

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

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

I Call to You, O Lord Johann Sebastian Bach
Psalm Prelude Herbert Howells
Processional Martin Shaw

Introit

“Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning” (9:30) arr. Greg Gilpin
African American spiritual

*Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, for the time is drawing nigh.
Soon I will be done with the troubles of the world; the time is drawing nigh.
Children, don't get weary; the time is drawing nigh.*

“Sing Alleluia to the Lord” (11:00) Terry D. Taylor
*Sing alleluia to the Lord above. Lift your songs of praise; give God your best always.
God's love is strong and true and fills all the earth. Sing alleluia to 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: *The word has come to us from God,*
People: **who promises to shelter us under the wings of hope and grace.**
Leader: *The word has come to us from Jesus,*
People: **who encourages us to remember the good news we have received.**
Leader: *The word flows to us from the Spirit,*
People: **who reminds us to place our hope and trust in God.**

*Prayer of Praise

**Stand as you are able.*

*Hymn 35 “Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty”

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

God of hope, we confess our disregard of your care,
our doubt of your providence,
and our unwillingness to see signs of your love.
We confess we can be afraid to risk our own comfort to find new life.
We separate ourselves from others and from you
and foster divisions between those you love.
Forgive us, O God. Help us to amend our lives,
and make us your faithful people
who bear the good fruit of your love and justice in the world. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

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

Commissioning of the Choir (11:00)

Concerns of the Church

Anthem

“Sicut cervus desiderat” Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina
As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God.

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter (*responsively*)

Psalm 146 Old Testament, page 549

*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

Psalm 91 Old Testament, page 518

Leader: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Shannon J. Kershner

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 168 “Within Your Shelter, Loving God”

*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” Orlando Gibbons

Offertory Anthem

“Lord, Thou Hast Been Our Refuge” Ralph Vaughan Williams

Lord, thou hast been our refuge from one generation to another. O God, our help in ages past; our hope for years to come; our shelter from the stormy blast and our eternal home. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever the earth and the world were made, thou art God from everlasting and world without end. Thou turnest man to destruction; again thou sayest, come again, ye children of men, for a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday, seeing that is past as a watch in the night. As soon as thou scatterest them, they are even as asleep and fade away suddenly like the grass. In the morning it is green and groweth up, but in the evening it is cut down, dried up and withered. For we consume away in thy displeasure and are afraid at thy wrathful indignation. For when thou art angry all our days are gone, we bring our years to an end as a tale that is told. The years of our age are three score years and ten, and though men be so strong that they come to fourscore years, yet is their strength but labor and sorrow. Turn thee again, O Lord, at the last. Be gracious unto thy servants. O satisfy us with thy mercy and that soon so shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life. Lord, thou hast been our refuge from one generation to another. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever the earth and the world were made, thou art God from everlasting and world without end. And the glorious majesty of the Lord be upon us. Prosper thou the work of our hands, O prosper thou our handiwork.

*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*)

We trust, O God,
 in your provision and loving-kindness.
 Use these gifts and our lives,
 that we might bear your fruit with praise and thanksgiving.
 We ask this in the confidence of your mercy and love. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 440 “Jesus, Lover of My Soul”

*Benediction and Response

Postlude

Fanfare John Cook

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: 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

Victoria G. Curtiss, Pamela Block, Judith L. Watt, Shannon J. Kershner

The Music Today

The Morning Choir; The Youth Choir (9:30); The Children's Choir (11:00)

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

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

Katy Sinclair, Associate Director of Music for Children and Youth

Hsing-Huei Huang, pianist

Worship Notes

TODAY'S COMMISSIONING OF THE MORNING CHOIR lifts up the musical gifts they offer in weekly worship leadership.

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 next month on October 28 at 7:30 p.m.

THE BULLETIN COVER photograph depicts the wood carving at the base of the 1914 organ-pipe case on the south (left) wall of the choir loft. The cover quote is from section V of the poem "Sabbaths 2004" in Wendell Berry's book *Given: Poems*.

SOURCES AND CREDITS: The Call to Worship, adapted from Psalm 91, is by Thom Schuman (<http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com>). The Prayer of Confession is adapted from *Feasting on the Word*, Proper 15. 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

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Rocky Supinger Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry

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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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