

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

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Toccata, Adagio, and Fugue Johann Sebastian Bach

Introit

“Goodness Is Stronger than Evil” John L. Bell

Goodness is stronger than evil; love is stronger than hate;

light is stronger than darkness; life is stronger than death.

Victory is ours through God who loves us.

*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: *God of the prophets, call to us today.*

People: Call us into your ways of love, justice, and righteousness.

Leader: *God of the poets, remind us again how much you love us.*

People: Sing to us your ways of love, justice, and righteousness.

Leader: *God of the disciples, teach us how to follow you.*

People: Teach us your ways of love, justice, and righteousness.

Leader: *God of all creation, help us to know your ways.*

People: We gather to hear your call, to sing your praise,

to teach each other, to pray and worship as the body of Christ.

*Prayer of Praise

*Hymn 749 “Come! Live in the Light!”

*Stand as you are able. †Or “Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.”

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Most holy and merciful God:

we have condemned racial injustice in our pronouncements,
yet some of us cling to the privileges born from social inequities.

We confess that all too often we remain complicit
in deferring the hopes and dreams of freedom for all your people.

We beseech you to give us the courage to name our sin
and the strength to claim responsibility for our actions.

Pour out onto us the grace and courage to pay the price for changing our behaviors,
however painful or costly, that the justice you command
may be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Amen.

*Declaration of Pardon

Leader: *Friends, believe the good news:*

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Concerns of the Church

Anthem with Liturgical Dancing

“We Shall Overcome” American freedom song; arr. Tom Trenney

We shall overcome someday. O, deep in my heart, I do believe that we shall overcome someday.

We’ll walk hand in hand someday. O, deep in my heart I do believe we shall overcome someday.

We shall live in peace someday. O, deep in my heart, I do believe we shall overcome someday.

We are not afraid today. O, deep in my heart, I do believe we shall overcome someday.

God will see us through someday. O, deep in my heart, I do believe we shall overcome someday.

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter Psalm 36:5–11

Leader: *Your steadfast love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens,
and your faithfulness to the clouds.*

People: Your righteousness is like the strong mountains, your justice
like the great deep; you save humankind and animals, O Lord.

Leader: *How precious is your love, O God!*
All people take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

People: They feast on the abundance of your house,
and you give them drink from the river of your delights.

Leader: *For with you is the well of life; in your light we see light.*

People: Continue your loving-kindness to those who know you,
and your favor to those who are true of heart!

Leader: *Let not the foot of the proud come near me,*
nor the hand of the wicked push me aside.

*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.

Living Epistle :: “Letter from Birmingham Jail” (*excerpt*). Martin Luther King Jr.

Scripture Lesson :: Isaiah 62:1–5 Old Testament, page 651

Sermon Shannon J. Kershner

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 339 “Lift Every Voice and Sing”

*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.

[†]Or “Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.”

New Members (11:00)

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

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 My Prayer" Eun Young Lee

O God, hear my prayer. Amen.

Minute for Mission

Offering

Offertory Anthem :: "Precious Lord" Thomas Dorsey; arr. Arnold Sevier

Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand; I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.

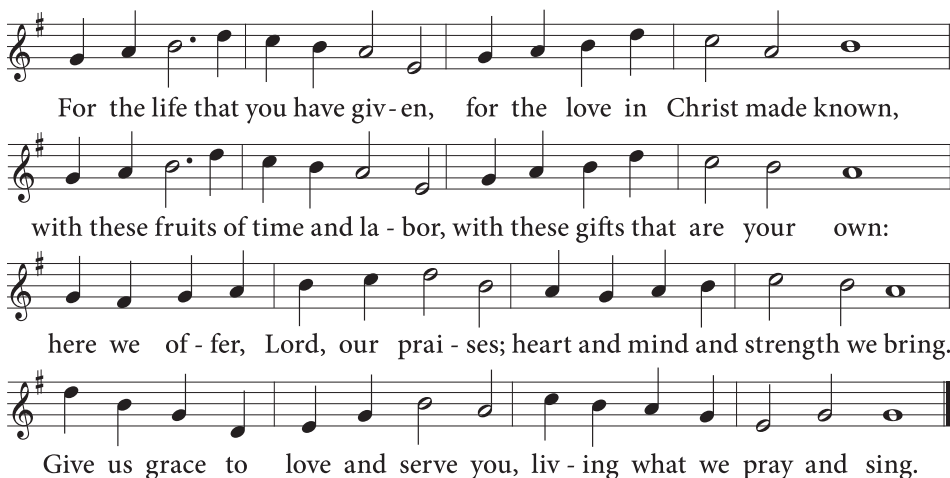
Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light.

Take my hand, Lord, and lead me home.

*When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near; when my life is almost gone,
at the river, Lord, I stand, guide my feet and hold my hand.*

Take my hand, Lord, and lead me home.

*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.

***Litany of Dedication and Commitment**

Leader: *God of all races and nations, we praise you for all your faithful servants who have done justice, loved mercy, and walked humbly with you. For apostles, martyrs, leaders, and saints, and for humble folks whose names never made the news but are recorded in your book of life,*

People: **we give you thanks, O God.**

Leader: *Especially this day we thank you for our brother Martin. For his courage and conviction, for his passion for peace, and for his tireless quest of a nation that keeps faith with its promises,*

People: **we give you thanks, O God.**

Leader: *For the countless saints who stood in the front lines and marches, integrated schools, restaurants, and churches, or sat in buses and at lunch counters and refused to move,*

People: **we give you thanks, O God.**

Leader: *For nameless multitudes who suffered the tortures of slavery and the tyranny of oppression, who were beaten and lynched; and for the nameless multitudes today whose lives are stunted and cut short by our structures of brutality,*

People: **we grieve and promise to work for justice, O God.**

Leader: *And for our siblings of every race and nation who long for safety, freedom, and hope in our community and land,*

People: **we grieve and promise to work for justice, O God.**

Leader: *Lead and guide us, that we may follow the way of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.*

Bearing the Word into the World

***Hymn 756** **“O God of Every Nation”**

***Benediction and Response**

Worshippers who wish to do so are invited to sing along with the choir during the Benediction responses.

Postlude

March on a Theme by Handel Alexandre Guilmant

Worship Leaders

9:30 Nanette Sawyer, Craig Morrison, Taposhi Bentley, Victoria G. Curtiss, Shannon J. Kershner

11:00 Nanette Sawyer, Eric Olson, Lance Tines, Victoria G. Curtiss, Shannon J. Kershner

The Music Today

Morning Choir; Chicago Lights Dance Academy; Rachael Holzhausen, percussionist

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

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

Cescily Washington, Director, Chicago Lights Dance Academy

Patty Mendez, Coordinator, Chicago Lights Dance Academy

Worship Notes

TODAY'S MINUTE FOR MISSION is presented by Brian Van Klompenberg, co-chair of the Chicago Lights Gala of Hope Committee.

THE CHICAGO LIGHTS DANCE ACADEMY, choreographed by Patricia Mendez, is offering a liturgical dance interpreting this morning's anthem, "We Shall Overcome."

NINETY YEARS AGO, on January 15, 1929, Martin Luther King Jr. was born in Atlanta.

On this weekend when we join churches and communities across the nation in honoring the life and legacy of Dr. King, we read again the words he wrote from the Birmingham Jail in April 1963, excerpted from his letter that was first printed in the *Christian Century*.

THE BULLETIN COVER photo, taken in the Michigan Avenue courtyard during a snowstorm, depicts the top of a bush framed by one of the Sanctuary windows in the background. The cover quote is from Martin Luther King Jr.'s Nobel Prize acceptance speech on December 10, 1964.

Shannon J. Kershner Pastor

Lucy Forster-Smith Senior Associate Pastor

Associate Pastors

Victoria G. Curtiss Mission

Matt Helms Children and Family Ministry

Nanette Sawyer Discipleship and Small Group Ministry

Rocky Supinger Youth Ministry

Judith L. Watt Pastoral Care

Joseph L. Morrow Minister for Evangelism

Jeffrey Doane Parish Associate for Older Adults

Abbi Heimach-Snipes Pastoral Resident

Shawn M. Fiedler Ministerial Associate for Worship

John Buchanan Pastor Emeritus

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 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.

This worship bulletin is printed on acid-free paper. All bulletins and inserts left in the baskets by the doors are recycled.

The Fourth Church logo (*front cover*) is based on the Great East Window in the Sanctuary.

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
