

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

Gathering around the Word

Prelude :: The Lord's My Shepherd Searle Wright

Introit :: "I Will Fill This House with Glory" Eric H. Thiman
I will fill this house with glory, saith the Lord of hosts.

*Doxology (*sung*) The Hymnal, 609
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures high and low. Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one.
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

*Invocation

*Hymn 34 "Bless the Lord, My Soul and Being!"

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

God of all creation, you loved us into being,
yet we often flee our rightful place in your creation.
We confess that we exploit the gifts you place around us
and dominate the richness of the natural order.
We confess our part in the devastation of our planet home.
Forgive our greedy grasping.
Forgive and restore us, O God.
Rouse us from complacency,
and accompany us into a more faithful future,
where we and the creation entrusted to our care
reflect your glory together. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

Leader: *Friends, believe the good news:*

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

*Exchange of Peace

Leader: *The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.*

People: **And also with you.**

We invite you to greet those around you, wishing them “peace” or “the peace of Christ.”

Concerns of the Church

Anthem ♯ “Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!” Frederick C. Marker; arr. Robert Wetzler

Christ is risen! Alleluia! Risen our victorious head!

Sing his praises! Alleluia! Christ is risen from the dead!

*Gratefully our hearts adore him as his light once more appears;
bowing down in joy before him, rising up from griefs and tears.*

All the sadness of our Lenten fast is o’er;

through the open gates of gladness he returns to life once more;

death and hell before him bending, see him rise the victor now,

angels on his steps attending, glory ’round his wounded brow.

Henceforth never death or hell shall us enthrall;

be we Christ’s, in him forever we have triumphed over all.

All the doubting and dejection of our trembling hearts have ceased;

’tis the day of resurrection. Let us rise and keep the feast.

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter Psalm 104:1, 14–23



*Easter Acclamation (*sung*) The Hymnal, 589
Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia.
Now the Lord is risen indeed.

Scripture Lesson :: Matthew 6:24–34 New Testament, page 6

Sermon :: “Why Care about Creation?” Rocky Supinger
Part of the “Big Questions” sermon series

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 22 “God of the Sparrow”

*Affirmation of Faith (*unison*) from *A Brief Statement of Faith* (PCUSA)

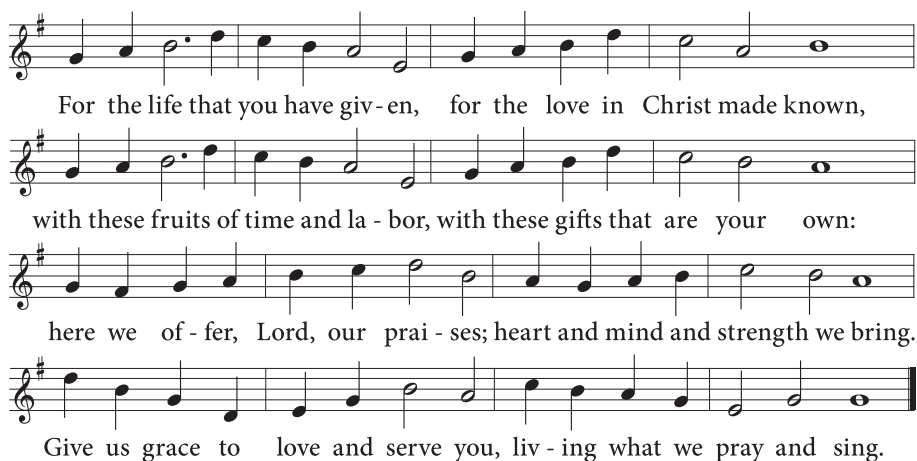
We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.
In sovereign love God created the world good
and makes everyone equally in God’s image
male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community.
But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.
Ignoring God’s commandments,
 we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,
accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature,
and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.
We deserve God’s condemnation.
Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.
In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah
 chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth.
Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage.
Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.
Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

Minute for Mission

Offering

Offertory Solo :: Steal Away African American spiritual; arr. Harry T. Burleigh

*Offertory 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.

Sealing the Word

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation

Great Thanksgiving

Leader: *The Lord be with you.*

People: And also with you.

Leader: *Lift up your hearts.*

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: *Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.*

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Prayer

Leader: *It is truly right and our greatest joy . . . forever singing 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.

Leader: . . . *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*) The Hymnal, page 35

The Communion

Communion Anthem :: "Soul of My Savior" Richard Shepherd

Soul of my Savior, sanctify my breast; body of Christ, be thou my saving guest;

blood of my Savior, bathe me in thy tide; wash me with water flowing from my side.

Strength and protection may thy passion be; O blessed Jesus, hear and answer me:

deep in thy wounds, Lord, hide and shelter me, so shall I never part from thee.

Guard and defend me from the foe malign; in death's dread moments, make me only thine.

Call me and bid me come to thee on high; when I may praise thee with the saints for aye.

Prayer after Communion (*unison*)

Lord God, in gratitude, in deep gratitude for this moment,

this meal, these people, we give ourselves to you.

Take us out to live as changed people because we have shared the fruits of your creation
and cannot remain the same.

Ask much of us, expect much from us, enable much by us, encourage many through us.

So Lord, may we live to your glory, both as caretakers of earth

and citizens of the commonwealth of heaven. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 714 "God of the Fertile Fields"

*Benediction and Response

Postlude :: The Holy Christ Has Arisen. Alleluia! Johann Sebastian Bach

Worship Leaders

Lucy Forster-Smith, Margaret Laing, Rocky Supinger

The Music Today

Chancel Choir

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

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist; Justin Taylor, Organ Scholar

Worship Notes

TODAY'S MINUTE FOR MISSION is presented by Alison Gerlach Blaser on behalf of the Care of Creation Committee.

TODAY WE ALSO BEGIN OUR "BIG QUESTIONS" SERMON SERIES, which invites us to explore the questions, topics, and biblical stories that members and friends have told us they would like to hear addressed from the pulpit. Today's questions are "Why care about creation? Isn't God in control?" Next week we will consider the question "Are we saved?"

THIS MORNING, COMMUNION IS SERVED by intinction. The congregation comes forward 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.

DURING THE SEASON OF EASTER (lasting seven weeks, spanning the 50 days from Easter Sunday to Pentecost Sunday), we will make great use of the word Alleluia. Having fasted from the word Alleluia during the Season of Lent, our Doxology and Easter Acclamation (holding the place of the Gloria Patri) gives God thanksgiving for the gift of eternal life found in Christ's resurrection.

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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