

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

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## Gathering around the Word

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### Prelude

Meditation . . . . . Edward d’Evry

### Introit

“Praise Ye the Lord” . . . . . Dale Grotenhuis

*Praise ye the Lord; praise him, O ye servants of the Lord.*

*Praise the name of the Lord; praise the Lord.*

\*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.<sup>†</sup> Amen.

### \*Invocation

\*Hymn 39 . . . . . “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

### Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

O God, in you we live and move and have our being.  
Yet always in the midst of your glorious creation we see sin’s shadow.  
In the earth, sea, and sky we see the shadow of our greed  
and our poor stewardship of your world.  
Beside us in the broken, the hungry, and the poor,  
we avert our gaze and withhold compassion.  
In our relationship with you and others, we are often faithless.  
Forgive us, O bountiful Creator,  
by your Spirit of life and unmeasured love.  
Heal our brokenness so that we may be people of healing and of peace;  
through Christ Jesus. Amen.

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\*Stand as you are able. <sup>†</sup>Or “Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.”

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

Anthem

“O Be Joyful” . . . . . Philip W. J. Stopford  
*O be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness and come before his presence with a song. Be ye sure that the Lord he is God. It is he that hath made us and not we ourselves. We are his people and the sheep of his pasture. O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving and into his courts with praise. Be thankful unto him and speak good of his name. For the Lord is gracious, his mercy is everlasting, and his truth endureth from generation to generation. 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.*

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Listening for the Word

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Prayer for Illumination

Psalter (*responsively*)

Psalm 16 . . . . . Old Testament, page 469

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

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:<sup>†</sup>  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen. Amen.**

Scripture Lesson

1 Samuel 1:4–20 . . . . . Old Testament, page 233

Leader: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

“Birthpangs” . . . . . Lucy Forster-Smith

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<sup>†</sup>Or “to the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Ghost.”

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## Responding to the Word

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\*Hymn 324 . . . . . “For All the Faithful Women”

\*Affirmation of Faith . . . . . 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;  
on 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.

Minute for Mission

Offering

Offertory Voluntary

Canzonetta . . . . . William Mathias

\*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.

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## Sealing the Word

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### 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*) . . . . . The Hymnal, page 35

#### The Communion

#### Communion Anthem

"Bread of Heaven" . . . . . David Ashley White

*Bread of heaven, on thee we feed, for thy flesh is meat indeed.*

*Ever may our souls be fed with this true and living bread;*

*day by day with strength supplied through the life of him who died.*

*Vine of heaven, thy blood supplies this blest cup of sacrifice;*

*Lord, thy wounds our healing give, to thy cross we look and live.*

*Jesu, may we ever be grafted, rooted, built in thee.*

\*Prayer after Communion (*unison*)

O gracious Lord, set your blessing on us as we go into the world;  
confirm in us the truth by which we rightly live;  
confront us with the truth from which we wrongly turn.  
We ask not for what we want but for what you know we need.  
We offer ourselves to you in service to this, your world;  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

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Bearing the Word into the World

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\*Hymn 643 . . . . . “Now Thank We All Our God”

\*Benediction and Response

Postlude

Fanfare . . . . . William Mathias

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. Even one who doubts or whose trust is wavering may receive the bread and grape juice (in place of wine) in order to be assured of God’s love and grace in Jesus Christ.

## Worship Leaders

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Rocky Supinger, Janet Reed, Lucy Forster-Smith

## The Music Today

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Chancel Choir

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

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

Justin Taylor, Organ Scholar

## Worship Notes

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TODAY'S MINUTE FOR MISSION highlighting ways to share Christmas joy this season is being presented by Colleen Mraz.

THE COMPOSER of the first anthem, Philip Stopford, was born in England in 1977 and began his musical career at the age of eight as a member of the choir at Westminster Abbey. After graduating from Oxford he became Organist at St. Anne's Cathedral in Belfast, Ireland. In 2015 he moved to America to become Music Director of Christ Church in Bronxville, New York.

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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 and Prayer after Communion are adapted from *The Iona Community Worship Book* (1994). 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

**Joseph L. Morrow** Minister for Evangelism

**Jeffrey Doane** Parish Associate for Older Adults

**Abbi Heimach-Snipes** Pastoral Resident

**Shawn Fiedler** Ministerial Associate for Worship

**John Buchanan** Pastor Emeritus

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