

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

---

## Gathering around the Word

---

### Prelude

- Three Liturgical Preludes . . . . . George Oldroyd  
    I. *Tranquillamente e dolente*  
    II. *Andante espressivo*  
    III. *Con moto e teneramente*  
All Creatures of Our God and King . . . . . John Behnke

### Introit

“O Creator of the Cosmos” . . . . . American folk hymn  
*O creator of the cosmos, we present our hearts in prayer. We are awestruck by your glory which surrounds us everywhere. From the birdsong of the morning to a stormy sky at night, you reveal yourself in nature, in its gentleness and might.*

\*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, God created the heavens and the earth.*  
People: **God saw that it was good!**  
Leader: *God created the sun, moon, and stars  
and separated the waters from the dry land.*  
People: **God saw that it was good!**  
Leader: *God created vegetation, the plants, and fruit trees of all kinds.*  
People: **God saw that it was good!**  
Leader: *God created fish and birds and every living creature of every kind.*  
People: **God saw that it was good!**  
Leader: *God created humankind in God’s own image and blessed them.*  
People: **God gave every plant and every fruit for food.**  
Leader: *God saw everything that God had made and, indeed,*  
People: **God saw that it was very good!**

---

*\*Stand as you are able.*

\*Prayer of Praise

\*Hymn 15 . . . . . “All Creatures of Our God and King”

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Forgive us, O God, when we are unkind to people,  
when we are careless with animals,  
when we choose the cheapest or easiest,  
when we don't care about the consequences of our choices,  
when we waste energy and water,  
when we lack respect for the earth,  
when we are complacent and overcome by apathy.  
Forgive us, O God, and reconcile us to yourself,  
to one another, and to the creation. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

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

Concerns of the Church

Anthem

“Rise Up, My Love, My Fair One” . . . . . Healey Willan  
*Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away;  
for lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone.  
The flowers appear upon the earth;  
the time of the singing of birds is come.*

---

Listening for the Word

---

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter (*responsively*)

Psalms 104:1–4, 14–24 . . . . . Old Testament, page 524

\*Gloria Patri (*sung*) . . . . . The Hymnal, 581

Glorify 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

Luke 12:22-31 . . . . . New Testament, page 70  
Leader: *The Word of the Lord.*  
People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Super, Natural Christians” . . . . . Nanette Sawyer

Responding to the Word

\*Hymn 20 . . . . . “All Things Bright and Beautiful”

\*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

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

“Alleluia, Amen” . . . . . Morgan Simmons

Offering

Offertory Anthem

“The Heavens Are Telling the Glory of God” . . . . . Franz Josef Haydn  
from *The Creation*

*The heavens are telling the glory of God;  
the wonder of his works displays the firmament.  
Today that is coming, speaks it the day;  
the night that is gone to following night.  
In all the lands resounds the word,  
never unperceived, ever understood.*

\*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*)

For all that you have created, for all that you have given us,  
O God, we thank you.  
For the whole earth and for our little part of it, we thank you.  
Receive our offerings and turn them into blessings  
that may bring life and grace to every place of need. Amen.

---

Bearing the Word into the World

---

\*Hymn 26 . . . . . “Earth and All Stars!”

\*Benediction and Response

Postlude

Flourish . . . . . Richard Crosby

## Worship in the Reformed Tradition

As the headings in our bulletin remind us each week, the center of our worship is **the Word**—by which we mean both Scripture and the Living Word of God, Jesus Christ. Our Scripture witnesses to God and God’s activity. When it is read and proclaimed, Jesus Christ the Living Word is present by the inward witness of the Holy Spirit. It is this Living Word that is the center of everything we do in worship.

That worship follows the pattern we see in Isaiah 6 (page 597 of the Old Testament): adoration, confession, absolution, thanksgiving, and service. Overwhelmed by God’s majesty and glory, we **gather together in praise** offered through song and prayer.

In the face of that great goodness of God, we also see how we fall short of being who we were created to be and so we join in a **prayer of confession**. We then proclaim the **forgiveness** that we know in Jesus Christ. We live our lives in this cycle of realizing where we fall short, being honest to God about that, and then recognizing that God always forgives us, even before the words are on our lips, and lets us start new.

As we listen for the Word of God, **Scripture** is read. The **sermon** is proclaimed. We respond to the Word with thanksgiving, joining in **song** and **affirming our faith**, using words from the Presbyterian Church (USA)’s *Book of Confessions*—whether it be the Apostles’ Creed, a Brief Statement of Faith, or one of the other professions of faith—or words taken directly from Scripture.

Following Jesus’ instruction to pray, in the **Prayers of the People** we bring human need before God in hope, trust, and thanksgiving for God’s faithfulness, concluding with the **Lord’s Prayer**. Our response of thanksgiving also includes the giving of our material goods, bringing to God the **offerings** of our work as symbols of our gratitude and our acknowledgment that everything we have comes from God. In prayer we **dedicate** these gifts and our lives to the work of the church and God’s mission.

God then **sends** us, like Isaiah, back out into the world in service. Our final **hymn** of grateful praise moves directly into a **charge and blessing** to take what we have heard, to take what we have learned, and to actively live it out in the world, looking for God’s work all around us.

## Worship Leaders

---

9:30 Abbi Heimach-Snipes, Sally Scott, Alison Blaser, Victoria G. Curtiss  
Nanette Sawyer

11:00 Abbi Heimach-Snipes, Julia James, Holly O'Mara, Victoria G. Curtiss  
Nanette Sawyer

## The Music Today

---

Handbell Choir; Morning Choir

Beena David, Micah Dinger, and Daniel Henry, soloists

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

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

Briana Belding-Peck, Director of the Handbell Choir

## Worship Notes

---

EARTH DAY is annually celebrated worldwide on April 22, and thus we fittingly observe today as Care of Creation Sunday, a day when we hold in prayer God's amazing creation and recommit ourselves to the good stewardship of that life-giving gift. Today's multicolored processional ribbons, clergy stoles, and paraments recall the rainbow God set in the sky as a covenant between God, the earth, and all creatures therein (Genesis 9:13).

THE BULLETIN COVER IMAGE depicts a bird drinking from the fountain in the Michigan Avenue courtyard.

---

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 Prayer of Confession is adapted from Christian Aid and Christian Ecology Link. 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

**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**

Church office: 126 E. Chestnut Street, Chicago, IL 60611.2014

[www.fourthchurch.org](http://www.fourthchurch.org) | [www.facebook.com/fourthchurch](https://www.facebook.com/fourthchurch)

312.787.4570 | Voicemail: 312.787.2729 | Fax: 312.787.4584