

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

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Choral No. 3 in A Minor César Franck

Introit :: “I, the Lord of Sea and Sky” Daniel L. Schutte

*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

The congregation responds by singing “Alleluia” from the Hymnal, page 587

Leader: *Our Creator spins the planets and sings the stars to shine.*

We praise you, God, for all of creation glistens with your glory.

People: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Leader: *There is so much that summons us to marvel.*

Open your senses and let God fill your hearts.

People: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Leader: *We listen, see, and perceive you, God,*

in the beauty and majesty that surrounds us.

People: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Leader: *God calls us to be co-creators, good stewards, and protectors of creation.*

Renew us now for your work, Holy One.

People: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Prayer of Praise

*Hymn 14 “For the Beauty of the Earth”

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

Prayer of Lament and Confession

Leader: *Holy One, all creation glistens with your glory,
and all creation groans at our indifference.
Your children continue to fear poisoned water in Flint,
and the scorched earth of Syria continues to summon war.
Island villages and shoreline cities quake as seas are rising,
while we debate about climate change.*

People: God, how you must grieve as masses of plastic float in your oceans
and we erase the colors of your great barrier reef.
All creation groans under the weight of our indifference,
and we need so badly for you, gracious God, to help us hear it.
Deepen our lament; help us mourn like you do
for what we've done to your earth.
Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Leader: *God of all creation, we need to hear the groaning,
but it is hard, for our hearts are as broken as this earth.
We're so easily overwhelmed by what we should do,
frozen by the enormity of all that is wrong,
distracted by matters in our own life that consume us.*

People: We confess we have shrunk our hope to what we can see,
forgetting that you are the God of all creation,
that it is you who breathe life into us,
you who create us and call us to create with you.
Forgive us, God. Please take what is broken—
our hearts, our priorities, this earth—
and hold us, change us, love us into something new.
Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

Leader: *Friends, believe the good news:*

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Concerns of the Church

Anthem :: “The 23rd Psalm” Bobby McFerrin

*The Lord is my shepherd, I have all I need,
she makes me lie down in green meadows,
beside the still waters, she will lead.
She restores my soul, she rights my wrongs;
she leads me in a path of good things,
and fills my heart with songs.
Even though I walk through a dark and dreary land,
there is nothing that can shake me.
She has said she won't forsake me, I'm in her hand.
She sets a table before me in the presence of my foes,
she anoints my head with oil and my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and kindness will follow me all the days of my life,
and I will live in her house forever.
Glory be to our Mother and Daughter and to the Holy of Holies,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.*

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter (*sung*) :: “O Lord, Our God, How Excellent” (Psalm 8) The Hymnal, 25

*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 :: Matthew 6:24–34 New Testament, page 6

Sermon :: “To Worry or Not to Worry” Victoria G. Curtiss
Part of the “Big Questions” sermon series

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 21 “Many and Great, O God, Are Thy Works”

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

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

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 a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

Prayers of the People

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.

Prayer Response :: "Amen" John Stainer

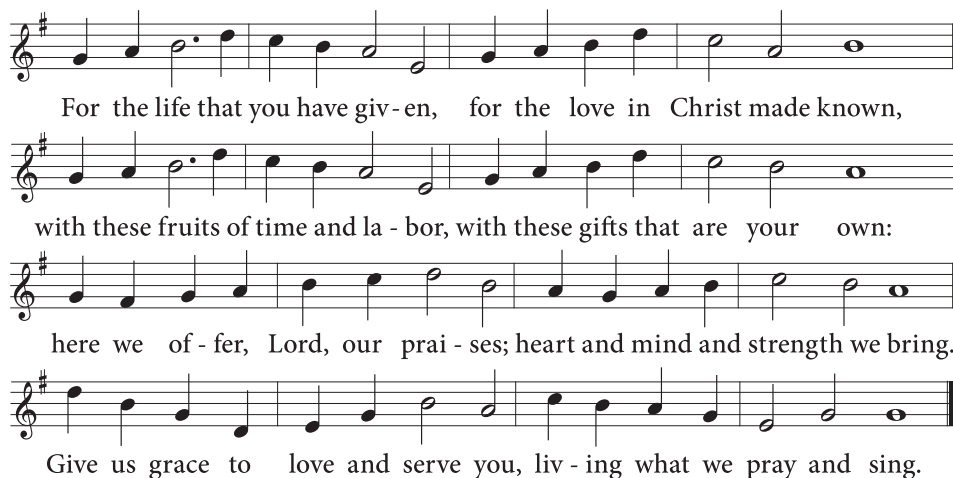
Minute for Mission

Offering

Offertory Anthem :: "Ubi caritas" Ola Gjeilo

*Where charity and love are, God is there. The love of Christ has gathered us together.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it. Let us revere and love the living God and from
a sincere heart let us love one another. Amen.*

*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*)

Loving Creator, we cherish the gift of your earth and of life itself. In gratitude and hope, we dedicate ourselves as your instruments of goodness, healing, and wholeness. Restore beauty out of brokenness, balance out of distortion. May the offering of our treasure, time, and service be pleasing to you. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 23 “God, You Spin the Whirling Planets”

*Benediction and Response

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

Postlude ♯ “Carillon of Westminster” Louis Vierne

Worship Leaders

9:30 Lucy Forster-Smith, Annette Bacon, Joseph L. Morrow, Victoria G. Curtiss

11:00 Lucy Forster-Smith, Holly O'Mara, Joseph L. Morrow, Victoria G. Curtiss

The Music Today

Morning Choir; Youth Choir (9:30); Children's Choir (11:00)

John W. W. Sherer, Organist and Director of Music; Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

Katy Sinclair, Associate Director of Music for Children and Youth; Hsing-Huei Huang, Pianist

Worship Notes

TODAY THE CHILDREN AND YOUTH CHOIRS honor graduating seniors Emalyn Gray, Audra Kimbell, and Hendrik Ottens, who have sung in the Children and Youth Choirs for the past fifteen years. We thank them for sharing their musical gifts.

TODAY'S MINUTE FOR MISSION is presented by Alison Gerlach Blaser on behalf of the Care of Creation Committee.

TODAY IS 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 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).

TODAY WE ALSO BEGIN OUR "BIG QUESTIONS" SERMON SERIES, which invites us to explore the questions, topics, and biblical stories that members and friends have told us they would like to hear addressed from the pulpit. Today's questions are "Why care about creation? Isn't God in control?" Next week we will consider the question "Are we saved?"

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 M. Fiedler Ministerial Associate for Worship

John Buchanan Pastor Emeritus

SOURCES AND CREDITS: The Call to Worship and Prayer of Confession are adapted from "A Lenten Prayer for Creation" by Hallie Hottle. 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.

THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO
Church office: 126 E. Chestnut Street, Chicago, IL 60611.2014
www.fourthchurch.org | www.facebook.com/fourthchurch
312.787.4570 | Voicemail: 312.787.2729 | Fax: 312.787.4584
