

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

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

- Voluntary in D Major William Boyce
Larghetto – Vivace
Voluntary in G Major John Stanley
Adagio – Allegro

Introit

- “Love Is Little” Shaker melody
arr. Kevin Siegfried

*Love is little; love is low; love will make my spirit grow.
Grow in peace; grow in light; love will do the thing that’s right.*

- *Doxology (*sung*). The Hymnal, 592

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

Minister: *We are standing here on holy ground.*

People: **O give thanks to God and call upon God’s name.**

Minister: *God calls us and promises to be with us in all of life.*

People: **Sing to God and praise God’s holy name.**

Minister: *Let our hearts rejoice in the wonderful works God has done.*

People: **Let us worship God!**

*Prayer of Praise

- *Hymn 451 “Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones”

**Stand as you are able.*

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Have mercy on us, Lord:

You have set your way before us, and we tremble to see it.

It is not just suffering we are afraid to bear,

but also the weight of your call:

your command to excel in love,

rejoice in hope, and live peaceably with all—

your appeal to overcome evil with good.

Merciful God, forgive our fear and faithlessness.

Help us to see what you see, to follow where you go,

and to live in awe at your presence,

which is our help and encouragement.

We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

Minister: *Friends, believe the good news.*

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Concerns of the Church

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter (*responsively*)

Psalms 105:1–11 Old Testament, page 525

Anthem

“Blessing” Katie Moran Bart

*May the road rise up to meet you; may the wind be always at your back;
may the sun shine warm upon your face and the rains fall soft upon your fields,
and until we meet again, my friend, may God hold you in the palm of his hand.*

First Lesson

Romans 12:9–21 New Testament, page 151

Leader: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: Thanks be to God.

*Gloria Patri (*sung*). The Hymnal, 579

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.

Second Lesson

Matthew 16:21–28 New Testament, page 17

Minister: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Shannon J. Kershner

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 393 “Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said”

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

In life and in death we belong to God.
 Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
 we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,
 whom alone we worship and serve.
 We trust in Jesus Christ,
 fully human, fully God.
 Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:
 preaching good news to the poor
 and release to the captives,
 teaching by word and deed
 and blessing the children,
 healing the sick
 and binding up the brokenhearted,
 eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners,
 and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.
 Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,
 Jesus was crucified,
 suffering the depths of human pain
 and giving his life for the sins of the world.
 God raised this Jesus from the dead,
 vindicating his sinless life,
 breaking the power of sin and evil,
 delivering us from death to life eternal.
 With believers in every time and place,
 we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
 can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. 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

“Amen” Anonymous

Offering

Offertory Anthem

“Gloria Tibi” from *Mass* Leonard Bernstein
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
Let us praise, adore, and glorify you.

*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*)

Blessed are you, God of all creation:
Through your goodness we have these gifts to share.
Accept and use our offerings for your glory
and for the service of your reign. Amen.

*Hymn 371 “Lift High the Cross”

Bearing the Word into the World

*Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Fugue in C Major George Frideric Handel

Worship in the Reformed Tradition

As the headings in our bulletin remind us each week, the center of our worship is **the Word**—by which we mean both Scripture and the Living Word of God, Jesus Christ. Our Scripture witnesses to God and God’s activity. When it is read and proclaimed, Jesus Christ the Living Word is present by the inward witness of the Holy Spirit.

It is this Living Word that is the center of everything we do in worship.

That worship follows the pattern we see in Isaiah 6: adoration, confession, absolution, thanksgiving, and service.

Overwhelmed by God’s majesty and glory, we **gather** together in **praise** offered through song and prayer.

In the face of that great goodness of God, we also see how we fall short of being who we were created to be and so we join in a **prayer of confession**.

We then proclaim the **forgiveness** that we know in Jesus Christ. We live our lives in this cycle of realizing where we fall short, being honest to God about that, and then recognizing that God always forgives us, even before the words are on our lips, and lets us start new.

As we listen for the Word of God, **Scripture** is read. The **sermon** is proclaimed.

We respond to the Word with thanksgiving, joining in **song** and **affirming our faith**, using words from the Presbyterian Church (USA)’s *Book of Confessions*—whether it be the Apostles’ Creed, a Brief Statement of Faith, or one of the other professions of faith—or words taken directly from Scripture.

Following Jesus’ instruction to pray, in the **Prayers of the People** we bring human need before God in hope, trust, and thanksgiving for God’s faithfulness, concluding with the **Lord’s Prayer**. Our response of thanksgiving also includes the giving of our material goods, bringing to God the **offerings** of our work as symbols of our gratitude and our acknowledgment that everything we have comes from God. In prayer we **dedicate** these gifts and our lives to the work of the church and God’s mission.

God then **sends** us, like Isaiah, back out into the world in service. Our final **hymn** of grateful praise moves directly into a **charge and blessing** to take what we have heard, to take what we have learned, and to actively live it out in the world, looking for God’s work all around us.

Worship Leaders

Hardy H. Kim, Eric Olson, Judith L. Watt, Shannon J. Kershner

The Music Today

Women of the Chancel and Morning Choirs

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

Thom Gouwens, Associate Organist

Worship Notes

FOURTH CHURCH THANKS the Women of the Chancel and Morning Choirs for their uplifting music these past weeks. The full choirs will return to worship leadership next Sunday.

TODAY'S PRELUDE AND POSTLUDE are being played from the East Balcony on a Jardine pipe organ built in 1850. The oldest playing pipe organ in Chicago, the Jardine requires air to be pumped into the bellows by hand before being released into the pipes. For more information about this organ, please attend today's organ tour at 12:15 p.m.

THE TEXTILE BANNERS AND PULPIT PARAMENT, "UNWEAVINGS," created by Laurie Wohl, were commissioned by Fourth Church for use during the liturgical season of Ordinary Time, the longest season of the church year (the season between Epiphany and Lent and between Pentecost and Advent). Through their combination of scripture texts and images, these banners celebrate and elevate the perception of the sacred in the "ordinary" as we make our faith journey day to day.

THE BULLETIN COVER photo depicts the Fourth Church steeple with its carved angels (at left) and the cross at the peak of the Sanctuary roof, as photographed at night from across Michigan Avenue. The cover quote is from Henri Nouwen's book *Turn My Mourning into Dancing*.

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 Call to Worship is from *Call to Worship: Liturgy, Music, Preaching, and the Arts*, copyright © 2004 (PCUSA). The Affirmation of Faith is from *A Brief Statement of Faith* (PCUSA). 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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This worship bulletin is printed on recyclable paper that contains recycled post-consumer waste and is acid free. All bulletins and inserts left in the baskets by the doors are recycled.

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