it. Love is strong as death. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Who his own self bare our sins in his body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness. Ye are washed; ye are sanctified; ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus; ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. I beseech you, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

*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 and loving God,
 we thank you for the opportunity to give back to you
 and to show our gratitude for who you are.
 We pray these gifts might be used for your healing and reconciling mission.
 As we offer you gifts from our lives and labor,
 we offer ourselves as well,
 that together you might use us in your transformation of the world.
 Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 341 “O God, Show Mercy to Us”

*Benediction and Response

Postlude

Symphony III in F-sharp Minor L. Vierne
 V. Final

“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:

Gavin Lee Griffiths, child of Clark and Kimberly Griffiths

Thomas James Howell, child of Robert and Laura Howell

Annika Bastiana Maggio, child of James and Nicholette Maggio

Connor Jason Robinson, child of Bryan and Katie Robinson

Being baptized at the 11:00 worship service:

Mina Lynn Graham, child of Brad and Justine Graham

Camila Belle Nuñez, child of Raul and Raiti Nuñez

Thomas Peter Riley, child of Timothy and Jessica Riley

Worship Leaders

Victoria G. Curtiss, Melanie Oh Pierce, Shannon J. Kershner, Craig Barnes

The Music Today

The Morning Choir; Zachery Preucil, cellist

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

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

Worship Notes

FOURTH CHURCH WELCOMES TO THE PULPIT today Craig Barnes, Princeton Theological Seminary's seventh president. Also professor of pastoral ministry at the seminary, Dr. Barnes has served a variety of pastorates. He is the author of eight books and a columnist for the *Christian Century*. Yesterday, Dr. Barnes was part of the "Race, Theology, and the Church" conversations hosted here at Fourth Church in partnership with Princeton Theological Seminary.

FOURTH CHURCH WELCOMES CELLIST ZACHERY PREUCIL, a member of the faculty of the Music Institute of Chicago, who is playing this morning's prelude. The Music Institute offers lessons for all levels on various instruments along with classes in music each weekend in the Gratz Center. For details, visit www.musicinst.org/chicago

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 September 23 at 7:30 p.m.

THE BULLETIN COVER photograph depicts the effects of the sunlight streaming into Anderson Hall through the courtyard (east) windows on the morning of the spring equinox. The cover quote is from the prayer "Three Times Holy" in Walter Brueggemann's book *Awed to Heaven, Rooted in Earth*.

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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