

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

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

- Prelude on a Theme by Orlando Gibbons Eric H. Thiman
Saraband Herbert Howells
Prelude Gerald Finzi; arr. Alan Ridout

Introit

- “Steal Away” African American spiritual; arr. Malcolm Archer
Steal away to Jesus, steal away home; I ain’t got long to stay here.
My Lord, he calls me by the thunder; the trumpet sounds within my soul.

- *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: *This is the house of God, and we are, by grace, the guests.*
People: Sing to God, who is our strength!
Shout and cheer the God of deepest joys!
Leader: *This is the house of God, and we are, by grace, the guests.*
People: Let us worship!

*Prayer of Praise

- *Hymn 714 “God of the Fertile Fields”

^{*}Stand as you are able. [†]Or “Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.”

Prayer of Confession *(unison)*

Merciful One, forgive us when we think too highly of ourselves,
and forgive us when we don't think we are worthy of your love.
Forgive us when we forget you are our strength,
and forgive us when we assume we have to make it through this life on our own.
Open us up to your Spirit. Help us to learn from and serve all people.
Teach us to walk in your way of mercy and grace. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

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

Concerns of the Church

Anthem :: "Let Us Love One Another" Michael Allen

*Lord, hear our humble plea, "Pray, let us love one another." In all the things we can see,
we see you love us. Lord, join our hearts and our minds, that we may know one another.
In love let each of us bind, so we may know you. And in the times that are gray, let us be
grateful and say, "We know you'll show us the way through love, and with each other, Lord."
Lord, as we stand here today, let us embrace one another. Though we may not see your ways,
we know and trust you. Combine our lives into one; let us complete one another. We know
in each day to come we'll grow together, and in the days yet to see, we hope together we'll
be a light for others to see your love, your light, through us, Lord.*

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter Psalm 81:1, 10–16

Leader: *Sing with joy to God our strength, and raise a loud shout to the God of Jacob.*
People: **I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt.
Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.**
Leader: *Yet my people did not hear my voice, and Israel would not obey me.*
People: **So I gave them over to the stubbornness of their hearts,
and to follow their own devices.**

Leader: *O that my people would listen to me, that Israel would walk in my ways!*

People: I would quickly subdue their enemies and turn my hand against their foes.

Leader: *Those who hate the Lord would cringe in fear,
and their punishment would last forever.*

People: But I would feed you with the finest wheat
and satisfy you with honey from the rock.

Leader: *Amen.*

*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.

Scripture Lesson :: Luke 14:1, 7–14 New Testament, page 72

Sermon Shannon J. Kershner

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 722 “Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak”

*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

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

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" Morgan Simmons

Offering

Offertory Anthem :: "A Jubilant Song" Mary Lynn Lightfoot

Sing to the Lord a new, jubilant song; sing to the Lord all the earth!

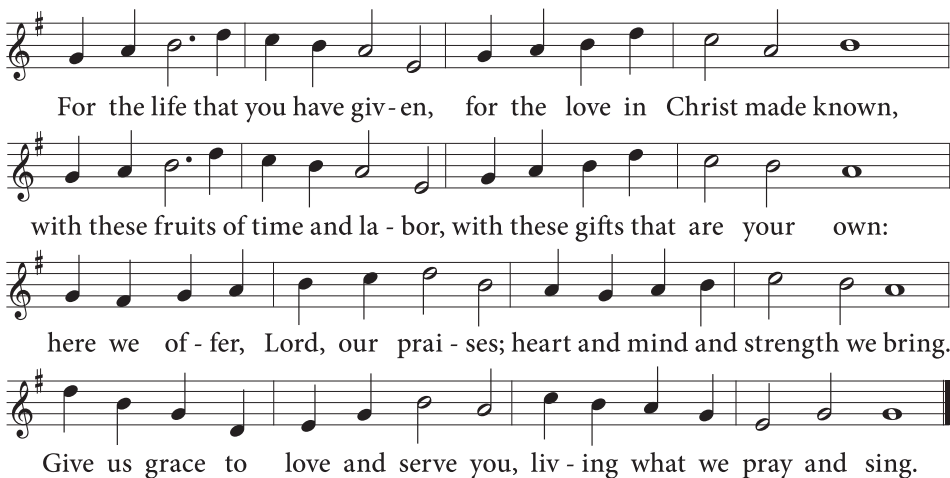
Let the sea roar and the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy.

Let the heavens and the earth all rejoice, for the Lord is greatly to be praised.

Proclaim God's salvation; declare God's great glory.

Lift up a jubilant song and make a joyful noise.

*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*)

Blessed are you, God of all creation:

through your goodness we have these gifts to share.

Accept and use our offerings for your glory

and for the service of your reign. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 726 “Will You Come and Follow Me”

*Benediction and Response

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

Postlude ♫ Tuba Tune in E Major E. H. Thiman

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: 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 thanks-giving 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 Rocky Supinger, Don Allerton, Lucy Forster-Smith, Shannon J. Kershner

11:00 Rocky Supinger, Dave Miller, Lucy Forster-Smith, Shannon J. Kershner

The Music Today

Women's Choir

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

Worship Notes

FOURTH CHURCH OFFERS A VARIETY of worship opportunities on Sundays, including an 8:00 a.m. Communion service and a jazz service with Communion at 4:00 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel. Today's 4:00 service will be held outdoors in the Michigan Avenue courtyard. 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.

THE BULLETIN COVER quote is from Karoline Lewis's commentary "God's Pro Quo" at www.workingpreacher.org.

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

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.

THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO

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