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

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Fanfare ................................................................. Paul Dukas
Canzona ............................................................... Domenico Zipoli
Grand March Chorus ................................. George Frideric Handel
arr. Craig Garner
Chaconne ........................................................... Dieterich Buxtehude
Jubilate Deo .......................................................... Giovanni Gabrieli
arr. Charles Schuchat

Introit

“You Belong to Christ” ........................................ Robert A. Hobby
You belong to Christ, in whom you have been baptized. Alleluia.

*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: How good it is to thank our God and speak our Savior’s name,
People: with choir, organ, heart, and voice, God’s wonders to proclaim!
Leader: Let us worship God!

*Prayer of Praise

*Hymn 363 ................................................... “Rejoice, the Lord is King!”

Sunday School Teacher Commissioning
Youth Leader Commissioning (9:30)

*Stand as you are able.
Prayer of Confession *(unison)*

God of Mystery, we want to be ready for your surprises, but sometimes we are tired and dulled by the usual routine. We want to work patiently for the fulfillment of your reign, but we can get frustrated by our desire for immediate results. We want to trust your promises from ancient days, but some of us are overwhelmed by doubts. Forgive us, O God, and break us open again. Awaken us with your unexpected grace. Shock us with your daring mercy. Lift us up from numbness and apathy and set our feet on your way once more. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

Minister: *Friends, believe the good news:*

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Concerns of the Church

Anthem

“*Exultate Deo*” ......................... Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina

*Sing aloud to God our strength; shout for joy to the God of Jacob.*
*Raise a song, sound the tambourine, the sweet lyre with the harp.*
*Blow the trumpet at the new moon, at the full moon, on our festal day.*

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter *(responsively)*

Psalm 114 ................................. Old Testament, page 532

*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 14:1–12 ............................. New Testament, page 152

Minister: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon .................................................... Shannon J. Kershner
Responding to the Word

*Hymn 439 ............................. “O My Soul, Bless Your Redeemer”

*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.

Reception of New Members (11:00)

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

“Thou Wilt Keep Them” ................................. Eric DeLamarter

Thou wilt keep them in perfect peace whose minds are stayed on thee.
Offering

Offertory Anthem

“Psalm 148”.......................... Gustav Holst

Lord, who hast made us for thine own, hear as we sing before thy throne, alleluia.
Accept thy children’s reverent praise for all thy wondrous works and ways, alleluia.
Waves, rolling in on every shore, pause at his footfall and adore, alleluia.
Ye torrents rushing from the hills, bless him whose hand your fountains fills, alleluia.
Earth, ever through the power divine, seedtime and harvest shall be thine, alleluia.
Sweet flowers that perfume all the air, thank him that he hath made you fair, alleluia.
Thou sun, whom all the lands obey, renew his praise from day to day, alleluia.

*Presentation of the Offering and Response

For the life that you have given, for the love in Christ made known,
with these fruits of time and labor, with these gifts that are your own:
here we offer, Lord, our praises; heart and mind and strength we bring.
Give us grace to love and serve you, living what we pray and sing.

*Prayer of Dedication (unison)

Lord, you have blessed our lives in so many ways.
In gratitude for all these blessings
and in confidence that our gifts will be used
for ministries of peace and hope, we offer these gifts. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 268 ......................... “Crown Him with Many Crowns”

*Benediction and Response

Postlude

Canzon Francese .................. Giovanni Cavaccio
arr. Erich Peterson
Sunday School and Youth Ministry Commissioning

Today’s commissioning of Sunday School teachers, staff, and youth leaders is an affirmation of their dedicated service to our church, its members, and those who are among us as visitors.

Sunday School Leaders

Liz Adams                      Barbara Joabson                      Kathleen Page
Michelle Becker               Nath Jones                        Josie Phelps
Briana Belding-Peck          Patty Kendall                     Hilary Richardson
Agnes Boateng                 Amy Kleckner                     Kim Ruhana
Trisha Breitlow               Erica Kuhlmann                   Norah Satre
Anne Canfield                Ji Inn Lee                        Stacy Shonkwiler
Dennis Canfield              Dawn Mayfield                     John Stracks
Rhonda Carlson                Caroline Meneau                   Ned Thomas
Chrissy Cersale               Tim Mertzlufit                    Len Tomaka
Pam Crowell                  Mark Meyer                        Susan Van der Meulen
Gayle Engberg                Ann Murray                        Kaity Vostry
Dave Ericson                  Justin Myers                      Charlotte Wager
Marci Hanzlisk                Larry Nicholson                   Debbie Whitmore
Abigail Hodges               Tanya Padilla                     Todd Zimmerman

Sunday School Staff

Matt Helms, Associate Pastor for Children and Family Ministry
Jill Keiser, Nursery Superintendent
Briana Belding-Peck, Family Ministry Coordinator
Pam Crowell, Sunday School Coordinator
Katy Sinclair, Associate Director of Music for Children and Youth

Youth Leaders

Junior High: Julie Cook, Kim Douglass, Jill Fenstermaker, Laura Lewandowski

Confirmation Circle Leaders: Kjirsten Almos, Luke Beasley, Carole Bekken, Regan Burke, Karen Frank, Andrea Page, Kathi Rodak

Senior High: Stephen Hauser, Mark Nelson, Mark Schimmelpfennig, Gretchen Wahl

Youth Ministry Staff

Rocky Supinger, Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry
Shelley Donaldson, Senior High Youth Coordinator
Katie Patterson, Youth Mission Coordinator
Worship Leaders

9:30  Matt Helms, Pam Block, Victoria G. Curtiss, Shannon J. Kershner
11:00 Matt Helms, Jeff Weber, Kathryn Burkhart, Victoria G. Curtiss
    Shannon J. Kershner

The Music Today

The Morning Choir; Tower Brass
John W. W. Sherer, Organist and Director of Music
Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist
Matthew Comerford, Artistic Director of Tower Brass

Worship Notes

TOWER BRASS, Fourth Church’s resident brass ensemble, today begins their twentieth year of providing music leadership during Fourth Church worship. Started in 1997 with a generous gift from the Andrew Family Foundation in honor of Edith and Edward Andrew’s fortieth wedding anniversary, Tower Brass is now endowed by the Foundation.

THE BULLETIN COVER depicts (at bottom) the Sanctuary, the cornerstone of which was laid 105 years ago today (on September 17, 1912), and the Gratz Center, the cornerstone of which was laid five years ago this weekend (on September 16, 2012). The cover quote is from Walter Brueggemann’s book Prayers for a Privileged People.

Sources and Credits: The Call to Worship is adapted from the hymn “Found in Piece Together Praise” by Brian Wren © 1993 Hope Publishing. 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. The Prayer of Dedication is from www.ministrymatters.com.