

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

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## Gathering around the Word

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### Prelude

Dearest Jesus, We Are Here . . . . . Frederick Frahm  
Pastoral Dance on “Simple Gifts” . . . . . Andrew Clarke  
Psalm and Dance . . . . . David Evan Thomas

### Introit

“Sing to the Lord of Harvest” . . . . . German chorale  
arr. Theodore Hoelty-Nickel

*Sing to the Lord of harvest, sing songs of love and praise;  
with joyful hearts and voices your alleluias raise.  
By him the rolling seasons in fruitful order move;  
sing to the Lord of harvest a song of happy love.*

\*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: *Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!*

People: Worship the Lord with gladness;  
come into God’s presence with singing.

Leader: *Know that the Lord is God.*

*It is our Creator who made us, and we belong to the Lord;*

People: we are God’s people and the sheep of God’s pasture.

Leader: *Enter God’s gates with thanksgiving and God’s courts with praise.  
Give thanks to the Lord; bless God’s name.*

People: For the Lord is good; God’s steadfast love endures forever,  
and God’s faithfulness to all generations.

### \*Prayer of Praise

\*Hymn 32 . . . . . “I Sing the Mighty Power of God”

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*\*Stand as you are able.*

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, the earth is full of your creation;  
in wisdom you have made us all  
and you have delivered us into one another's care,  
asking that we love one another as you first loved us.  
But we have fostered discord rather than unity,  
contempt rather than respect, ignorance rather than love.  
Communities, peoples, creatures, lands, and seas  
have been set apart, torn apart, or driven apart  
by conflicting claims and thoughtless ambitions.  
You know our thoughts, O Lord,  
and so we humbly ask that you forgive and renew us.  
Help us walk in your way of love  
and reconcile us in your spirit of peace,  
that all may truly know your gift of life.  
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

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

Concerns of the Church

Minute for Mission

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Listening for the Word

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Prayer for Illumination

Psalter *(responsively)*

Psalm 65:1-8. . . . . Old Testament, page 499

Anthem

"Beautiful Savior" . . . . . Silesian folk tune  
arr. F. Melius Christiansen

*Fair are the meadows, fairer the woodlands, robed in flowers of blooming spring;  
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, he makes our sorrowing spirit sing.  
Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations, Son of God and Son of Man;  
glory and honor, praise, adoration, now and forevermore be thine.*

First Lesson

Isaiah 55:10-13 . . . . . Old Testament, page 645

Leader: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: Thanks be to God.

\*Gloria Patri (*sung*) . . . . . The Hymnal, 581

Glorify 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 13:1-9, 18-23 . . . . . New Testament, page 13

Minister: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Sown Freely” . . . . . Matt Helms

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Responding to the Word

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\*Hymn 450 . . . . . “Be Thou My Vision”

\*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

“Call to Remembrance, O Lord” . . . . . Eric DeLamarter  
*Call to remembrance, O Lord, thy tender mercies,  
and thy loving-kindness which have been ever of old. Amen.*

Offertory Anthem

“Ride the Chariot” . . . . . African American spiritual  
arr. William Henry Smith

*I'm going to ride the chariot in the morning, Lord.  
I'm getting ready for the judgment day, my Lord.  
Are you ready, my brother? Are you ready for the journey?  
Do you want to see your Jesus? I'm waiting for the chariot because I'm ready to go.  
Are you ready, my sister? Are you ready for the journey?  
Do you want to see your Jesus? I'm waiting for the chariot because I'm ready to go.  
I never can forget that day when all my sins were taken away.  
Ride in the chariot to see my Lord. My feet were snatched from the miry clay.  
Ride in the chariot to see my Lord.*

\*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*)

Lord God, in deep gratitude for this moment,  
we give ourselves to you.  
Take us out to live as changed people because,  
after our experience of you, we cannot remain the same.  
Ask much of us, expect much from us,  
enable much by us, encourage many through us.  
May we each sow the seeds of your love freely,  
and may they indeed take root in our world. Amen.

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Bearing the Word into the World

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\*Hymn 697 ..... “Take My Life”

\*Benediction and Response

Postlude

Fanfare ..... Ronald Arnatt

## Worship Leaders

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9:30 Jeff Doane, Nicole Spirgen, Victoria G. Curtiss, Matt Helms

11:00 Jeff Doane, Eric Olson, Ashley Swidnicki, Victoria G. Curtiss, Matt Helms

## The Music Today

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The Men's Choir; Sean Stanton, flutist and soloist; Cole Seaton, soloist  
John W. W. Sherer, Organist and Director of Music

## Worship Notes

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FOURTH CHURCH EXPRESSES ITS GRATITUDE to the Men's Choir for their musical leadership during morning worship this summer. The Women's Choir will be singing from July 23 through September 3.

TODAY'S MINUTE FOR MISSION is presented by Kathryn Burkhardt on behalf of the School Supply Drive sponsored by Women at Fourth

THE BANNERS DISPLAYED IN THE SANCTUARY are based on seven statements attributed to Jesus Christ in the Gospel according to John in which Jesus declares "I am . . . the Resurrection and the Life; the Bread of Life; the Light of the World; the Gate; the Good Shepherd; the Way, the Truth, and the Life; and the Vine." The banners were designed and created by Associate Pastor Victoria G. Curtiss. In the literature racks is a brochure explaining them, with accompanying prayers.

THE BULLETIN COVER photo depicts flowers in the Michigan Avenue courtyard after a rain.

SOURCES AND CREDITS: The Call to Worship is from Psalm 100. 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.

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**Shannon J. Kershner** Pastor  
**Victoria G. Curtiss** Associate Pastor for Mission  
**Matt Helms** Associate Pastor  
for Children and Family Ministry  
**Rocky Supinger** Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry

**Judith L. Watt** Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care  
**Nanette Sawyer** Minister for Congregational Life  
**Jeffrey Doane** Parish Associate for Older Adults  
**Abbi Heimach-Snipes** Pastoral Resident  
**John Buchanan** Pastor Emeritus

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**THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO**  
Church office: 126 E. Chestnut Street, Chicago, IL 60611.2014  
www.fourthchurch.org | www.facebook.com/fourthchurch  
312.787.4570 | Voicemail 312.787.2729 | Fax: 312.787.4584