

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

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

- Fanfare Roger W. Lowther
O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing Alexandre Guilmant
My Spirit Be Joyful from *Cantata 146* Johann Sebastian Bach
arr. Harry Herforth
The Holy Christ Has Arisen J. S. Bach
Canzon septimi toni No. 2 Giovanni Gabrieli
arr. Robert King

Introit

“Alleluia, the Lord Is Risen Indeed” Iain Quinn

*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: *This is the good news: the grave is empty, Christ is risen!*

People: Alleluia!

Leader: *This is the good news: the light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness can never put it out.*

People: Alleluia!

Leader: *This is the good news: once we were no people,
now we are God’s people!*

People: Alleluia!

Leader: *Let us worship our Easter God.*

*Prayer of Praise

*Hymn 232 “Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”

**Stand as you are able.*

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Good Shepherd God, we confess that we are in danger of becoming a tearless people. We confess to sometimes imitating a smiling society, glossing over the hurt, the oppression, and the chaos of this earth. At other times, we confess we become caustic, cynical, or despairing. We are in danger of becoming a blind-hearted people, buying into the system and growing satisfied with the way things are. Have we not seen? Have we not heard? And yet you, O God, have created us for covenant keeping. You have created us for resurrection spotting. You have created us to live your Easter good news with everything we've got. So help us, we pray. By your Easter Spirit empower us to live as a people shaped by your voice, your hope, and your reign.

Declaration of Pardon

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

Concerns of the Church

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter (*responsively*)

Psalm 118:1–2, 14–24 Old Testament, page 534

Anthem

- “Surrexit Christus” (8:00) Giovanni Battista Pergolesi
This day Christ is truly risen from the dead, alleluia.
- “Auf, auf mein Herz, mit Freuden” (9:30 and 11:30) J. S. Bach
Awake, my heart, with gladness, see today what is done; now, after gloom and sadness, comes forth the glorious Son. My Savior there was laid where our bed must be made when to the realms of light our spirit wings its flight. The foe in triumph shouted when Christ lay in the tomb, but, lo, he now is routed; his boast is turned to gloom. For Christ again is free; in glorious victory he who is strong to save has triumphed o'er the grave.

First Lesson

Isaiah 25:6–9 Old Testament, page 613
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 16:1-8 New Testament, page 51
Leader: *The Word of the Lord.*
People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Shannon J. Kershner

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 245 “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!”

*Affirmation of Faith (*unison*) Selections from Scripture
(*Book of Common Worship*)

This is the good news which we have received,
in which we stand, and by which we are saved, if we hold it fast:
that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures,
that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day,
and that he appeared first to the women,
then to Peter, and to the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses.

We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God.
Jesus Christ is the first and the last, the beginning and the end.
He is our Lord and our God. 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

“O Lord, Hear Our Prayer” Eric H. Thiman

Offering

Offertory Anthem

“Sing Alleluia Forth” (8:00) E. H. Thiman

“Et Resurrexit” from *Mass in B Minor* (9:30 and 11:30) J. S. Bach

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father; he will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

*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*)

Almighty God, by your grace accept the fruit of our labor and the offering of our lives in union with our risen Lord, who lives and reigns with you forever. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 246. “Christ Is Alive!”

*Benediction

*Closing Response (*Please remain standing for the closing response*)

“Hallelujah!” from *Messiah*. G. F. Handel

Postlude

Symphonie V. Charles-Marie Widor
Toccata

*Gifts supporting Easter Sanctuary adornments have been made
in memory and in honor of family, friends, and loved ones.*

In Memory Of

Mary Shawn Addington
Irving and Elizabeth Aikin
Bea and Arlo Anderson
Henry L. Anderson
Roy and Evelyn Anderson
Evelyn Artwick
Bonnie Bader
Mr. and Mrs. O.E. Banker
Ross Lober and Evelyn Banks
Henry and Eleanor Bates
Ted and Emma Beiersdorf
Richard Beifuss
Dean Bennett
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Marvin and Anna Bomgaars
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Mary Helen and Ed Burkhardt
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In Honor Of

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Norman Anderson
Jettye Anderson
Katherine Bennett
Jay Brees and
Hildur Satre Brees
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Connie Chang
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James M. Hennig
Josephine Horsman
Harry Keller
Edith Rapp
John Scharf
Karen Schultes
Anne and Bruce Walborn

Worship Leaders

8:00 Matt Helms, Robert Crouch, Victoria G. Curtiss, Shannon J. Kershner
9:30 Judith L. Watt, Beverly Washington, Nanette Sawyer, Shannon J. Kershner
11:30 Rocky Supinger, Jonathan Kent, Lucy Forster-Smith, Shannon J. Kershner

The Music Today

Tower Brass; Chancel Choir (8:00); Morning Choir (9:30 and 11:30)
John W. W. Sherer, Organist and Director of Music
Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist
Matthew Comerford, Artistic Director of Tower Brass

Worship Notes

THE ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING being received today supports Chicago Lights Tutoring and Elam Davies Social Service Center; Fourth Church Meals Ministry; and the work of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Hunger, and Self-Development of People Programs. To make a “One Great Hour of Sharing” gift, you can use the envelopes in the pew racks; write “One Great Hour” on the memo line of a check made payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church; or make a gift online at www.bit.ly/FPCgiving.

THE BULLETIN COVER IMAGE of an Easter lily, photographed in the chancel of Fourth Church, not only bursts forth—as in joyful hallelujah—but also evokes the form of a dove and thus the gospel acclamation “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.” The cover quote is from Peter Gomes’ book *Strength for the Journey: Biblical Wisdom for Daily Living*.

SOURCES AND CREDITS: The Call to Worship is adapted from *Eggs and Ashes*, Wild Goose Publications. Hymn tune names—as well as composers of the music and authors of the text—are listed in the hymnal with each hymn. The Prayer of Confession is adapted from Ann Weems, “In Search of New Resurrections,” *Kneeling in Jerusalem*. 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 *Feasting on the Word: Lenten Companion*.

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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
Jeffrey Doane Parish Associate for Older Adults
Abbi Heimach-Snipes Pastoral Resident
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