

## Gathering around the Word

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### Prelude

Now Thank We All Our God . . . . . Johann Sebastian Bach  
from *Cantata no. 79*

Let All Together Praise Our God . . . . . Nikolaus Vetter  
Choral Improvisation; “Now Thank We All Our God” . . . Sigfrid Karg-Elert

\*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

Minister: *Come to God with joy in your heart.*

People: We come to praise God with thanksgiving.

Minister: *Bless the holy name of God, the One who has made us.*

People: We come into God’s presence,  
singing songs of wonder and hope.

Minister: *God is good! God’s faithfulness never ends.*

People: We are God’s people, seeking lives of praise and service.

\*Hymn 367 . . . . . “Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”

### Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

We give thanks that we can bring our prayers to you, God who listens to our lives. For we know there have been moments when we chose the wrong over the right. There have been people we could have helped but didn’t; there are words we should not have spoken, but we did. When we could have shared our faith, we complained instead. We thank you, Merciful One, that you forgive us and transform our lives. By your grace, we can focus on the best, not the worst; on all that is lovely, not ugly; on words of praise, not profane speech. By your love, we can trust that in Christ Jesus, our Savior, everything comes together for good. Amen.

### Declaration of Pardon

Minister: *Friends, believe the good news.*

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

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## Listening for the Word

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### Prayer for Illumination

#### Psalter (*responsively*)

Psalm 146 . . . . . Old Testament, page 549

#### Anthem

“Harvest Blessings, Richly Showered” . . . . . Vernon Hoyle

*Harvest blessings, richly showered by the God of love;  
field and garden, sweetly flowered; heaven’s blue sky above.  
For these mercies now we sing grateful praise to God our King.  
Nature’s wonders yearly sharing, thank we now our Lord,  
who, for all his creatures caring, doth his gifts afford.  
For these mercies now we sing grateful praise to God our King.  
Loving God and loving neighbor, we in joy doth reap  
harvest of the farmer’s labor, harvest of the deep.  
For these mercies now we sing grateful praise to God our King.  
He who took the bread and brake it, blessed it with the wine,  
common food of earth doth make it sustenance divine.  
For these mercies now we sing grateful praise to God our King.  
Harvest blessings, richly showered by the God of might;  
body, soul, and mind empowered praise him in the height!*

#### First Lesson

Deuteronomy 8:6–17 . . . . . Old Testament, page 159

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

2 Corinthians 9:6–15 . . . . . New Testament, page 173

Leader: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: **Thanks be to God.**

#### Sermon

“Thanksgiving in a Time of National Nervousness” . . . Victoria G. Curtiss  
and Kent M. Organ

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## Responding to the Word

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\*Hymn 331 . . . . . “God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand”

### Litany of Thanksgiving

Minister: *Give thanks to the Lord, who is good.*

People: **God’s love is everlasting.**

Minister: *Come, let us praise God joyfully.*

People: **Let us come to God with thanksgiving.**

Minister: *For the good world; for things great and small,  
beautiful and awesome; for seen and unseen splendors:*

People: **thank you, God.**

Minister: *For human life; for talking and moving and thinking together;  
for common hopes and hardships shared from birth  
until our dying:*

People: **thank you, God.**

Minister: *For work to do and strength to work; for the comradeship of labor;  
for exchanges of good humor and encouragement:*

People: **thank you, God.**

Minister: *For marriage; for the mystery and joy of flesh made one;  
for mutual forgiveness and burdens shared;  
for secrets kept in love:*

People: **thank you, God.**

Minister: *For family; for living together and eating together;  
for family amusements and family pleasures:*

People: **thank you, God.**

Minister: *For children; for their energy and curiosity;  
for their brave play and startling frankness;  
for their sudden sympathies:*

People: **thank you, God.**

Minister: *For the young; for their high hopes;  
for their irreverence toward worn-out values;  
for their search for freedom; for their solemn vows:*

People: **thank you, God.**

*Minister: For growing up and growing old;  
for wisdom deepened by experience; for rest in leisure;  
and for time made precious by its passing:*

**People: thank you, God.**

*Minister: For your help in times of doubt and sorrow;  
for healing our diseases;  
for preserving us in temptation and danger:*

**People: thank you, God.**

*Minister: For our nation, throughout seasons of rising and falling;  
for leaders who seek and abide by your wisdom;  
for your light and truth that corrects our ways:*

**People: thank you, God.**

*Minister: For the church into which we have been called;  
for the good news we receive by Word and Sacrament;  
for our life together in the Lord:*

**People: we praise you, God.**

*Minister: For your Holy Spirit,  
who guides our steps and brings us gifts of faith and love;  
who prays in us and prompts our grateful worship:*

**People: we praise you, God.**

*Minister: Above all, O God, for your Son Jesus Christ,  
who lived and died and lives again for our salvation;  
for our hope in him and for the joy of serving him:*

**People: we thank and praise you, Eternal God,  
for all your goodness to us.**

*Minister: Give thanks to the Lord, who is good.*

**People: God's love is everlasting.**

## Offering

### Offertory Anthem

*"To Thee, O Lord, Our Hearts We Raise" . . . . . Robert J. Powell*

*To thee, O Lord, our hearts we raise in hymns of adoration, to thee bring sacrifice  
of praise with shouts of exultation; bright robes of gold the fields adorn, the hills  
with joy are ringing, the valleys stand so thick with corn that even they are singing.  
And now on this our festal day, thy bounteous hand confessing, upon thine altar,  
Lord, we lay the first fruits of thy blessing; by thee the souls of all are fed with gifts  
of grace supernal. Thou, who gives us earthly bread, give us the bread eternal.  
O blessed is that land of God, where saints abide forever, where golden fields  
spread far and broad, where flows the crystal river; the strains of all its holy  
throng with ours today are blending thrice blessed is that harvest song which  
never hath an ending.*

\*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.

Prayer of Dedication (*unison*)

Gracious God, by your providence  
 we receive the things we need and more,  
 gift upon gift. We thank you for the harvest of goodness  
 you supply: for food and shelter,  
 for loving words and gestures,  
 for all our friendships.  
 Above all, we praise you for your Son,  
 who came to show mercy  
 and who names us his friends.  
 We offer you our lives and our gifts  
 in gratitude and devotion.  
 Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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Bearing the Word into the World

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\*Hymn 37 ..... “Let All Things Now Living”

\*Benediction and Response

Postlude

Let All Together Praise Our God ..... J. S. Bach

## Worship Leaders

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Victoria G. Curtiss, Kent M. Organ

## The Music Today

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Members of the Morning Choir

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

## Worship Notes

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THE “LIGHT UP A LIFE” OFFERING is being received throughout Advent. “Light Up a Life” provides opportunity to support congregational programs, mission, and community outreach—including Chicago Lights programs—as well as denominational efforts. “Light Up a Life” gifts can be made using the special offering envelopes found in the pew racks or by writing “Light Up a Life” on the memo line of a check made payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church.

FOURTH CHURCH WELCOMES guest preacher Kent Organ, Presbyterian pastor and husband of Victoria Curtiss.

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US FOR ADVENT WORSHIP beginning this Sunday, November 27. We gather for worship each Sunday morning at 8:00 a.m. (Communion), 9:30 a.m., and 11:00 a.m. and again in the afternoon at 4:00 p.m. for our weekly Jazz Communion service. Information about those services and the many Advent concerts and events at Fourth Church can be found at [www.fourthchurch.org/advent-christmas](http://www.fourthchurch.org/advent-christmas)

SOURCES AND CREDITS: The Litany of Thanksgiving is from *Book of Common Worship*, pp. 792–793. 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 by 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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