

*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

Allegro Maestoso . . . . .	Felix Mendelssohn arr. Roland E. Martin
Canon in B Minor . . . . .	Robert Schumann
Three Welsh Hymn Preludes . . . . .	Ralph Vaughan Williams
II. Rhosymedre . . . . .	arr. Greg Fudala
Cloister-Garth . . . . .	A. Herbert Brewer
Praise the Lord Eternal . . . . .	Joseph Schuetky arr. Donald R. Frederick

### Introit

“Praise Ye the Lord” . . . . . Donald Cashmore  
*Praise ye the Lord. Praise, all ye servants of the Lord, praise the name of the Lord.*

\*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: *Praise the Lord, O servants of God!*

People: Blessed be the name of the Lord  
from this time on and forevermore.

Leader: *From the rising of the sun to its setting,  
the name of the Lord is to be praised.*

People: Blessed be the name of the Lord  
from this time on and forevermore.

### \*Prayer of Praise

\*Hymn 619 . . . . . “Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven”

Sunday School Teacher Commissioning

Youth Leader Commissioning (11:00)

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*\*Stand as you are able.*

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Gracious God, you know our brokenness:  
We have squandered many of the gifts you have given us.  
We have failed to forgive our debtors as you have forgiven us.  
We have been unfaithful in small things and great things alike.  
We can be foolish and turn away from your face.  
Forgive us, O Lord.  
Forgive us of the variety of ways we fail to live your grace.  
Give us wisdom and generosity,  
that we might reflect you more clearly in our world. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

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

Concerns of the Church

Anthem

“We Wait for Thy Loving-Kindness, O God” . . . . . William McKie  
*We wait for thy loving-kindness, O God; in the midst of thy temple, alleluia.  
O God, according to thy name, so is thy praise unto the world’s end.  
Thy right hand is full of righteousness, alleluia. We wait for thy loving-kindness,  
O God, in the midst of thy temple. O Lord, send us now prosperity. Amen.*

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Listening for the Word

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Prayer for Illumination

Psalter (*responsively*)

Psalm 79:1–9. . . . . Old Testament, page 510

\*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 16:1–9. . . . . New Testament, page 74

Leader: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon . . . . . Shannon J. Kershner

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## Responding to the Word

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\*Hymn 697 . . . . . “Take My Life”

\*Affirmation of Faith (*unison*) . . . . . From Romans 8:1, 28, 38, 39

We believe there is no condemnation  
for those who are in Christ Jesus;  
for we know that all things work together for good  
for those who love God,  
who are called according to God’s purpose.  
We are convinced that neither death, nor life,  
nor angels, nor rulers,  
nor things present, nor things to come,  
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,  
nor anything else in all creation,  
will be able to separate us from the love of God  
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Reception of New Members (11:00)

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

“I Was Glad When They Said Unto Me” . . . . . C. Hubert H. Parry  
*I was glad when they said unto me, “We will go into the house of the Lord.”  
Our feet shall stand in thy gates, O Jerusalem. Jerusalem is builded as a city  
that is at unity in itself. O pray for the peace of Jerusalem; they shall prosper  
that love thee. Peace be within thy walls and plenteousness within thy palaces.*

\*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*)

Generous God, source of love and trust,  
 you feed us with your love and equip us to share in your purpose.  
 Receive these offerings from our labor and our lives,  
 and continue to expand our hearts  
 until we live with the boldness and joy of Easter morning;  
 for we pray in the name of your Son, Jesus,  
 and by the power of your Spirit. Amen.

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Bearing the Word into the World

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\*Hymn 689 . . . . . “When the Morning Stars Together”

\*Benediction and Response

Postlude

Let All the Nations Praise the Lord. . . . . Volckmar Leisring  
 arr. David Baldwin

## 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

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9:30 Rocky Supinger, Lisa Stracks, Judith L. Watt, Shannon J. Kershner

11:00 Hardy H. Kim, Lisa Stracks, Judith L. Watt, Shannon J. Kershner

## The Music Today

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The Morning Choir; Cole Seaton, soloist; Tower Brass

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

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

Matthew Comerford, Artistic Director of Tower Brass

## Worship Notes

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TOWER BRASS, Fourth Church's brass ensemble, participates in worship services as well as special events and concerts throughout the year.

TODAY'S COMMISSIONING of Sunday School teachers, staff, and youth leaders is an affirmation of their dedicated service to our church, its members, and those who are among us as visitors.

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 depicts the chancel in Buchanan Chapel before the hanging sculpture was installed, with shadows from the windows forming crosses on the limestone floor by the baptismal font. The cover quote is from Tom Wright's book *Luke for Everyone*.

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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