

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

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Idyl Richard Purvis

Introit

“O Come, Let Us Sing to the Lord” Stephen Sturk

*O come, let us sing to the Lord. Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving.
Let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise.*

*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 611 “Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Gracious God, have mercy on us as we confess our sin.
You bestow gifts upon us in abundance,
but we hoard or take them for granted.
You trust us in freedom to take on responsibilities,
but we pull away in fear.
You invite us to invest ourselves deeply in life,
to take risks, but we play it safe, living cautiously.
Forgive us for withholding ourselves
in response to your bold invitation to be your co-creators.
Grant us courage to be obedient with your life-giving generosity.
Amen.

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 (*sung*)

"To You, O Lord, We Lift Our Eyes" (Psalm 123) The Hymnal, 788

Anthem

"The Lord Is Good" Christopher Tye

The Lord is good; his love will raise a joyful harvest song.

Sing "He is good!" and let his praise from every tongue be heard.

The Lord is good: he gives bread; he gives his children more.

By him their souls with grace are fed a rich and endless store.

First Lesson

Thessalonians 5:1–11. New Testament, page 193

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

Matthew 25:14–30. New Testament, page 27

Minister: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

"Adventures in Co-Creativity" Victoria G. Curtiss

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 716 “God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending”

*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

“The Peace May Be Exchanged” from *Rubrics* Dan Locklair

*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, 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

“Be Known to Us” Michael Sitton

*Be known to us, Lord Jesus, in the breaking of the bread.
The bread which we break, alleluia, is the communion of the body of Christ.
One body are we, alleluia, for though many, we share one bread.*

Prayer after Communion (*unison*)

O God, you have so greatly loved us,
long sought us, and mercifully redeemed us.
Give us grace that in everything we may yield ourselves,
our wills and our works,
a continual thank-offering to you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 719 “Come, Labor On”

*Benediction and Response

Postlude

Let All Together Praise Our God Nikolaus Vetter

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.
The invitation to the Lord’s Supper is not just for Presbyterians or “members of the church.” 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

Rocky Supinger, Mary Durham, Victoria G. Curtiss

The Music Today

The Chancel Choir

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

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

Grant Nill, Organ Scholar

Worship Notes

FOURTH CHURCH OFFERS A VARIETY of worship opportunities on Sundays, including this service, 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. worship services, 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.

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

Alex Wirth Minister for Evangelism

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

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