

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

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Prelude and Fugue in F-sharp Minor Dieterich Buxtehude
Symphonie Gothique Charles-Marie Widor
Andante Sostenuto

Introit

“The Lord is Risen” George Thalben-Ball
The Lord is risen. He is risen indeed, alleluia.

*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: *Goodness is stronger than evil.*
People: **Love is stronger than hate.**
Leader: *Light is stronger than darkness.*
People: **Life is stronger than death.**
Leader: *Victory is ours through Jesus, who loved us and loves us still.*
People: **Let us worship our Easter God!**

*Prayer of Praise

*Hymn 802 “The King of Love My Shepherd Is”

**Stand as you are able.*

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

God of mercy, your command for us
to love one another across all differences
opens us up to new horizons.
Yet we confess we often respond to that call with fear and judgment.
We hinder your love for us and for all your people.
Forgive our sins, we pray, and give us an honest repentance
that leads to life for all creation. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

Minister: *Friends, believe this good news:*
People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.

Concerns of the Church

Anthem

“My Beloved Spake” Patrick Hadley
*My beloved spake and said unto me, “Rise up, my love, my fair one,
and come away. For lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone;
the flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come,
and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land. The fig tree putteth forth
her green figs and the vines with the tender grape give a good smell.”*

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter (*responsively*)

Psalms 23 Old Testament, page 474

*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

Acts 9:36–43 New Testament, page 120

Minister: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Shannon J. Kershner

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 187 “Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us”

*Affirmation of Faith (*unison*) Apostles’ Creed

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.

Reception of New Members (11:00)

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

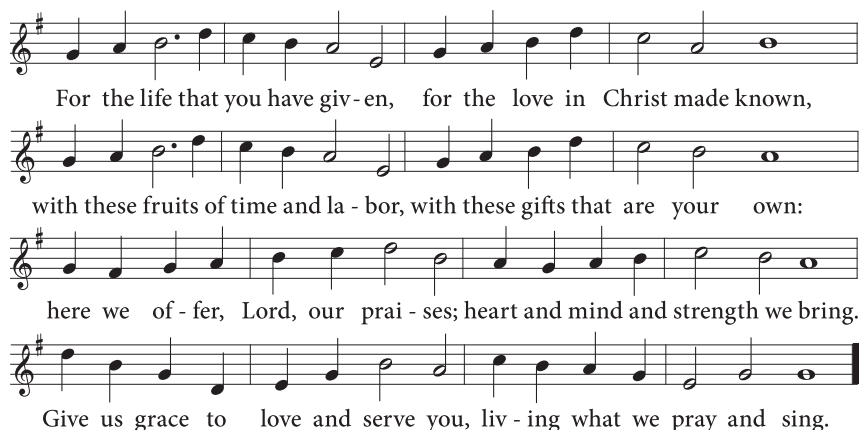
“Amen” John Rutter

Offertory Anthem

“Let All the World in Every Corner Sing” Craig Phillips

*Let all the world in every corner sing, my God and King!
The heavens are not too high, his praise may thither fly!
The earth is not too low, his praises there may grow.
The church with psalms must shout, no door can keep them out,
but above all, the heart must bear the longest part.*

*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*)

We've heard, O God, that you love a cheerful giver,
so we offer you our lives and our resources with joy.
We dedicate our time, our money, and our skills
to continue spreading the good news to your world.
May all that we have and all that we are be used
in the service of your justice and mercy. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 182 "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say"

*Benediction and Response

Postlude

Suite Gothique Léon Boëllmann

Toccata

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 (page 597 of the Old Testament): 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

9:30 Layton Williams, Martha Brown, Victoria G. Curtiss, Shannon J. Kershner

11:00 Hardy H. Kim, Martha Brown, Victoria G. Curtiss, Shannon J. Kershner

The Music Today

The Morning Choir

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

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

Worship Notes

FOURTH CHURCH OFFERS A VARIETY of worship opportunities on Sunday, including an 8:00 a.m. Communion service and a jazz service with Communion at 4:00 p.m. Each Wednesday at 9:30 a.m., Morning Prayer is held in Buchanan Chapel as a time to remember in prayer members of the Fourth Church congregation and those in need. We also offer a monthly fourth-Friday prayer service in the style of Taizé, which meets this month on April 22 at 7:30 p.m.

THE BULLETIN COVER image depicts backlit Easter tulips on a pillar in the south aisle. The cover quote is from Richard Rohr’s book *Great Themes of Paul: Life as Participation*.

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John Buchanan Pastor Emeritus

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