

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

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Voluntary Thomas Arne

Prelude and Fugue in C Minor Johann Sebastian Bach
arr. Ryohei Nakagawa

Introit

“O Lord, Open Thou Our Lips” Richard Webster

O Lord, open thou our lips; and our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

O God, make speed to save us; O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory 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.

Praise ye the Lord; the Lord’s name be praised.

*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: *Creator of the cosmos, of eternity and time,*

People: **be with us in this time.**

Leader: *Savior of the world, healer of the nations,*

People: **be with us in this place.**

Leader: *Breath of all that lives, of people near and far,*

People: **stir within our lives.**

Leader: *Maker-Spirit-Son, God of here and now,*

People: **be present in our worship,**

that we may find new ways to be present in your world.

*Prayer of Praise

*Hymn 463 “How Firm a Foundation”

**Stand as you are able.*

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

O God of life, we thank you that you are in our midst both in our worship and in our daily work. We thank you that your Holy Spirit constantly shakes us out of complacency, questions our orthodoxy, and challenges our conformity. Yet on this day we confess to you that there are still many ways in which we have failed to change, ways in which selfishness still wins and divisions remain.

Nevertheless, you keep bringing us together to be a new creation, a community marked by love, and we are grateful for the ways in which this is true. Keep prying open our hearts with your grace, and do your work within us and, sometimes, even in spite of us. We pray in Christ’s name. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

Leader: *Friends, believe the good news:*

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Concerns of the Church

Minute for Mission

Anthem

“O Light, from Age to Age the Same” Leo Sowerby
O Light, from age to age the same, O ever Living Word, here have we felt thy kindling flame, thy voice within have heard. Here holy thought and hymn and prayer have winged thy Spirit’s powers and made these walls divinely fair, thy temple, Lord, and ours. O not in vain their toil who wrought to build faith’s freer shrine; nor theirs whose steadfast love and thought have watched the fire divine. Burn, holy fire, burn and shine more wide while systems rise and fall. Faith, hope, and charity abide, the heart and soul of all.

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter (*responsively*)

Psalms 62. Old Testament, page 498

*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

Mark 1:14–20 New Testament, page 33

Minister: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Shannon J. Kershner

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 170 “You Walk along Our Shoreline”

*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.

Commissioning of Presbytery Commissioners (9:30)

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

“Amen” Orlando Gibbons

Offering

Offertory Anthem

“Let Their Celestial Concerts All Unite” from *Samson*

George Frideric Handel

Let their celestial concerts all unite, ever to sound his praise in endless morn of light.

*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*)

We thank you, God, that you have blessed us
 with an abundance of gifts for the healing of your world.
 May this offering of our life and labor reveal your love
 as we seek to share your promised reign with all creation. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 725. “O Jesus, I Have Promised”

*Benediction and Response

Postlude

The Earle of Oxford’s Marche. William Byrd
 arr. Erich Peterson

Commissioning of Our Presbytery Commissioners

The Chicago Presbytery Assembly consists of the clergy members of the Presbytery of Chicago and an approximately equal number of elders from congregations in the presbytery.

The purpose of this assembly, which gathers in stated meetings at regular intervals (five or six times a year and whenever called into special session) is to oversee the presbytery's mission and governance. Each congregation's Session is asked to elect a certain number of ruling elders to serve as commissioners to the presbytery.

Today we commission the following elders from Fourth Presbyterian Church, who have been elected by our Session to serve as our 2018 Commissioners to the Presbytery of Chicago: Martha Brown, Hope Daniels, Sam Evans, Abbie Fassnacht, Maggie McGuire, Larry Nicholson, Roger Wilson and alternates Lisa Dagher, Judy Monroe, and Beverly Washington.

We are grateful to them for their participation on our behalf in matters of the Presbytery of Chicago and thus the work of the wider church.

Worship Leaders

9:30 Victoria G. Curtiss, Rebecca Dixon, Judith L. Watt, Shannon J. Kershner

11:00 Victoria G. Curtiss, Berry Kennedy, Judith L. Watt, 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

TODAY'S MINUTE FOR MISSION is presented by Chris Horsman, co-chair with Sara Pfaff for this year's 25th anniversary Chicago Lights Gala of Hope.

TOWER BRASS, Fourth Church's brass ensemble, participates in worship services as well as special events and concerts throughout the year.

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 this Friday, January 26 at 7:30 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel.

THE BULLETIN COVER photo, taken at night, depicts a snow-covered tree in the Walter Family Courtyard by the Delaware entrance. The cover quote is from the prayer "Before the Day Is Out" in Walter Brueggemann's book *Awed to Heaven, Rooted in Earth*.

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.

Shannon J. Kershner Pastor

Lucy Forster-Smith Senior Associate Pastor

Associate Pastors

Victoria G. Curtiss Mission

Matt Helms Children and Family Ministry

Nanette Sawyer Discipleship and Small Group Ministry

Rocky Supinger Youth Ministry

Judith L. Watt Pastoral Care

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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