

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

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Arrival of the Queen of Sheba George Frideric Handel

Introit

“I Was Glad” Eric H. Thiman

*I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord;
our feet shall stand within thy gates, O Jerusalem.*

*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: *From the rising of the sun till its setting in the west,*

All: God’s holy name be praised.

Leader: *On the lips of children, by babies at the breast,*

All: God’s holy name be praised.

Leader: *In the visions of the old and the dreaming of the young,*

All: God’s holy name be praised.

Leader: *Let all that has life and breath praise God’s name!*

All: Yes! We praise God in all life!

*Hymn 401 “Here in This Place”

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

In the community of Christ’s church
and in the presence of all God’s people,
we confess that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed.
We have not loved God, cared for God’s world,
or respected God’s beloved ones as we should.
We own our responsibility and pray for God’s pardon.

(Please hold silence.)

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*)

"Peoples, Clap Your Hands!" (Psalm 47) The Hymnal, 261

Anthem

"Festival Alleluia" Kenneth Jennings

*Alleluia, sings this congregation, alleluia! With cymbal and zither, sing alleluia!
The joyous crowd in harmony sings alleluia! To God, praise and glory, alleluia!*

First Lesson

Ephesians 1:15–23. New Testament, page 181

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

Acts 1:1–11 New Testament, page 110

Minister: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

“The Graceful Art of Letting Go” Lucy Forster-Smith

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 260 “Alleluia! Sing to Jesus”

*Affirmation of Faith (*unison*) from A Brief Statement of Faith

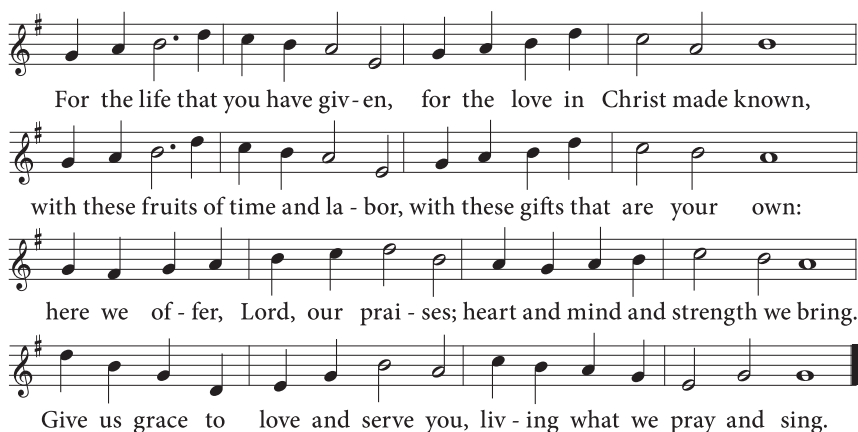
We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.
 In sovereign love God created the world good
 and makes everyone equally in God’s image, male and female,
 of every race and people, to live as one community.
 But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.
 Ignoring God’s commandments,
 we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,
 accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature,
 and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.
 We deserve God’s condemnation.
 Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.
 In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah
 chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth.
 Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel
 from the house of bondage.
 Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.
 Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,
 like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,
 God is faithful still.

Offering

Offertory Voluntary

Prelude on a Gregorian Theme Marcel Dupré

*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, 565

**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, 566

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

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

"My Flesh Is Food Indeed" Richard Proulx

My flesh is food indeed and my blood is drink indeed, says the Lord.

Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood dwell in me and I in them.

Prayer after Communion (*unison*)

In gratitude, in deep gratitude for this moment,
this meal, these people, we give ourselves to you, Most Holy God.

Take us out of this place to live as changed people
because we have shared the Living Bread and cup of salvation.

May we live as inhabitants of this world
and citizens of the commonwealth of heaven, this day and forever. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 265 "Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun"

*Benediction and Response

Postlude

Grand Chorus from *Joshua* George Frideric Handel

Worship Leaders

Judith L. Watt, Roberta Dawson, Lucy Forster-Smith

The Music Today

Chancel Choir

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

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

Worship Notes

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.

SOURCES AND CREDITS: The Call to Worship and Prayer of Confession from *A Wee Worship Book* (Wild Goose Worship, 1999). 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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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

Joseph L. Morrow Minister for Evangelism

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Abbi Heimach-Snipes Pastoral Resident

John Buchanan Pastor Emeritus

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