

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

Gathering around the Word

Prelude :: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel Cecilia McDowall

Introit :: “Our King and Savior Now Draws Near” Iain Quinn

Our King and Savior now draws near; come let us adore him.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be. Amen.

*Doxology (*sung*). The Hymnal, 606

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;

praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Call to Worship

Leader: *O sing a new song! O sing to God, all the earth!*

People: Let the heavens be glad and let the earth rejoice.

Leader: *Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it!*

People: Then shall all the trees of the wood sing for joy before God.

Leader: *For God will come to bring righteousness and truth.*

God will come to God’s people.

People: Let us worship God.

*Hymn 93 “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

God of our salvation, in Christ you have done great things—our hearts are filled with joy. By your power you lifted us out of the desert of sin and brought us with joy and gladness into your kingdom. Salvation is your gift to us. But we confess that often we try to replace your gift with our own efforts. We try to complete what is already perfect; we try to add to what is already full; we try to earn what we already have. Forgive us for our foolishness. Help us to focus on your grace. Help us to live grateful lives in return. O God, you alone know our hearts; hear us as we come before you in silence . . . (*Please hold silence.*)

*Stand as you are able.

Kyrie (*sung*) The Hymnal, 551

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

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.

*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 ♯ “The Desert Shall Rejoice” Malcolm Archer

The desert shall rejoice and blossom as a rose;

it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with praise and singing.

For the ears of the deaf shall hear, and the eyes of the blind shall be opened.

For the tongue of the dumb shall sing, and the lame will dance for joy.

For the ground will become a pool, and the dry land will become springs of water.

As the ransomed return to the Lord, they shall come back singing unto Zion with joy.

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter Psalm 146:5–10



Pre - pare the way of the Lord. Pre-prepare the way of the Lord,



and all peo-ple will see the sal - va - tion of our God.

*Acclamation (*sung*) The Hymnal, 583



Scripture Lesson :: Isaiah 35:1–10. Old Testament, page 623

Sermon :: “Then” Judith L. Watt

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 35 “Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty”

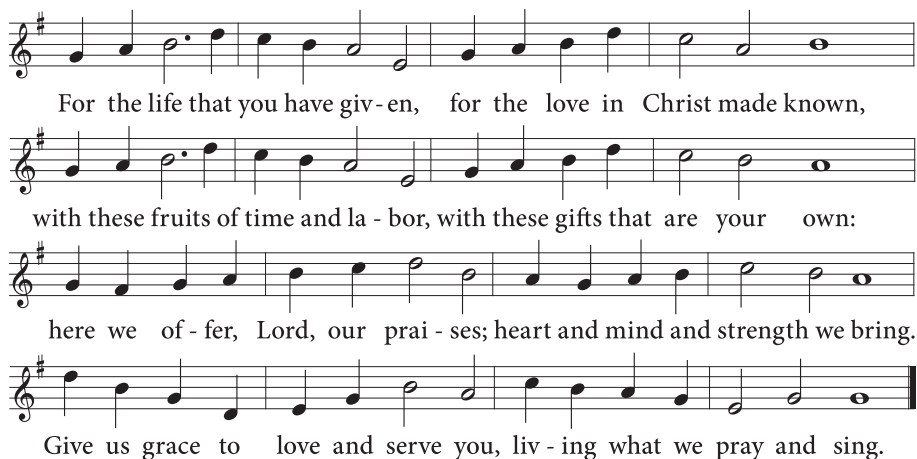
*Affirmation of Faith (*unison*) Apostles’ Creed

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.

Offering

*Offertory Voluntary :: Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming Johannes Brahms

*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, 572

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.

Leader: . . . *Great is the mystery of faith:*

Memorial Acclamation (*sung*). The Hymnal, 573

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

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

The Communion

Communion Anthem :: "The Eyes of All Wait upon Thee" Jean Berger

The eyes of all wait upon thee; and thou givest them their meat in due season.

Thou openest thine hand and satisfies the desires of every living thing.

Prayer after Communion (*unison*)

O God, you have so greatly loved us,

long sought us, and mercifully redeemed us.

Give us grace, that in everything we may yield ourselves,

our wills, and our works,

a continual thank offering to you,

through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 357 "The Days Are Surely Coming"

*Benediction and Response

Postlude :: Toccata from *Symphony V* Charles-Marie Widor

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. The invitation to the Lord's Supper is not just for Presbyterians or "members of the church."

Even one who doubts or whose trust is wavering may receive the bread and grape juice (in place of wine) in order to be assured of God's love and grace in Jesus Christ.

Worship Leaders

Rocky Supinger, Judith L. Watt

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Maggie Shreve, Lance Tines

The Music Today

Chancel Choir; Laura Perkett, oboist

John W. W. Sherer, Organist and Director of Music; Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

Worship Notes

THE “LIGHT UP A LIFE” OFFERING is being received throughout Advent. “Light Up a Life” provides opportunity to support congregational programs, mission, and community outreach, including Chicago Lights programs. “Light Up a Life” gifts can be made using the special offering envelopes found in the pew racks or by writing “Light Up a Life” on the memo line of a check made payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church. You can also make your gift using Venmo (@Fourth-Church) or online (at www.fourthchurch.org/give-online).

If you give electronically or make your contributions on a monthly or annual basis, we encourage you to take part in today’s offering by placing in the offering plate an “I give” card that you will find in the pew racks.

THIS MORNING’S POSTLUDE is played to celebrate the ministry of Judy Watt. The postlude at Judy’s ordination was the “Toccata” from Charles-Marie Widor’s *Fifth Symphony*, so this music becomes a bookend to her years of service and ministry.

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

Maggie Shreve Parish Associate for Jail Ministry

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
