

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

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Christ Came to the Jordon River Johann Pachelbel
On Jordan's Banks I Stand Jean Langlais
Beside the Still Waters Gwyneth Walker
At the River Aaron Copland

Introit

“When Jesus Came to Jordan” Hal H. Hopson
*When Jesus came to Jordan to be baptized by John,
he did not come for pardon, but as the Father's Son.
He came to share repentance with all who mourn their sins,
to speak the vital sentence with which good news begins.
He came to share temptations, our utmost woe and loss,
for us and our salvation to die upon the cross.
So when the dove descended on him, the Son of Man,
the hidden years had ended; the age of grace began.*

*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: *Exciting God, Glorious God,*
People: baptize us with wonder.
Leader: *Wise God, Righteous God,*
People: baptize us with justice.
Leader: *Holy God, Covenant God,*
People: baptize us with love. Let us worship!

*Prayer of Praise

*Hymn 407 “Spirit Divine, Attend Our Prayers”

**Stand as you are able.*

Litany of Confession

Leader: *Timeless God, you cast light into sin's shadow places
and call us your beloved. Forgive us*

People: **when we still linger in the shadows;
when we treat others in hurtful ways;
when we speak ill of your friends.**

Leader: *As he knelt in the waters of Jordan,
you proclaimed Jesus as your Son,
pointing to him as the way to you. Forgive us*

People: **when we put ourselves ahead of him;
when we think he is no longer needed;
when we fail to see him in the broken of our world.**

Leader: *You would have us, baptized and blessed in your living waters,
be your servants in our time. Forgive us*

People: **when we fail to welcome the stranger;
when we refuse to forgive as we should;
when we believe we are too good to kneel down
and tie the shoes of the lost, the least, the last, and the little.**

Leader: *Forgive us, O God, and make us new again.
We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.*

Declaration of Pardon

Minister: *Friends, believe the good news:*

People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

Sacrament of Baptism

Unison Prayer

**Holy God, remind us of the promises given in our own baptism
and renew our trust in you.**

**Make us strong to obey your will and to serve you with joy;
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Concerns of the Church

Anthem

“The Baptism of Jesus” Peter Hallock

Jesus went to the Jordan today. When Jesus Christ baptized was, the Holy Ghost descended with grace. The Father's voice was heard in the place, “This is my Son with whom I am well pleased.” There were three persons and one Lord, the Son baptized with one accord. The Father said this blessed word, “This is my Son with whom I am well pleased.” Now Jesus, as thou art both God and man and were baptized in from Jordan, at our last end, we pray thee, say then, “This is my child with whom I am well pleased.”

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter (*responsively*)

Psalms 29 Old Testament, page 477

*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

Matthew 3:13–17 New Testament, page 3

Leader: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Jan Edmiston

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 164 “Down Galilee’s Slow Roadways”

A REAFFIRMATION OF OUR BAPTISMAL VOWS

*Baptismal Litany from 1 Corinthians 12 and Ephesians 4

Leader: *Just as the body is one and has many members,
and all the members of the body, though many,
are one body, so it is with Christ.
For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—*

People: **Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—
and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.
Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.**

Leader: *Lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called,
with all humility and gentleness, with patience,
bearing with one another in love,*

People: **making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit
in the bond of peace.**

Leader: *Remember your baptism and be glad!*

People: **We remember and our lives are filled with joy!**

*Profession of Faith and Renunciations

*The Apostles' Creed (*unison*)

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.

Blessing over the Waters

Proclamation and Invitation for Remembrance

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" John Rutter

Offering

Offertory Anthem

"Father in Heaven" David Hurd
*Father in heaven—who at the baptism of Jesus in the river Jordan proclaimed him
your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit—grant that all who are
baptized into his name may keep the covenant they have made and boldly confess
him as Lord and Savior, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one
God, in glory everlasting. Amen.*

*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*)

Great, holy God, you have gathered us into one baptism,
 regardless of our backgrounds and conditions.
 Therefore we praise you with our offerings this day.
 May they join with others to become a mighty river,
 bringing your peace and healing to the world. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 156 “Sing of God Made Manifest”

*Benediction and Response

Postlude

I’ve Just Come from the Fountain African American spiritual
 arr. Richard Billingham

Worship Leaders

Judith L. Watt, John Dallas Jr., Shannon J. Kershner, Jan Edmiston

The Music Today

The Morning Choir; Laura Perrett, oboist; Laura Kubelka, soloist
John W. W. Sherer, Organist and Director of Music

Worship Notes

TODAY WE REMEMBER THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD, one of the texts traditionally read after Epiphany, when we continue to focus on the revelation of the divinity of Jesus. As we hear again the voice of the Lord saying at Jesus' baptism "You are my Son the Beloved; with you I am well pleased," we also recall our own baptism, in which God has claimed and named us as God's own. In grateful thanksgiving we together renew our commitment to live out our call as beloved children of God.

BAPTIZED TODAY during the 9:30 a.m. service is Elliott Burton Dow, child of William and Madelyn Dow.

BAPTIZED TODAY during the 11:00 a.m. is Lillian Margaret Winkler, child of John and Allison Winkler

WE WELCOME TO THE FOURTH CHURCH PULPIT this morning, Jan Edmiston, a longtime friend of Fourth Church and a Co-Moderator of the 222nd General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA). The Presbytery of Chicago's Associate Executive Presbyter for Ministry, she has also served as pastor of congregations in New York and Virginia.

THE BULLETIN COVER image depicts the baptismal font in Buchanan Chapel. The cover quote is from Scott Black Johnston's January 9, 2005, sermon "How's the Water?"

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.

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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