

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

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Sheep May Safely Graze Johann Sebastian Bach
Toccata and Fugue in D Minor J. S. Bach
Sweet Hour of Prayer William B. Bradbury; arr. Jason W. Krug

Introit

“O Come, Let Us Sing to the Lord” Stephen Sturk
*O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us come into his presence with thanksgiving.
Let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise.*

*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 formed us into beings,
breathing life into the dust of the earth.*

People: **God formed us into the church,
breathing life into human community.**

Leader: *Our hearts open to the leading of Christ;
our minds open to the movement of the Spirit,
for God is not finished with us.*

People: **We are the church, reformed.
We are the church, always being reformed.
We worship the living God!**

*Prayer of Praise

*Hymn 275 “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

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

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Holy and creative God, we open our hearts to you in these morning hours.
We know that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed;
we have not loved you with all our heart;
we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves.
Forgive us for wandering away from your ways of truth and love,
and help us to grow more fully and joyfully toward the newness of life
made manifest in the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

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

Concerns of the Church

Anthem :: "Loving Shepherd of Thy Sheep" John Rutter

*Loving Shepherd of thy sheep, keep thy lamb, in safety keep;
nothing can thy power withstand, none can pluck me from thy hand.
I would praise thee every day, gladly all thy will obey;
like thy blessed ones above, happy in thy perfect love.
Loving Shepherd, ever near, teach thy lamb thy voice to hear;
suffer not my steps to stray from the straight and narrow way.
Where thou ledest I would go, walking in thy steps below,
'til before my Father's throne I shall know as I am known.*

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter Psalm 84:1-7

Leader: *How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of hosts!*
People: **My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.**
Leader: *Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest where she may
lay her young, by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts, my king and my God.*
People: **Happy are they who dwell in your house! They will always be praising you.**

Leader: *Happy are the people whose strength is in you,
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.*

People: Those who go through the balsam valley
will find it a place of springs,
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.

Leader: *They will climb from height to height,
and the God of gods will be seen in Zion.*

*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 :: Mark 12:28–34 New Testament, page 46

Sermon Series: Remembering Our Past, Inspiring Our Future
“A Thinking Faith” Lucy Forster-Smith

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 305 “Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!”

*Affirmation of Faith (*unison*) from the Confession of 1967

The reconciling work of Jesus was the supreme crisis in the life of humankind. His cross and resurrection become personal crisis and present hope for men and women when the gospel is proclaimed and believed. In this experience, the Spirit brings God’s forgiveness to men and women, moves them to respond in faith, repentance, and obedience, and initiates the new life in Christ. The new life takes shape in a community in which humans know that God loves and accepts them in spite of what they are. They therefore accept themselves and love others, knowing that no one has any ground on which to stand, except God’s grace.

Commissioning of Seminary Intern

Prayers of the People

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

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 Rutter

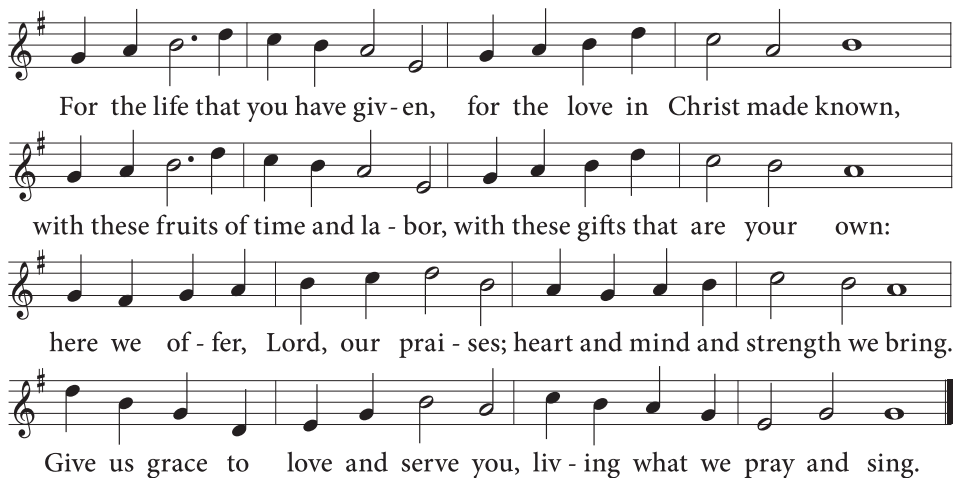
Minute for Discipleship

Offering

*Offertory Anthem :: "Antiphon" Benjamin Britten

*Praised be the God of love, here below, and here above,
who hath dealt his mercies so to his friend and to his foe,
that both grace and glory tend us of old and us in the end.
The great Shepherd of the fold us did make, for us was sold.
He our foes in pieces brake, him we touch, and him we take.
Wherefore since that he is such, we adore, and we do crouch.
Lord, thy praises should be more, we have none, and we no store.
Praised be the God alone, who hath made of two folds one.*

*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*)

O God, you have given us so very much—riches beyond imagination.
You pour into our hearts grace amazing and divine,
which is made known in your Son, Jesus Christ.
May the bounty of this grace extend to all in need,
and may these gifts bring hope and joy and life abundant to all they touch.
Through Christ we pray. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 321 “The Church’s One Foundation”

*Benediction and Response

*Recessional (*please remain standing*)

Scotland the Brave Traditional Scottish song

Postlude

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God Helmut Walcha

TODAY IS REFORMATION SUNDAY,

a day when we recall the rich heritage of the Protestant tradition. The Presbyterian Church (USA) grew out of the Reformation of the sixteenth century under leaders such as John Calvin and John Knox. It was on October 31, 1517, that Martin Luther posted his ninety-five theses on the church door in Wittenberg, Germany, the watershed event sparking the Reformation. Luther later authored today’s opening hymn, “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God.”

Reformation Sunday is also a day when we remember and give thanks for Reformation leaders and all others who have kept the faith. Our paraments and stoles today are red to symbolize the Holy Spirit’s work in reforming the church.

Worship Leaders

Joseph L. Morrow, Lois Snavelly, Judith L. Watt, Lucy Forster-Smith

The Music Today

Morning Choir; Sarah van der Ploeg, soloist; George Sims, bagpiper

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

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

Worship Notes

TODAY WE CONTINUE OUR SIX-WEEK SERMON SERIES, “Remembering Our Past, Inspiring Our Future.” Each week we are exploring defining moments in the story of Fourth Presbyterian Church that continue to influence our ongoing commitment to participate in God’s redemptive work.

TODAY’S MINUTE FOR DISCIPLESHIP is presented by Jill Fenstermaker on behalf of “Called to Be a Church Alive,” the 2020 Annual Appeal for Fourth Presbyterian Church and Chicago Lights.

THE BULLETIN COVER photo depicts the Sanctuary ceiling. The Arts-and-Crafts style roof arches and canvases over the side aisles were painted by the renowned artist Frederic Clay Bartlett.

For more than a thousand years, builders of churches and cathedrals have incorporated high soaring vaults and ceilings both to inspire awe and to remind those below of their humble status in the presence of God, a sentiment echoed by the words of John Calvin.

Many churches in northern Europe employed wood-framed ceilings as Fourth Church does—benefiting in seacoast countries from the local builders’ expertise at shipbuilding—and the result often looks like an inverted ship. The word for the main worship space in a church, the *nave*, comes from the Latin word *navis*, for “ship”—the same root of the words *navy* and *navigate*.

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

John Buchanan Pastor Emeritus

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.

This worship bulletin is printed on acid-free paper. All bulletins and inserts left in the baskets by the doors are recycled.

The Fourth Church logo (*front cover*) is based on the Great East Window in the Sanctuary.

THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO

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