

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini Sergei Rachmaninoff
Variation 18 arr. William McVicker

Introit

“Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty” German chorale
arr. Norman J. Clayton

*Praise ye the Lord, the almighty, the king of creation.
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation.
All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near; join me in glad adoration.*

*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: *God calls us by name to witness to God’s love.*
People: **Through God’s sight and touch and sound in us,**
Leader: *we will let God’s summons echo true.*
People: **We will use the faith we’ve found to reshape the world around.**

*Hymn 69 “I, the Lord of Sea and Sky”

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Gracious God, you are the potter, we are the clay. You fashion us to be vessels of your love and justice, yet we question how you are at work in the world. We doubt that we are up to being your instruments. We question whether your Spirit truly can work through others whom we deem outside your reach. Forgive our narrow-mindedness, and open us to the wonder of your transforming love and power. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

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

*Stand as you are able. [†]Or “Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.”

*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

Anthem

“How Lovely Are Thy Dwellings Fair” Eric H. Thiman

How lovely are thy dwellings fair, O Lord of hosts; how dear thy pleasant tabernacles are, where thou dost dwell so near. My soul doth long and almost die, thy courts, O Lord, to see; my heart and flesh aloud do cry, O living God, for thee. Happy who in thy house reside, where thee they ever praise. Happy whose strength in thee dith bide and in their hearts thy ways. They journey on from strength to strength, with joy and gladsome cheer, till all before our God at length in Zion do appear. For God the Lord, both sun and shield gives grace and glory bright; no good from them shall be withheld whose ways are just and right. Amen.

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter (*responsively*)

Leader: *You, O Lord, will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in time of trouble.*

People: **Those who know your name will put their trust in you, for you never forsake those who seek you, O Lord.**

Leader: *Sing praise to the Lord who dwells in Zion; proclaim to the peoples the things God has done.*

People: **The avenger of the blood will remember them and will not forget the cry of the afflicted.**

Leader: *Be gracious to me, O Lord; see the misery I suffer from those who hate me, you that lift me up from the gates of death;*

People: **so that I may tell of all your praises and rejoice in your salvation in the gates of the city of Zion.**

Leader: *The nations have fallen into the pit they dug; in the snares they set, their own foot is caught.*

People: **The Lord is revealed in acts of justice; the wicked are trapped in the works of their own hands.**

[†]Or “to the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Ghost.”

Leader: *The nations go down to the grave, all the peoples that forget God.*

People: For the needy shall not always be forgotten,
nor shall the hope of the poor be taken away.

Leader: *Rise up, O Lord, let not mortals have the upper hand;
let the nations be judged before you.*

People: Put them in fear, O Lord;
let the nations know they are but mortal.

*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

Acts 9:1–19 New Testament, page 119

Leader: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Are You Sure?” Victoria G. Curtiss

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 691 “Lord, When I Came into This Life”

*Affirmation of Faith (*unison*) Romans 8:1, 28, 38–39

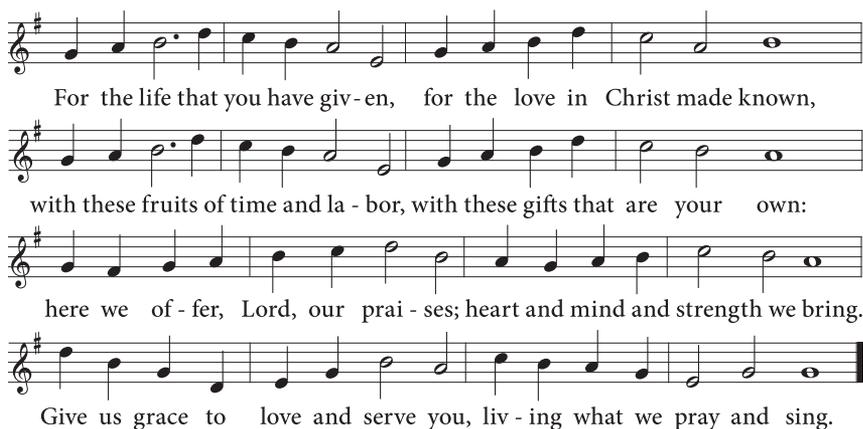
We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus;
for we know that all things work together for good for those who love
God, who are called according to God’s purpose. We are convinced
that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present,
nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything
else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Offering

Offertory Voluntary

How Fair and How Pleasant Art Thou 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

Leader: *The Lord be with you.*

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: *Lift up your hearts.*

People: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Leader: *Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.*

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Prayer

Leader: *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, God of 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.

Leader: . . . *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

“Deep Peace” Andrew Carter
*Deep peace of the running wave to you, deep peace of the flowing air to you,
deep peace of the quiet earth to you, deep peace of the shining stars to you,
deep peace of the Son of peace to you.*

Prayer after Communion (*unison*)

God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation
you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people.
Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit that we may proclaim
your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life
of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 726 “Will You Come and Follow Me”

*Benediction and Response

Postlude

Basse de Trompette François Couperin

Worship Leaders

Judith L. Watt, Annette Bacon, Victoria G. Curtiss

The Music Today

Women of the Morning 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.

THE TEXTILE BANNERS AND PULPIT PARAMENT, "Unweavings" created by Laurie Wohl, were commissioned by Fourth Church for use during the liturgical season of Ordinary Time, the longest season of the church year (the season between Epiphany and Lent and between Pentecost and Advent).

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.

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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

Jeffrey Doane Parish Associate for Older Adults

Abbi Heimach-Snipes Pastoral Resident

John Buchanan Pastor Emeritus

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