
Gathering around the Word

Prelude

- Symphony VI in G Minor Charles-Marie Widor
Adagio–Intermezzo
- Ostinato in A Minor Daniel L. Krug and Jason W. Krug

Introit

“Through Love to Light” Jean Sibelius
Through love to light, O wonderful the way that leads from darkness to the perfect day; from darkness and from sorrow of the night to morning that comes singing o’er the sea. Through love to light, through light, O God, to thee, who art the love of love, the eternal light of light.

*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 love God by serving others,*
People: **we fulfill the greatest of the commandments.**
Leader: *When we share bread with the hungry poor,*
People: **then light shall break forth like the morning.**
Leader: *When we bring in those who are cast out,*
People: **then righteousness shall go before us.**
Leader: *When we are foolish to believe that love can save the perishing,*
People: **then the message of the cross is being lived and proclaimed.**
Leader: *When we stand on our heads to understand the wisdom of God,*
People: **then the poor are raised up, the low ones lifted high.**
Leader: *When we extend mercy,*
People: **then we receive mercy.**
Leader: *So, let the one who boasts*
People: **boast in the Lord!**
Leader: *For God is the source of your life, in Christ Jesus.*
People: **Let us rejoice and be glad!**

*Prayer of Praise

**Stand as you are able.*

*Hymn 749 “Come! Live in the Light!”

Prayer of Confession

Faithful God, we confess that we have not always been faithful to you.
You require us to do justice, yet we conform
to the standards of our world and do not work for change.
You ask us to love kindness, but we fail to be caring friends
and neglect those who are different from us.
You ask us to walk humbly with you,
yet we often take you for granted and seek our own way.
O God, remind us again of your steadfast love
and your call upon our lives.
Give us strength to do what you desire.
In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

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

Concerns of the Church

Minute for Mission

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter (*responsively*)

Psalm 15 Old Testament, page 469

Anthem

“Simple Gifts” Shaker melody
arr. René Clausen

*’Tis the gift to be simple, ’tis the gift to be free,
’tis the gift to come down where we ought to be,
and when we find ourselves in the place just right,
’twill be in the valley of love and delight.
When true simplicity is gained, to bow and to bend we shan’t be ashamed;
to turn, turn, will be our delight, ’til by turning, turning, we come round right.*

First Lesson

Matthew 5:1–12. New Testament, page 4

Leader: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: Thanks be to God.

*Gloria Patri (*sung*). The Hymnal, 581
Glorify 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

Micah 6:1–8 Old Testament, page 816
Leader: *The Word of the Lord*.
People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Justice, Kindness, Humility” Victoria G. Curtiss

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 70 “What Does the Lord Require of You?”

*Affirmation of Faith (*unison*) from A Brief Statement of Faith

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life.
The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,
sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,
and binds us together with all believers
in the one body of Christ, the church.
The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles
rules our faith and life in Christ through scripture;
engages us through the Word proclaimed;
claims us in the waters of baptism;
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation;
and calls women and men to all ministries of the church.
In a broken and fearful world
the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing;
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior;
to unmask idolatries in church and culture;
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced;
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.
In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth,
praying, “Come, Lord Jesus!”

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” Heinrich Isaak

Offertory Anthem

“With What Shall I Come before the Lord” William A. Payn
Walk humbly with our God. With what shall I come before the Lord and bow myself before the God on high? God has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you, but to do justice, to love kindness, to walk humbly with our God.

*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*)

God of compassion,
you have shown us, in Christ, that your love is never-ending.
For this we thank you through the offering of our lives and our gifts.
Enable us to love you with all our hearts
and to love one another as Christ loved us.
Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever. Amen

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn (*tune: Hymnal 321*) “O God, You Call for Justice”

1. O God, you call for justice—for goodness, never greed!
You seek a world of fairness where all have what they need—
where all have food and water and homes in which to thrive,
where all have hope and laughter and joy to be alive!
2. O God, you call for kindness instead of keeping score;
you seek a world that welcomes the hungry and the poor.
Lord, where there is injustice may we work to protect
the struggling ones, the voiceless that others would reject.
3. You call us to walk humbly, for we are not our own;
we all are poor and needy; we need the grace you’ve shown.
May we respond to others reflecting what you give—
compassion, kindness, justice—so all may gladly live.
4. O God, may our great nation seek justice, as we should,
and work with dedication to seek the common good.
We’re blessed to be a blessing; may we within our law
seek justice and compassion that reaches out to all.

*Benediction

Postlude

Symphony VI in G Minor. C. M. Widor
Allegro

Worship Leaders

Nanette Sawyer, Jerry Johnson, Hardy H. Kim, Victoria G. Curtiss

The Music Today

The Morning Choir; The Handbell Choir

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

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

Briana Belding-Peck, Director of the Handbell Choir

Worship Notes

TODAY'S MINUTE FOR MISSION is presented by Youth Ministry on behalf of the Souper Bowl of Caring.

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 on Friday, February 24 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—a metaphor for the church interacting with the world—depicts the Fourth Church steeple on a foggy Sunday several years ago, as photographed from the 900 N. Michigan building.

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. “O God, You Call for Justice” is copyright © 2012 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved.

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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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