

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

- Siciliano for a High Ceremony Herbert Howells
Adagio in E Major Frank Bridge
Song without Words. Gustav Holst; arr. Ron Mallory

Introit ♯ “To Thee, O Lord, Do I Lift Up My Soul” Sergei Rachmaninoff

*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: *Let us contemplate Jesus the One we worship.*
O Jesus Christ, born in humility to confound the proud and to raise the humble,

People: **we come to worship you.**

Leader: *You lived among us, healing the sick,*
proclaiming good news to the poor and freedom to prisoners.

People: **We come to worship you.**

Leader: *You came to unbind the chains of oppression,*
O friend of the humble, bread of hungry hearts.

People: **We come to worship you.**

Leader: *Jesus, full of patience and goodness,*
you showed forgiveness and kindness to the very end.

People: **We come to worship you.**

Leader: *Jesus, gentle and humble of heart,*
you call to yourself all who are weary and burdened.

People: **We come to worship you.**

Leader: *Jesus, you came into the world to serve,*
and you call us to take up our cross and follow you.

People: **We come to worship you.**

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

*Prayer of Praise

*Hymn 716 “God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending”

Litany of Confession

Leader: *Holy God, you promise us a life full of blessing, but we do not always believe.
God of grace,*

People: **forgive us.**

Leader: *You incite us to hope, but we fall back in fear.
God of grace,*

People: **forgive us.**

Leader: *You urge us to give freely, but we cling to what we have.
God of grace,*

People: **forgive us.**

Leader: *You call us to watch at all times for you, but we grow lazy and self-absorbed.
God of grace,*

People: **forgive us.**

Leader: *Forgive us. Increase our hope, enlarge our hearts, and in this silence,
awaken us to the wonders you work in the world every day . . .*

(Please hold silence.)

Extinguishing the Fourth Lenten Candle

Kyrie The Hymnal, 551

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.

*Declaration of Pardon

Leader: *Friends, believe the good news:*

People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

Concerns of the Church

Antem :: “Like As the Hart Desireth the Water Brooks” Herbert Howells

*Like as the hart desireth the water brooks, so longeth my soul after thee, O God.
My soul is athirst for God, yea, even for the living God. When shall I come to appear
before the presence of God? My tears have been my meat day and night, while they
daily say unto me, “Where is now thy God?”*

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter Psalm 32

Leader: *Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,
and whose sin is put away!*

People: **Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

Leader: *While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,
because of my groaning all day long.*

People: **For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

Leader: *Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not conceal my guilt.
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord."
Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.*

People: **Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble;
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**

Leader: *You are my hiding place; you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.*

People: **"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;
I will guide you with my eye.**

Leader: *Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."*

People: **Great are the tribulations of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.**

Leader: *Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord;
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.*

*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.

[†]Or "to the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Ghost."

Scripture Lesson

Matthew 25:14–30 New Testament, page 27

Sermon Shannon J. Kershner

Responding to the Word

Silent Reflection

Throughout the season of Lent we are practicing silence as a way to grow closer to God and one another.

*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.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (*unison*) The Hymnal, page 35

Prayer Response

"Hear Our Prayer, O Lord" Milton Swenson

Hear our prayer, O Lord; incline thine ear to us, and grant us thy peace. Amen.

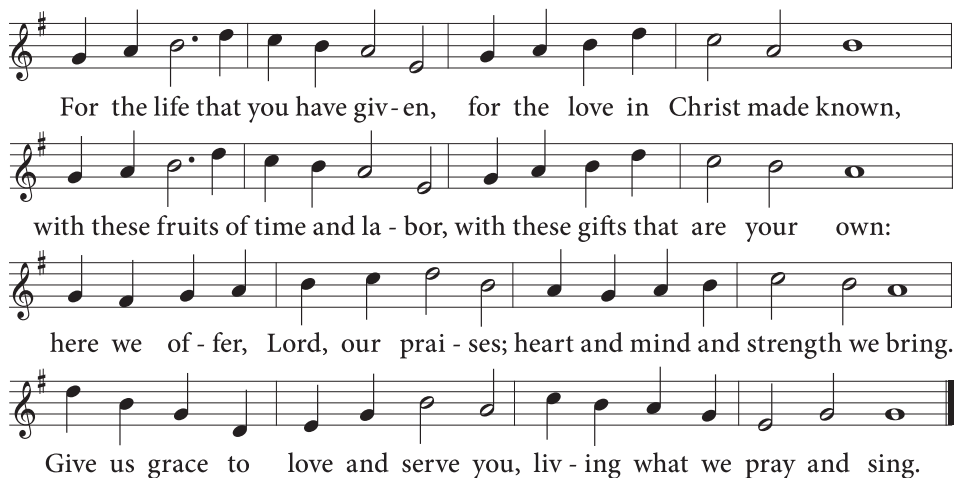
Offering

Offertory Anthem

"O Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem" Herbert Howells

*O pray for the peace of Jerusalem; they shall prosper that love thee.
Peace be within thy walls, and plenteousness within thy palaces.*

*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*)

Gracious Lord, you have given us so much that we can scarcely take it in.
Through these offerings we return to you a portion of our bounty
to further your good news to the world.
Remind us, through these gifts,
of the incredible love you've shown us through the gift of your Son Jesus,
and make us instruments of his love in all we do.
Through Jesus we pray. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 719 "Come, Labor On"

*Benediction and Response

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

Postlude

Marche Héroïque A. Herbert Brewer

Worship Leaders

9:30 Judith L. Watt, Brian Satre, Lucy Forster-Smith, Shannon J. Kershner

11:00 Judith L. Watt, Deborah Zak, Lucy Forster-Smith, Shannon J. Kershner

Extinguishing the Lenten Candle

9:30 The Daniels Family

11:00 Pamela and Aurelia Spann

The Music Today

Handbell Choir; Carla Janzen, flute; Morning Choir

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

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

Briana Belding-Peck, Director of the Handbell Choir

Worship Notes

EACH SUNDAY DURING LENT we are extinguishing a candle at the front of the Sanctuary. Just as we lit candles on the Advent wreath to symbolize the light coming into the world through the birth of Christ, so now our extinguishing of candles points to the Lenten progression from light to the shadows of Good Friday and the crucifixion.

THE LENTEN ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING SUPPORTS Chicago Lights Tutoring and Social Service Center; Fourth Church Meals and Shower Ministries; and the work of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Hunger, and Self-Development of People Programs. To make a gift, use the envelopes in the pew racks or write “Lenten Offering” on the memo line of a check made payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church. Gifts can also be made online at www.fourthchurch.org/give-online

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.

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

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