

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

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Prelude Louis Vierne
Choral Dorian Jehan Alain
Pièce Symphonique. César Franck

Introit

“Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning” (9:30) . . African American spiritual
*Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, for the time is drawing nigh.
Sisters, don’t grow weary; brothers, don’t grow weary;
children, don’t grow weary, for the time is drawing nigh.*

“A Festive Alleluia” (11:00) Mary Lynn Lightfoot
O sing alleluia; come let us sing a joyful 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: *In the beginning, before time,
before people, before the world began,*

People: God was.

Leader: *Here and now among us, beside us,
enlisting the people of earth for the purposes of heaven,*

People: God is.

Leader: *In the future, when we have turned to dust
and all we know has found its fulfillment,*

People: God will be.

Leader: *Not denying the world, but delighting in it,
not condemning the world, but redeeming it,
through Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit,*

People: God was. God is. God will be.

Leader: *Let us worship God!*

**Stand as you are able.*

*Prayer of Praise

*Hymn 362 “Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers”

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

O most gracious God, you are the source of all that makes life possible. You are the giver of all that makes life good. We gather this morning to give you thanks, yet we also confess that we have often failed to live our thankfulness. We take things and people for granted. We grumble about what we lack. We easily become a fear-shaped people, rather than a people shaped by our hope in you. Forgive us, O God. In this time of worship, accept our thanksgiving and teach us to make gratitude and sharing our way of life; through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

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

Sacrament of Baptism

Unison Prayer

Holy God, remind us of the promises given in our own baptism and renew our trust in you.
Make us strong to obey your will and to serve you with joy;
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Concerns of the Church

Anthem

“Jesus Comes” Donald James
*Jesus comes with all his grace, comes to save a fallen race;
object of our glorious hope, Jesus comes to lift us up.
Let the living stones cry out; let the sons of Abraham shout;
praise we all our lowly King; give him thanks, rejoice, and sing.
We shall gain our calling’s prize; after God we all shall rise
filled with joy, and love, and peace, perfected in holiness.*

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter (*responsively*)

Psalm 78:1-7. Old Testament, page 508
*Children age three through grade five are invited to come forward
during the singing of the Gloria Patri.*

*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.

Sending Forth

Hymn 748 “Go with Us, Lord”
Children depart for Sunday School with their teachers.

Scripture Lesson

Matthew 25:1–13 New Testament, page 26
Minister: *The Word of the Lord.*
People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Shannon J. Kershner

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 175 “Seek Ye First”

*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

“Wait for the Lord” Jacques Berthier
Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart!

Offering

Offertory Anthem

“The Eyes of All Wait upon Thee” Jean Berger
*The eyes of all wait upon thee; and thou givest them their meat in due season.
Thou openest thine hand and satisfiest the desire of every living thing.*

*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

Make us thankful each day, O God,
for the gifts that come upon us from your bounty.
Guide us to use these offerings to your glory
for the health of your people and this creation. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 771 “What Is the World Like”

*Benediction and Response

*Worshippers who wish to do so are invited to sing along with the choir
during the Benediction responses.*

Postlude

Piece for Grand Organ Joseph Jongen

“Let the little children come to me . . .
for it is to such as these that the
kingdom of heaven belongs.”
Matthew 19:14 (NRSV)

Baptism at Fourth Presbyterian Church

On the second Sunday of each month, Fourth Church includes the Sacrament of Baptism in morning worship. Baptism is the sign and seal of God’s grace and covenant in Christ. As *The Book of Order* of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) explains, baptism signifies the faithfulness of God, the washing away of sin, rebirth, putting on the fresh garment of Christ, and adoption into the covenant family of the church.

The baptism of children witnesses to the truth that God’s love claims people before they are able to respond in faith. The congregation, on behalf of the whole church, assumes responsibility for nurturing the baptized children in the Christian life, and it is for this reason that the congregation makes such a promise during the service. In the unison prayer we also remember that we too were baptized and as children of God are part of the worldwide family of faith.

Being baptized at the 9:30 worship service:

Emma Tyler Reimer, child of Tyler and Jessica Reimer

Being baptized at the 11:00 worship service:

Elora Ann Mayers, child of Hilton and Jill Mayers

Finn James Pearson, child of Parker and Amy Pearson

Worship Leaders

9:30 Jeff Doane, Joan Hall, Victoria G. Curtiss, Shannon J. Kershner

11:00 Jeff Doane, Rob Sinclair, Victoria G. Curtiss, Shannon J. Kershner

The Music Today

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

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

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

Katy Sinclair, Associate Director of Music for Children and Youth (11:00)

Hsing-Huei Huang, pianist (11:00)

Worship Notes

FOURTH CHURCH OFFERS A VARIETY of worship opportunities on Sundays, 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 will also offer a service in the style of Taizé on Sunday, December 31 (New Year's Eve) at 7:30 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel.

THE BULLETIN COVER quote is from Robert Farrar Capon's chapter "The End of the Storm" in his book *Kingdom, Grace, Judgment: Paradox, Outrage, and Vindication in the Parables of Jesus*.

SOURCES AND CREDITS: The Call to Worship is from *Wee Worship*, Iona Community. 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.

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Nanette Sawyer Minister for Congregational Life

Alex Wirth Minister for Evangelism

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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.

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