

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

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

- Trio Sonata in E-flat Major Johann Sebastian Bach
Allegro–Moderato–Adagio–Allegro
Adagio from *Flute Quartet, K285* Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Introit

- “Praise Ye the Lord” German chorale
arr. Norman J. Clayton

*Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near; join me in glad adoration!*

- *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: *O give thanks to the Lord, call on God’s name;
make God’s deeds known among the peoples.*

People: Sing to God, sing praises to God;
tell of all God’s wonderful works.

Leader: *Glory in God’s holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.*

People: Praise the Lord!

*Prayer of Praise

- *Hymn 14 “For the Beauty of the Earth”

**Stand as you are able.*

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

God of love and mercy, be with us this day.
We confess that we often falter in our service to you.
We create divisions between various people;
we judge before we listen;
we condemn before we make an attempt to understand.
We confess that fear and anger too often surround us
and our actions become based on those fears and that anger.
Forgive us, O God. Forgive us and slow us down.
Give us hearts overflowing with grace and compassion.
Remind us of our call to be strong voices that reflect your hope
and your courage for this world, your creation.
We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

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

Concerns of the Church

Anthem

“The Song of the Tree of Life” Ralph Vaughan Williams
*Unto him that overcometh shall be given of the tree of life which is in the midst
of the paradise of God. On either side of the river groweth the tree of life; the leaves
of the tree are for thy healing. In the midst of that fair city flows the river of water
of life, clear as crystal. Whoso will, let him take of the water of life freely. Whoso
drinketh of this water shall never thirst. Take thou the leaves of the tree of life.
So shalt thou enter in through the gates of the city.*

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter (*responsively*)

Psalm 26:1-8. Old Testament, page 476

*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

Romans 12:9-21 New Testament, page 151

Minister: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Shannon J. Kershner

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 372 “O for a World”

*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.

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” Morgan Simmons

Offertory Anthem

“Let All the World” Norman Gilbert

*Let all the world in every corner sing, my God and King!
The heavens are not too high, his praise may thither fly;
the earth is not too low, his praises there may grow.
Let all the world in every corner sing, my God and King!
The church with psalms must shout, no door can keep them out;
but above all the heart must bear the longest part.
Let all the world in every corner sing, my God and King!*

*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*)

Thank you, God, for the generosity that you pour out upon us,
which inspires us to be generous with what we have. We dedicate
these offerings and ourselves to shaping the beloved community
you intend, in the spirit of Christ. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 265 “Jesus Shall Reign Where’er the Sun”

*Benediction and Response

Postlude

Carillon Sortie 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 (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

9:30 Victoria G. Curtiss, Eloise Foster, Matt Helms, Shannon J. Kershner

11:00 Victoria G. Curtiss, Kat Evans, Matt Helms, Shannon J. Kershner

The Music Today

Women's Choir; Carol Carpenter, flutist

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

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

Worship Notes

A DISASTER RELIEF OFFERING is being received today to help meet the emergency needs of those affected by Hurricane Harvey. Gifts, which will be distributed through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, can be made by using the Disaster Assistance envelopes in the pew racks, by writing "Disaster Assistance" on the memo line of a check made payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church, or online at www.fourthchurch.org

FOURTH CHURCH EXPRESSES ITS GRATITUDE to the Women's Choir for their musical leadership during morning worship this summer. The Chancel Choir—which welcomes all singers and provides music leadership at the 8:00 a.m. service—will resume rehearsals on Thursday, September 7 at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary Choir Loft. Anyone interested in joining a Fourth Church choir is encouraged to contact John Sherer (312.981.3592; jsherer@fourthchurch.org).

THE BULLETIN COVER image depicts one of the chandeliers in the Sanctuary, as viewed from the balcony. The cover quote is from Huston Smith's book *The Soul of Christianity: Restoring the Great Tradition*.

SOURCES AND CREDITS: The Call to Worship is from Psalm 105. 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 www.ministrymatters.com. 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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Rocky Supinger Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry

Judith L. Watt Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care

Nanette Sawyer Minister for Congregational Life

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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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