

MORNING WORSHIP

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

PRELUDE

Aria

Flor Peeters

Requiescat in Pace (Rest in Peace)

Leo Sowerby

INTROIT

“Praise Ye the Lord”

Eric DeLamarter

Praise ye the Lord. The Lord is high above all nations.

*DOXOLOGY AND INVOCATION

*HYMN 473

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

Tune: DIX

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(unison)*

**Eternal God, in every age
you have raised up men and women
to live and die in faith.
Forgive our indifference to your will.
You have commanded us to speak,
but we have been silent.
You have called us to do what is just,
but we have been fearful.
Have mercy on us,
your faithless servants.
Keep before us faithful people
for us to follow so that,
by the power of your Holy Spirit,
we may grow in the knowledge
of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,
to the praise of your holy name.
Amen.**

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Minister: Friends, believe the good news.

People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

PSALTER

Psalm 116:1–15 *(responsively)*

(page 533, O.T.)

ANTHEM	“Pater Noster” 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. Amen.	<i>Dan Locklair</i>
FIRST LESSON	Acts 7:54—8:3 Minister: The Word of the Lord. People: Thanks be to God.	(page 118, N.T.)
*GLORIA PATRI		(The Hymnal, 579)
SECOND LESSON	John 15:12–17	(page 103, N.T.)
SERMON	No Greater Love <i>“No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”</i> John 15:13 (NRSV) <i>“Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful ones.”</i> Psalm 116:15 (NRSV)	JOHN BUCHANAN
*HYMN 275	“God of Our Life”	<i>Tune: SANDON</i>
*APOSTLES’ CREED	<i>(unison)</i> 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.	

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.**

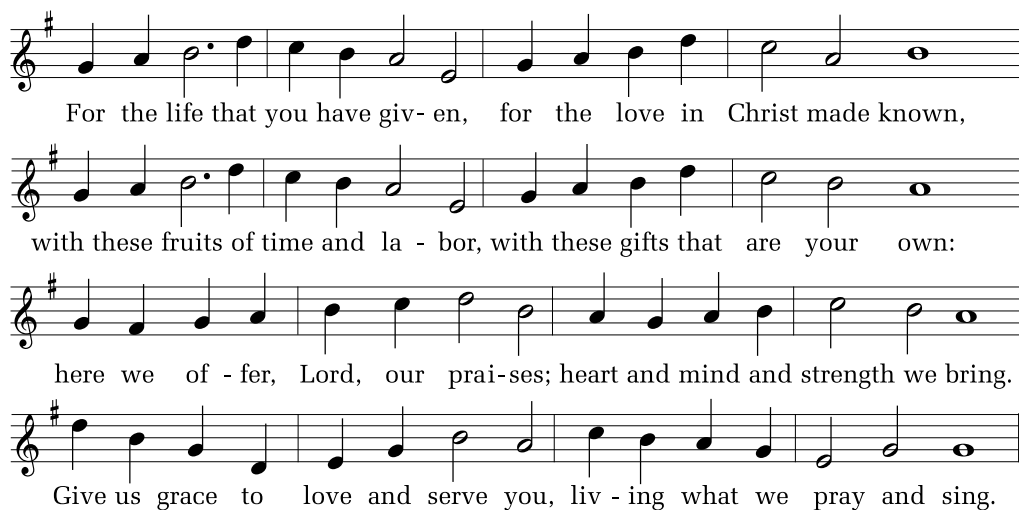
PRAYER RESPONSE "Hear Our Prayer, O Lord" *Edwin Fissinger*
Hear our prayer, O Lord; incline thine ear to us and grant us
thy peace. Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM "Sing Me to Heaven" *Daniel E. Gawthrop*

In my heart's sequestered chambers lie truths stripped of poets' gloss.
Words alone are vain and vacant, and my heart is mute. In response
to aching silence, memory summons half-heard voices, and my
soul finds primal eloquence and wraps me in song. If you would
comfort me, sing me a lullaby. If you would win my heart, sing me
a love song. If you would mourn me and bring me to God, sing me
a requiem; sing me to heaven. Touch in me all love and passion,
pain and pleasure. Touch in me grief and comfort. Sing me a lullaby,
a love song, a requiem. Love me, comfort me, bring me to God.
Sing me a love song; sing me to heaven.

*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.

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***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION**

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

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

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

All: **Eternal God, creator of the world and giver of all good,
we thank you for the earth, our home, and for the gift of life.
We praise you for your love in Jesus Christ,
who came to heal this broken world,
who died rejected on the cross
and rose triumphant from the dead.
Because he lives, we live to praise you, our God forever.
Gracious God, who called us from death to life,
we give ourselves to you;
and with the church through all ages,
we thank you for your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

***HYMN 562**

“Eternal Father, Strong to Save”

Tune: MELITA

BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Litanies

Jehan Alain

Christian Origins and the Life of the Earliest Christian Church as Described in the Acts of the Apostles

In light of a recent change in ordination standards in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the conversation and conflict that has resulted, John Buchanan's sermons in the weeks ahead will take a careful look at the earliest church and the issues it encountered, versions of which the contemporary church continues to deal with today.

The hope is that we will understand and experience Christianity—our own faith and the ancient faith of the church—as a truth once given in Jesus Christ and expressed differently, creatively, courageously, by the church of Jesus Christ in every age.

May 22 Acts 2:43–47; 6:1–7

May 29 Acts 7:54—8:3

June 5 Acts 1:1–14

June 12 Pentecost | Acts 2:1–13

June 19 Trinity Sunday | Acts 5:33–42, 17:16–33

June 26 Acts 10, 11, 15: 1–11

July 3 Acts 4:1–22, 5:17, 27–33

July 10 Acts 16:16–23, 17:6, 19:21–48

July 17 Acts 20:7–13, 17–38

Suggested Reading

The Acts of the Apostles

*Why Christianity Happened: A Sociohistorical Account of
Christian Origins (26–50 CE)* by James G. Crossley

The Triumph of the Meek: Why Early Christianity Succeeded
by Michael Walsh

WORSHIP LEADERS

9:30 a.m. Adam H. Fronczek, Donna Gray, John Buchanan

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THE MUSIC TODAY

9:30 a.m. The Morning Choir; Carol Carpenter, flutist

11:00 a.m. The Morning Choir; Carol Carpenter, flutist

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

WORSHIP NOTES

This morning's Prayer of Confession is from *The Worship Sourcebook* (Calvin Institute of Christian Worship).

The Fourth Church website, www.fourthchurch.org, makes available Sunday morning 11:00 a.m. sermons in text and various audio formats. Also posted on the website is the text of all worship bulletins and "News and Opportunities" as well as information about upcoming worship services.

Printed copies of sermons recently preached at Fourth Church are available in the literature racks outside the south transept doors (leading to Anderson Hall) and in the Narthex, at the back of the sanctuary. They are also available at www.fourthchurch.org.

The candles on the bulletin cover were photographed in Stone Chapel. The cover text by Dietrich Bonhoeffer is quoted by Eric Metaxas in his book *Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy*.

PASTORAL STAFF

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