

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

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God Johann Christian Kittel
Sheep May Safely Graze Johann Sebastian Bach
Cello Suite no. 3 in C Major J. S. Bach
 I. Prelude
 VI. Gigue

Introit

“This Is the Day” Anonymous
This is the day which the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it.

*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: *Throughout the human story, the Spirit of God continues to speak*

People: **in vision and voices, in images and ideas,**

Leader: *in all languages and all time, to all people in all places,*

People: **inviting the people of God to discover God’s Living Word.**

Leader: *And still the Spirit comes to us today.*

People: **The Church Reformed, always willing to be reformed
by the wildly creative Spirit of God.**

Leader: *Let us worship God!*

*Prayer of Praise

*Hymn 275 “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

**Stand as you are able.*

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Eternal God, you have called us into covenant,
yet our commitment is shallow and our love is weak.
We place lesser concerns high on our list of priorities
and give you whatever time and energy are left.
Forgive our sin, O God, and turn us again toward your purposes.
Reform our lives by renewing our dedication to you.

By your Holy Spirit, give us a new sense of our calling,
a new zeal in our faithfulness,
a new compassion toward neighbors in need,
and a new appreciation for your love in Jesus Christ, our Lord.
May we always be open to the reforming and refreshing wind
of your Spirit. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

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

Concerns of the Church

Minute for Discipleship

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter (*responsively*)

Psalm 119:137–144 Old Testament, page 538

Anthem

“Loving Shepherd of Thy Sheep” John Rutter
*Loving shepherd of thy sheep, keep thy lamb, in safety keep.
Nothing can thy power withstand; none can pluck me from thy hand.
I would praise thee every day, gladly all thy will obey,
like thy blessed ones above, happy in thy perfect love.
Loving shepherd ever near, teach thy lamb thy voice to hear;
suffer not my steps to stray from the straight and narrow way.
Where thou leadest I would go, walking in thy steps below,
'til before thy Father's throne I shall know as I am known.*

First Lesson

John 1:1–9 New Testament, page 86
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

Habbakuk 1:1-4, 2:1-3 Old Testament, page 821
Leader: *The Word of the Lord*.
People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Shannon J. Kershner

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 450 “Be Thou My Vision”

*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” Florence Worthington

Offertory Anthem

“Anthem” Eskil Hemberg

Within thy grace, O Father mild, please keep forever thy own child. My life, my mind, and all I own have come from you, for me a loan. My every breath, my living here belongs to you, O Lord, so dear. Protect and keep what belongs to thee, that nothing evil injures me. My simple heart in thee shall rest; in life and death you know my best. My daily needs you will provide, in every step you are my guide. This is my faith, O Lord, my light, that you will help me in my plight. Abide by me so I may see the glory land and be with thee.

*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*)

Holy and merciful God, you know the joy that is in us when we offer ourselves, our time, and our possessions for the work you set before us. Use these gifts to heal and teach, comfort and challenge, love and serve, that all the world might see your light and give you praise. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 756 “O God of Every Nation”

*Benediction and Response

Worshippers who wish to do so are invited to sing along with the choir during the Benediction responses.

*Recessional (*please remain standing*)

Scotland the Brave Scottish tune

Postlude

Tocatta and Fugue in D Minor J. S. Bach

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

9:30 Nanette Sawyer, Abbi Heimach-Snipes, Shannon J. Kershner

11:00 Victoria G. Curtiss, Abbi Heimach-Snipes, Shannon J. Kershner

The Music Today

The Morning Choir; Brendan Tarm, cellist;

Laura Perkett, soloist; George Sims, bagpiper

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

Worship Notes

TODAY'S MINUTE FOR DISCIPLESHIP on "Let Your Light Shine," the 2017 Annual Appeal for Fourth Presbyterian Church and Chicago Lights, is presented by Kat Evans.

FOURTH CHURCH WELCOMES CELLIST BRENDAN TARM, a student 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

TODAY IS REFORMATION SUNDAY, a day when we recall the rich heritage of the Protestant tradition. The Presbyterian Church (USA) grew out of the Reformation of the sixteenth century under leaders such as John Calvin and John Knox. It was on October 31, 1517, that Martin Luther posted his ninety-five theses on the church door in Wittenberg, Germany, the watershed event sparking the Reformation. Luther later authored the hymn "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God," sung early in today's service and featured in the Prelude. Reformation Sunday is also a day when we remember and give thanks for Reformation leaders and all others who have kept the faith.

THE BULLETIN COVER IMAGE depicts a cabbage plant in the Walter Family Courtyard (by the Delaware entrance) after an October rain. The cover quote is from Sharon Blezard's reflection "O Lord, How Long . . ." at stewardshipoflife.org.

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. The Prayer of Dedication is adapted from *Feasting on the Word: Liturgies for Year C*, Vol. 2. Louisville: WJKP, 2013.

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Nanette Sawyer Minister for Congregational Life

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Abbi Heimach-Snipes Pastoral Resident

John Buchanan Pastor Emeritus

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