

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

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## Gathering around the Word

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### Prelude

Symphony III in F-sharp Minor . . . . . Louis Vierne  
IV. Adagio

### 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:** *Almighty God is the giver of food and drink,  
clothing and warmth, love and hope.*

**People:** **God gives life in all its goodness. We praise and adore God.**

**Leader:** *Lord Jesus is the lover of outcasts, friend of the poor,  
one of us and one with God.*

**People:** **Christ seeks and brings home all who are lost.  
We praise and adore God.**

**Leader:** *The Holy Spirit is bridge-builder and eye-opener,  
waker of the oppressed.*

**People:** **The nature of the Holy Trinity is community.  
We praise and adore God.**

\*Hymn 401 . . . . . “Here in This Place”

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we like to think we are good Christians  
but confess we fail to love our neighbors fully.  
While some have plenty, many go hungry;  
where some have leisure, most struggle to survive.  
We turn a blind eye to such disparities  
and a deaf ear to the cries of those we judge undeserving.  
We scoff at those we think have nothing to teach us or share with us.  
Forgive us.  
Send us forth to search for all who linger  
in the shadowed fringes of our world,  
who yearn for someone to find them, celebrate them,  
and work with them for justice.  
In the name of Jesus Christ,  
who came to embrace us all. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

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

Concerns of the Church

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Listening for the Word

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Prayer for Illumination

Psalter *(responsively)*

Psalm 139:1–12 . . . . . Old Testament, page 545

Anthem

“Ubi Caritas” . . . . . Maurice Duruflé  
*Where charity and love are, God is there. Christ’s love has gathered us into one.  
Let us rejoice and be glad in God. Let us fear and love the living God,  
and may we love each other with a sincere heart. Amen.*

First Lesson

1 Timothy 1:12–17 . . . . . New Testament, page 196

Leader: *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 15:1-10 . . . . . New Testament, page 73  
Minister: *The Word of the Lord*.  
People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“God of Grace” . . . . . Victoria G. Curtiss

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Responding to the Word

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\*Hymn 509 . . . . . “All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly”

\*Affirmation of Faith (*unison*) . . . . from A Brief Statement of Faith (PCUSA)

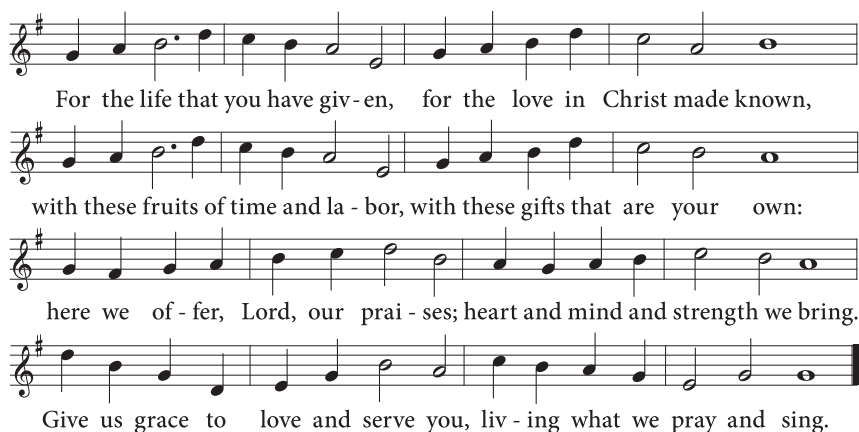
We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.  
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:  
preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives,  
teaching by word and deed and blessing the children,  
healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted,  
eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners,  
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.  
Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,  
Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain  
and giving his life for the sins of the world.  
God raised this Jesus from the dead,  
vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil,  
delivering us from death to life eternal.

Offering

Offertory Solo

“Ich Habe Genung” from *Cantata no. 82* . . . . . Johann Sebastian Bach  
*I ask for no more; in peace I depart.*  
*Mine eyes have beheld him, have seen thy salvation,*  
*the hope and the Savior of all thy creation.*  
*In peace I depart.*

## \*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.

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## Sealing the Word

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### THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

#### Invitation

#### Great Thanksgiving

Minister: *May the God of the lost be with you.*

People: **And also with you.**

Minister: *Lift up your hearts to the one who searches for you.*

People: **We lift them to the Lord, who is our dwelling place.**

Minister: *As God's precious treasure, offer your thanksgiving to God.*

People: **We glorify God who rescues all of us  
when we have wandered away.**

#### Prayer

Minister: *Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe . . .  
. . . forever singing 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

“Jesu, Joy of All Desiring” . . . . . Johann Sebastian Bach  
*Jesu, joy of all desiring, holy wisdom, love most bright.  
Drawn by thee, our souls, aspiring, soar to uncreated light.  
Word of God our flesh that fashioned with the fire of life impassioned.  
Striving still to truth unknown, soaring, dying, round thy throne.*

Prayer after Communion (*unison*)

O God, at this table you welcome all of us  
and make us one with you and one another.  
May the unity we find here be a gift we carry out  
into your suffering and divided world.  
Help us find strength in knowing that you,  
the creator of all, will always be with us. Amen.

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Bearing the Word into the World

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\*Hymn 649 . . . . . “Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”

\*Benediction and Response

Postlude

Whoever Lets Our Dear God Rule . . . . . Johann Sebastian Bach

## Worship Leader

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Victoria G. Curtiss

## The Music Today

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The Chancel Choir; Sean Stanton, soloist  
John W. W. Sherer, Organist and Director of Music  
Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

## Worship Notes

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THE CHANCEL CHOIR is providing musical leadership this morning. Those interested in singing with the Chancel Choir are invited to join their weekly rehearsals, which take place on Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

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.

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.

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**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

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**THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO**  
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