

Prelude

O God, Thou Faithful God Johannes Brahms
O Darkest Woe! Ye Tears That Flow! J. Brahms

Call to Worship

Minister: *God sent Christ into the world,
not to condemn the world,
but that the world would be saved through him.*

People: God’s love endures forever.

Minister: *God is our refuge and strength,
a present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear,
though the earth should change;
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
though the waters roar and foam;
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.*

People: God’s love endures forever.

Prayer for Ash Wednesday (*unison*)

Almighty God, you despise nothing you have made,
and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent.
Create in us new and contrite hearts,
that truly repenting of our sins and acknowledging our brokenness,
we may obtain from you, the God of all mercy,
full pardon and forgiveness; through your Son,
Jesus Christ our redeemer, who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Welcome

*Hymn 687 “Our God, Our Help in Ages Past”

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson

Joel 2:1–2, 12–17 Old Testament, page 798

Anthem

“Lay Up for Yourselves” Ned Rorem
*Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust
doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through and steal.
For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*

Second Lesson

Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21 New Testament, page 5

Reflection Judith L. Watt

*Hymn 729 “Lord, I Want to Be a Christian”

Offering

Offertory Anthem

“Valediction” David Conte

*Leave me, O Love, which reaches but to dust;
and thou, my mind, aspire to higher things.
Grow rich in that which never taketh rust;
whatever fades but fading pleasure brings.
Draw in thy beams, and humble all thy might
to that sweet yoke where lasting freedoms be,
which breaks the clouds and opens forth the light
that doth both shine and give us sight to see.
O take fast hold; let that light be thy guide
in this small course which birth draws out to death,
and think how evil becometh him to slide
who seeketh heaven and comes of heavenly breath.
Then farewell world, thy uttermost I see;
eternal Love, maintain thy life in me.*

Invitation to the Observance of the Lenten Discipline

Psalter (responsively)

Psalms 51:1–17 Old Testament, page 492

Litany of Penitence

Minister: *Let us pray.*

People: Holy and merciful God, we confess to you and to one another
and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth
that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.

Minister: *We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind
and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.*

People: Have mercy on us, O God.

Minister: *We have not listened to your call to serve as Christ served us.
We have not been true to the mind of Christ.
We have grieved your Holy Spirit.*

People: **Have mercy on us, O God.**

Minister: *We confess to you, O God, all our past unfaithfulness:
the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives,*

People: **we confess to you, O God.**

Minister: *Our self-indulgent appetites and ways
and our exploitation of other people,
our anger at our own frustration
and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,*

People: **we confess to you, O God.**

Minister: *Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts
and our dishonesty in daily life and work,*

People: **we confess to you, O God.**

Minister: *Our negligence in prayer and worship
and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,*

People: **we confess to you, O God.**

Minister: *Accept our repentance, O God,
for the wrongs we have done.
For our neglect of human need and suffering
and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,*

People: **accept our repentance, O God.**

Minister: *For our waste and pollution of your creation
and our lack of concern for those who come after us,*

People: **accept our repentance, O God.**

Minister: *Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.*

People: **Favorably hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.**

Minister: *Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,*

People: **that we may show forth your glory in the world.**

Minister: *By the cross and passion of our Savior,*

People: **bring us with all your saints
to the joy of Christ's resurrection. Amen.**

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation and Great Thanksgiving

Minister: *The Lord be with you.*

People: **And also with you.**

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.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Minister: . . . *who forever sing to the glory of your name.*

Sanctus (*sung*) The Hymnal, 552

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

Minister: . . . *Great is the mystery of faith:*

Memorial Acclamation (*sung*) The Hymnal, 553

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.
Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

The Lord's Prayer (*unison*)

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed by 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.

The Communion

Communion Anthem

“Bread of Heaven” David Ashley White

*Bread of heaven, on thee we feed; for thy flesh is meat indeed,
ever may our souls be fed with this true and living bread,
day by day with strength supplied though the life of him who died.
Vine of heaven, thy blood supplies this blest cup of sacrifice;
Lord, thy wounds our healing give, to thy cross we look and live;
Jesu, may we ever be grafted, rooted, built in thee.*

Prayer after Communion (*unison*)

God of compassion,
through your Son, Jesus Christ,
you reconciled your people to yourself.
Following his example of prayer and fasting,
may we obey you with willing hearts
and serve one another in holy love,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Hymn 683 “Lord of All Hopefulness”

*Benediction

Imposition of Ashes

Following the Benediction, those who wish are invited to come to either the front or back of the Sanctuary to receive ashes either on the back of the hand or on the forehead.

Ashes serve as a sign of human mortality and penitence and as a reminder that only by God’s grace in Jesus Christ are we given eternal life. Ashes are imposed with the words of Genesis 3:19:

“Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

—Depart in silence—

Today Communion is served by intinction.

The congregation comes to either the front or the back of the Sanctuary by the center aisle to receive the bread, which they then dip into the chalice of grape juice. (Gluten-free bread is available in a small tumbler in each basket of bread.) Worshipers return to their pews by the side aisles.

The invitation to the Lord's Supper is not just for Presbyterians or "members of the church." All who confess Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord are invited to partake of the Lord's Supper.

Even one who doubts or whose trust is wavering may receive the bread and grape juice (in place of wine) in order to be assured of God's love and grace in Jesus Christ.

Worship Leaders

Judith L. Watt, Matt Helms, Layton Williams, Nanette Sawyer

The Music Today

The Chancel Choir

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

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

Worship Notes

THE ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING is being received throughout Lent. Gifts to this offering support Chicago Lights Tutoring and Elam Davies Social Service Center as well as the work of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Hunger, and Self-Development of People Programs. To make a “One Great Hour of Sharing” gift, you can use the envelopes in the pew racks or write “Lenten Offering” on the memo line of a check made payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church.

THE SEASON OF LENT calls Christians to embrace the faith journey by reflecting upon and deepening their relationship with God and by acting upon their Christian beliefs. Although often considered a time for giving up something as a way of symbolizing Jesus’ sacrifice and his struggle in the wilderness, the forty days of Lent also offer an opportunity for taking up. During this season, we are invited to thoughtfully take up the gifts of faith—worship, study, prayer, and service—in preparation for Holy Week and Christ’s journey to the cross.

DAILY LENTEN DEVOTIONS are available via Facebook (www.facebook.com/fourthchurch), Twitter (@FourthChicago), email (send addresses to devotions@fourthchurch.org), online (www.fourthchurch.org/devotions), and in printed booklets in the literature racks.

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.

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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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