

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

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Two Chorale Preludes Johann Sebastian Bach

In Thee Is Joy | Christ Came to the Jordan River

Shall We Gather at the River? John Ferguson

Introit :: “Open to Me the Gates of Righteousness” Eric H. Thiman

Open to me the gates of righteousness; I will go into them, and I will 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.† Amen.

*Baptismal Litany

Leader: *Remember your baptism and be glad!*

People: **The waters of God’s mercy have flowed, and we have been cleansed and refreshed.**

Leader: *Remember the waters that God gathered together and called seas, the mothers of rivers, lakes, and springs that quench the thirst of the earth and all its inhabitants.*

People: **We drink of the water of God’s creation and praise God’s name for life.**

Leader: *Remember the waters of the Red Sea and God’s salvation.*

People: **With the people of old, we have been freed from our oppression and brought to a new land.**

Leader: *Remember Jesus at the River Jordan;*

People: **the One who was without sin took upon himself our sin.**

Leader: *Remember God’s grace: we are redeemed by Jesus and not by who we are or what we do.*

People: **Thanks be to God for unmerited grace!**

Leader: *Remember your baptism and be glad!*

People: **We remember, and our lives are filled with joy!**

*Prayer of Praise

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

*Hymn 10 “Sing Glory to the Name of God”

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Merciful God, in baptism you promise forgiveness and new life,
making us part of the body of Christ.

We confess that we remain preoccupied with ourselves,
separated from one another.

We cling to destructive habits, hold grudges,
and show reluctance to welcome one another.

We allow the past to hold us captive.

In your loving-kindness, have mercy on us, and free us from sin.

Fulfill the promises of our baptism so that we may rise to new life
and live together in grace. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

Leader: *Friends, believe the good news:*

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Sacrament of Baptism

Concerns of the Church

Anthem

“Down to the River to Pray” American folk song; arr. Robert Lee

As I went down to the river to pray, studying about that good old way and who shall wear the starry crown, good Lord, show me the way. O sisters, let's go down, come on down to the river to pray. As I went down to the river to pray, studying about that good old way and who shall wear the robe and crown, good Lord, show me the way. O brothers, let's go down, come on down to the river to pray. As I went down to the river to pray, studying about that good old way and who shall wear the robe and crown, good Lord, show me the way. O fathers, let's go down, come on down to the river to pray. As I went down to the river to pray, studying about that good old way and who shall wear the starry crown, good Lord, show me the way. O mothers, let's go down, come on down to the river to pray. As I went down to the river to pray, studying about that good old way and who shall wear the starry crown, good Lord, show me the way. O sinners, let's go down, come on down to the river to pray.

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter Psalm 29

Leader: *Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.*

People: **Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name; worship the Lord in holy splendor.**

Leader: *The voice of the Lord is over the waters;
the God of glory thunders, the Lord, over mighty waters.*

People: **The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.**

Leader: *The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon.*

People: **He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox.**

Leader: *The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire.*

People: **The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

Leader: *The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl, and strips the forest bare;
and in his temple all say, "Glory!"*

People: **The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king forever.**

Leader: *May the Lord give strength to his people! May the Lord bless his people with peace!*

*Children age three through grade five are invited to come forward
during the singing of the Gloria Patri.*

*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.**

Sending Forth: Hymn 748 "Go with Us, Lord"

Children depart for Sunday School with their teachers.

Scripture Lesson

Luke 3:15–17, 21–22 New Testament, page 56

Sermon Shannon J. Kershner

†Or "to the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Ghost."

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 408 “There’s a Sweet, Sweet Spirit”

A REAFFIRMATION OF OUR BAPTISMAL VOWS

*Profession of Faith and Renunciations

*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.

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

“Amen” Richard Warner

Offering

Offertory Anthem

“Deep River” African American spiritual; arr. Howard Helvey

*Deep river, my home is over Jordan. Deep river, Lord, I want to cross over into campground.
O, don't you want to go to that gospel feast, that promised land where all is peace?*

*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*)

We give you thanks and praise, O God,
that you pour out your Spirit in mercy and love.
Transform our gifts to your service
and convert our hearts,
that we may live as your beloved people;
in the name of Jesus Christ, the Beloved. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 634 “To God Be the Glory”

*Benediction and Response

Worshippers who wish to do so are invited to sing along with the choir during the Benediction responses.

Postlude

All Who Believe and Are Baptized Richard Proulx

Worship Leaders

9:30 Matt Helms, Isaac Hodges, Lexi Unander, Lucy Forster-Smith, Shannon J. Kershner

11:00 Matt Helms, Stella Peck, Leila Madhani, Lucy Forster-Smith, Shannon J. Kershner

The Music Today

Morning Choir; Sean Stanton, soloist

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

Baptized Today

9:30 Mabel Frances Hartley, child of Ryan and Katherine Hartley

11:00 Isabella Amira Summer Wells, child of Tramaine and Tiffany Wells

Worship Notes

TODAY WE REMEMBER THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD, one of the texts traditionally read after Epiphany, when we continue to focus on the revelation of the divinity of Jesus. As we hear again the voice of the Lord saying at Jesus' baptism "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased," we also recall our own baptism, in which God has claimed and named us as God's own. In grateful thanksgiving we together renew our commitment to live out our call as beloved children of God.

THE BULLETIN COVER photo depicts the black marble baptismal font, at which thousands of people have been baptized since 1914. The words carved on the font, "Suffer little children to come unto me," appear in Matthew 19:14, Mark 10:14, and Luke 18:16. The cover quote is from the prayer "In the Silence, Name Me" in Ted Loder's book *Guerrillas of Grace: Prayers for the Battle*.

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Nanette Sawyer Discipleship and Small Group Ministry

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Judith L. Watt Pastoral Care

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SOURCES AND CREDITS: The Call to Worship is adapted from Thomas Shuman. 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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The Fourth Church logo (*front cover*) is based on the Great East Window in the Sanctuary.

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