

*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

### 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.

### \*Invocation

\*Hymn 159 . . . . . “O Sing a Song of Bethlehem”

### Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Gracious and compassionate God,  
your love for us is unflinching and unfailing,  
but we confess that our love for you is uneven.  
We ask for your help, but act as though we saved ourselves.  
We ask for your forgiveness, but repeat the same mistakes.  
We ask for your grace, but live as though it wasn't present.  
So renew us once again, O Lord.  
Set us free from a past we cannot change;  
open us to a future in which we can be changed;  
and guide us through the gift of your Holy Spirit.  
We pray all of this in Jesus' name. Amen.

---

\*Stand as you are able.

Declaration of Pardon

Leader: *Friends, believe the good news.*

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

\*Exchange of Peace

Leader: *The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.*

People: **And also with you.**

*We invite you to greet those around you, wishing them “peace” or “the peace of Christ.”*

Concerns of the Church

---

Listening for the Word

---

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter (*responsively*)

Psalm 105:1–6 . . . . . Old Testament, page 525

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.*

First Lesson

Mark 8:22–26 . . . . . New Testament, page 41

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

Mark 8:27–35 . . . . . New Testament, page 41

Minister: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

“Blurred Vision” . . . . . Matt Helms

Responding to the Word

\*Hymn 450 . . . . . “Be Thou My Vision”

\*Affirmation of Faith . . . . . 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.

Offering

Offertory Voluntary

Rondeau . . . . . Henry Purcell

\*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.

---

## Sealing the Word

---

### THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

#### Invitation

#### Great Thanksgiving

Minister: *The Lord be with you.*

People: **And also with you.**

Minister: *Lift up your hearts.*

People: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Minister: *Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.*

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

#### Prayer

Minister: *It is truly right and our greatest joy . . .*

*. . . forever singing to the glory of your name:*

Sanctus (*sung*) . . . . . The Hymnal, 572

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Minister: . . . *Great is the mystery of faith:*

Memorial Acclamation (*sung*) . . . . . The Hymnal, 573

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

#### 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.

#### The Communion

Communion Anthem

“Now the Silence, Now the Peace” . . . . . Gerald Near  
*Now the silence, now the peace, now the empty hands uplifted.  
Now the kneeling, now the plea, now the Father’s arms in welcome.  
Now the hearing, now the power, now the vessel brimmed for pouring.  
Now the body, now the blood, now the joyful celebration.  
Now the wedding, now the singing, now the heart forgiven leaping.  
Now the Spirit’s visitation, now the Son’s epiphany, now the Father’s blessing.  
Now. Now. Now. Then the glory, then the rest, then the Sabbath peace unbroken.  
Then the garden, then the throne, then the crystal river flowing.  
Then the splendor, then the life, then the new creation singing.  
Then the marriage, then the love, then the feast of joy unending.  
Then the knowing, then the light, then the ultimate adventure.  
Then the Spirit’s harvest gathered, then the Lamb in majesty,  
then the Father’s amen. Then. Then. Then.*

Prayer after Communion (*unison*)

We thank you, O God, for these gifts of bread and cup  
that remind us that you sustain us in hope every day of our lives.  
Help us to offer you lives of witness and worship,  
serving and sharing in this world you have made. Amen.

---

Bearing the Word into the World

---

\*Hymn 463 . . . . . “How Firm a Foundation”

\*Benediction and Response

Postlude

Carillon Sortie . . . . . Henri Mulet

CELEBRATING THE LORD’S SUPPER

This morning, communion is served by intinction. The congregation comes forward by the center aisle to receive the bread, which they then dip into the chalice of grape juice. (Gluten-free bread is available in a small tumbler in each basket of bread). Worshipers return to their pews by the side aisles.

All who confess Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord are invited to partake of the Lord’s Supper. Even one who doubts or whose trust is wavering may receive the bread and grape juice (in place of wine) in order to be assured of God’s love and grace in Jesus Christ.

## Worship Leaders

---

Victoria G. Curtiss, Donald Kubezko, Matt Helms

## The Music Today

---

Women of the Morning Choir

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

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

## Worship Notes

---

THE EXCHANGE OF PEACE, which follows the Declaration of Pardon, is a response to God's forgiveness. This exchange of signs and words of unity and of Christ's peace is an ancient greeting of siblings in Christ. This is a time when we extend to one another what we ourselves have received from God in Christ. You may shake hands and say "The peace of Christ be with you" or simply "Peace be with you," the greeting of Jesus Christ to his disciples after his resurrection. By exchanging the Peace of Christ with one another, we witness to God's reconciling love.

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](http://www.fourthchurch.org)

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](mailto:jsherer@fourthchurch.org))

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. All rights reserved.

---

**Shannon J. Kershner** Pastor

**Victoria G. Curtiss** Associate Pastor for Mission

**Matt Helms** Associate Pastor

for Children and Family Ministry

**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

---

*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.*

**THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO**  
Church office: 126 E. Chestnut Street, Chicago, IL 60611.2014  
[www.fourthchurch.org](http://www.fourthchurch.org) | [www.facebook.com/fourthchurch](http://www.facebook.com/fourthchurch)  
312.787.4570 | Voicemail 312.787.2729 | Fax: 312.787.4584