

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Holy God, we confess that we have neglected to declare Jesus our Sovereign and model for our lives.

We have been quick to call on others to follow the ways of Christ, yet slow to do the same.

We have been bold in demanding generosity, mercy, and forgiveness, yet quiet when it comes to offering inclusion, love, and compassion.

Forgive us, O God.

Restore in us, yet again, the commitment to be more Christlike in word, in deed, and in spirit. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

Minister: *Friends, believe the good news:*

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Concerns of the Church

Anthem

“Hail, the True and Only Savior” Thomas Pavlechko

Hail, the true and only Savior, of the virgin Mary mother born, sacrificed for our salvation, enduring sorrow, suffering scorn.

On the cross this gentle Savior gave his life to ransom all.

Perfect lamb and full atonement, redeeming us from Adam’s fall.

Holy Jesus, blessed Jesus, Son of Mary, anointed one;

Jesus, holy Jesus, come now, blessed Jesus. Amen.

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson

Colossians 1:11–20 New Testament, page 188

*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 23:33–43. New Testament, page 83

Leader: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Shannon J. Kershner

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 264 “At the Name of Jesus”

*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.

Reception of New Members (11:00)

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

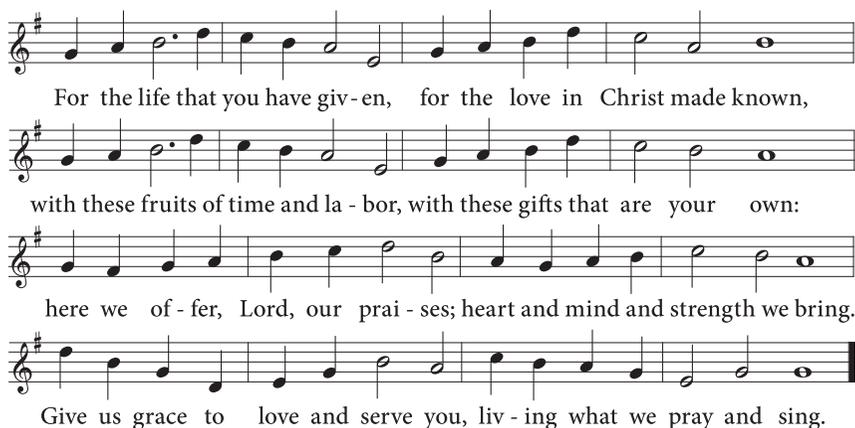
“O Lord, Hear Our Prayer” Eric H. Thiman
O Lord, hear our prayer and let our cry come before thee.

Offertory Anthem

“My Song Is Love Unknown” Arlen Clarke

*My song is love unknown, my Savior's love to me,
love to the loveless shown that they might lovely be.
O who am I that for my sake my Lord should take frail flesh and die?
He came from his blest throne salvation to bestow,
but men made strange, and none the longed for Christ would know.
But, O my friend, my friend indeed, who at my need his life did spend.
Sometimes they strew his way and his strong praises sing,
resounding all the day “hosanna” to their king.
Then “crucify” is all their breath, and for his death they thirst and cry.
They rise, and needs will have my dear Lord made away;
a murderer they save, the prince of life they slay.
Yet steadfast he to suffering goes, that he his foes from thence might free.
Here might I stay and sing, no story so divine,
never was love, dear King, never was grief like thine.
This is my friend, in whose sweet praise I all my days could gladly spend.*

*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*)

Almighty God,
receive our offering for the sake of Christ our Lord.
May these gifts be multiplied to do your service.
May we be strengthened to do your work.
In the name of Jesus Christ,
who multiplied small gifts and fed multitudes. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 268 “Crown Him with Many Crowns”

*Benediction and Response

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

Postlude

Tu es Petra Henri Mulet

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

9:30 Jeff Doane, Ellen Schaller, Nanette Sawyer, Shannon J. Kershner

11:00 Victoria G. Curtiss, Ellen Schaller, Nanette Sawyer, Shannon J. Kershner

The Music Today

The Morning Choir; Beatrice Chen (9:30) and Noah Chen (11:00)

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

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

Briana Belding-Peck, Director of the Handbell Choir

Worship Notes

FOURTH CHURCH IS GRATEFUL TO BEATRICE AND NOAH CHEN for again offering their musical gifts this morning. They most recently played the prelude in May, when they joined as a quartet with their parents, Fourth Church members and musicians Laura Chen, a member of the Lyric Opera Orchestra, and Robert Chen, concertmaster of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

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 next meets on New Year's Eve, December 31, at 7:30 p.m.

THE BULLETIN COVER photo depicts the base of one of the massive stone columns in the south aisle. It is at once a foundational element of the Sanctuary and yet, as it soars out of view in this image, but one part of the larger whole. Oscar Romero, who is quoted on the cover and served as Archbishop of El Salvador until he was assassinated in March 1980, was nominated for the Nobel Prize for Peace for speaking out against poverty and social injustice.

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 Prayer of Confession and Prayer of Dedication are adapted from *Feasting on the Word*, Proper 29, Reign of Christ. 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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Victoria G. Curtiss Associate Pastor for Mission

Matt Helms Associate Pastor

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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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