

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

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## Gathering around the Word

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### Prelude

Kyrie! O God, Holy Ghost . . . . . Johann Sebastian Bach  
Toccata No. 11. . . . . Georg Muffat

### Introit

“Brighter than Snow” (9:30) . . . . . Ruth Elaine Schram  
*Wash me and I’ll be brighter than snow. Have mercy on me according  
to your loving-kindness. Create a clean heart, O Lord; renew my spirit.*

“Sing to the Lord” (11:00) . . . . . Deborah Govenor  
*Sing to the Lord, bless his holy name; sing to the Lord, hallelujah!  
Shout to the Lord, raise your songs of joy; shout to the Lord, hallelujah!  
For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised.  
For all his works a song of thanksgiving we raise!*

\*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: *When we seek justice for the other,  
when we love kindness more than ever,*

People: **we live as God asks us to live.**

Leader: *When we walk humbly through life, when we offer mercy to others,*

People: **we are the blessing God hopes we will be.**

Leader: *When we are willing to look foolish by following Jesus,  
when we choose weakness rather than power,*

People: **we reflect the One who is in our midst.**

Leader: *Let us worship God.*

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*\*Stand as you are able.*

\*Prayer of Praise

\*Hymn 14 . . . . . “For the Beauty of the Earth”

Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, we confess that we are not always faithful to you in our thoughts and actions.  
We can be selfish in our desires and quarrelsome in our relationships.  
We can allow fear to divide us from those who seem different, or let distrust separate us from our brothers and sisters.  
Shine your light into our shadowed hearts. Save us from divisive ways.  
Unite us in the same mind as Jesus Christ, who dwells with you and the Holy Spirit in perfect harmony. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

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

Concerns of the Church

Minute for Mission

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Listening for the Word

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Prayer for Illumination

Psalter (*responsively*)

Psalm 27 . . . . . Old Testament, page 476

Anthem

“Eternal Light” . . . . . John Erickson  
*Eternal light, shine in my heart; eternal hope, lift up my eyes; eternal power, be my support; eternal wisdom, make me wise; eternal life, raise me from death, help me to see. Eternal Spirit, give me breath; eternal Savior, come to me, until by your most costly grace, united by your holy word, at last I come before your face to know you, my eternal God.*

First Lesson

Isaiah 9:1–4. . . . . Old Testament, page 600  
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

1 Corinthians 1:10-18 . . . . . New Testament, page 155

Leader: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon . . . . . Shannon J. Kershner

Responding to the Word

\*Hymn 729 . . . . . “Lord, I Want to Be a Christian”

\*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.

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

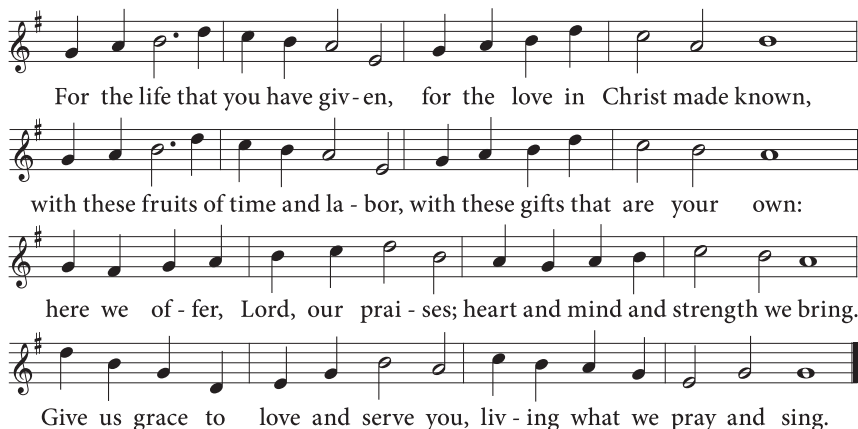
“Amen” . . . . . John Stainer

## Offertory Anthem

“Light” . . . . . Greg Jasperse

*Light, divining light of truth, illuminating light, warming light, softening light, soothing light, serene revealing light, light which pierces the dark shadows of intolerance, indifference. Night falls, I awaken from darkness to peace; I awaken to love; I awaken to life, to hope, to deep knowing, to light.*

### \*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 thank you, God, that you have blessed us  
with an abundance of gifts for the healing of your world.  
May this offering of our life and labor reveal your love  
as we seek to share your promised reign with all creation. Amen.

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## Bearing the Word into the World

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\*Hymn 725 . . . . . “O Jesus, I Have Promised”

### \*Benediction and Response

#### Postlude

Toccata in B-flat Minor . . . . . Louis Vierne

## 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

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Nanette Sawyer, Jeff Doane, Shannon J. Kershner

## The Music Today

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

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

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TODAY'S MINUTE FOR MISSION is presented by Elaine Scales and Martha Sabol on behalf of the Chicago Lights Gala of Hope.

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 will next be held this Friday, January 27 at 7:30 p.m., and on Tuesday mornings at 7:45 a.m. we gather for Sacred Pause in Stone Chapel, a time of meditative silence (twenty minutes) to begin the day.

THE BULLETIN COVER image depicts some of the thousands of pipes in Fourth Church's new Andrew Pipe Organ. The cover quote is from a January 2014 sermon preached in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania by Michael Allwein, "Making Bold Claims!"

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 is adapted from "Third Sunday after the Epiphany," *Feasting on the Word: A Worship Companion*, Ed: Kimberly Bracken Long. Louisville: WJKP, 2013. 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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**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

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