

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

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Tidings of Joy Johann Sebastian Bach; arr. Joseph Clokey
Rondeau Jean François Dandrieu
Lullaby from *Suite No. 2* Calvin Hampton
Noël Aaron David Miller

Introit :: “Alleluia. To Us a Child Is Born” Iain Quinn

Alleluia. To us a child is born; come, let us adore him, alleluia. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. 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; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.† Amen.

*Call to Worship

Leader: *We were heavy with sorrow but joy interrupted.
We were silent with sadness but the heavens rang.*

People: **Glory to God in the highest!**

Leader: *We were hardened by conflict but love intervened.
We were haunted by fears but a child brought us hope.*

People: **Glory to God in the highest!**

Leader: *We were dismal and defeated but faith set us on fire.
We were doubtful and confused but a door to life was opened.*

People: **Glory to God in the highest!**

Leader: *We were sheep who had lost their way but the shepherd knew our names.
We were children far from home but in the Holy One have found our way.*

People: **Glory to God in the highest! For to us a child is born.**

*Prayer of Praise

*Hymn 132 “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

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

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

God of all seasons, as this calendar year draws to a close,
we confess that at times we have focused so much on our own lives and desires
that we have neglected to hear the voice of your children.
Cries for healing echo from the hurt and weary.
Cries for justice billow from people and communities abused and neglected.
In the midst of so much pain
you have come among us to show the wonders of your love.
Forgive us for cynically persisting as those without hope.
Relieve us, O Lord, of our shortsightedness.
Holy Child of Bethlehem, Word Became Flesh,
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today. Amen.

Concerns of the Church

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter Psalm 148

Leader: *Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise God in the heights.*

People: Praise the Lord, all you angels;
sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.

Leader: *Praise the Lord, sun and moon;
sing praise, all you shining stars.*

People: Praise the Lord, heaven of heavens,
and you waters above the heavens.

Leader: *Let them praise the name of the Lord,
who commanded and they were created,*

People: who made them stand fast forever and ever,
giving them a law which shall not pass away.

Leader: *Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;*

People: **fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**

Leader: *mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;*

People: **wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds;**

Leader: *sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;*

People: **young men and maidens, old and young together.**

Leader: *Let them praise the name of the Lord, whose name only is exalted,
whose splendor is over earth and heaven.*

People: **The Lord has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful
servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near the Lord. Hallelujah!**

Scripture Lesson :: Genesis 3:1–15 Old Testament, page 2

Hymn 378 “We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom”

Scripture Lesson :: Genesis 9:8–17 Old Testament, page 7

Hymn 106 “Prepare the Way, O Zion”

Scripture Lesson :: Isaiah 9:2–7 Old Testament, page 600

Anthem :: “A Child Is Born in Bethlehem” Samuel Scheidt

A child is born in Bethlehem, alleluia, and joy is in Jerusalem, alleluia.

Rejoice, sing high, sing low, alleluia, benedicamus Domino, alleluia.

To thee, O Lord, be glory paid, alleluia; thou Son of Mary, mother maid, alleluia.

To holy Trinity give praise, alleluia, with Deo gracias always, alleluia.

Scripture Lesson :: Luke 1:26–38 New Testament, page 53

Hymn 98 “To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary”

Scripture Lesson :: Luke 2:8–19 New Testament, page 54

Anthem :: “Christmas Hymn” Hugo Jüngst

*While by my sheep I watched at night, glad tidings brought an angel bright,
how great my joy! Praise we the Lord in heaven on high.*

“There shall be born,” so he did say, “in Bethlehem a child today.

There shall he lie, in manger mean, who shall redeem the world from sin.”

Lord, evermore to me be nigh, then shall my heart be filled with joy.

Scripture Lesson :: John 1:1-14 New Testament, page 86
 Carol 110 “Love Has Come”
 Scripture Lesson :: Revelation 22:1-5, 12-13, 16-17 New Testament, page 245
 *Carol 134 “Joy to the World”

Responding to the Word

*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*)

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.

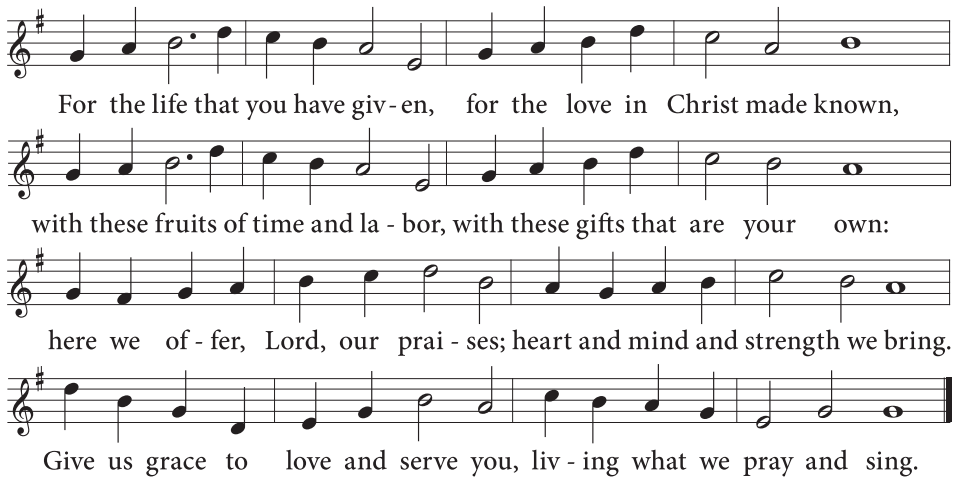
Prayer Response :: “Amen” Morgan Simmons

Offering

Offertory Anthem :: “Ding-dong! Merrily on High” French carol; arr. Charles Wood

*Ding-dong! Merrily on high in heaven the bells are ringing.
Ding-dong! Verily the sky is riven with angel singing.
Gloria, hosanna in excelsis! E'en so here below let steeple bells be swungen
and i-o be by priest and people sungen.
Pray you, dutifully prime your Matin chime, ye ringers;
may you beautifully rime your eve-time song, ye singers.*

*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*)

God whose love knows no ending, you sent us your Word made flesh to offer
life, hope, and peace. As we place our gifts upon your table, we commit ourselves
to sharing this precious grace with all whom we encounter this and every day.
Through Jesus, born for all, we pray. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 136 “Go Tell It on the Mountain”

*Benediction and Response

Postlude :: Angels We Have Heard on High. French carol; arr. Christopher Uelein

Worship Leaders

Jeff Doane, Colleen Mraz (9:30), Arlene Faulk (11:00), Joseph L. Morrow

The Music Today

Morning Choir

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

Worship Notes

THE “LIGHT UP A LIFE” OFFERING is being received throughout the Christmas season. “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.

WE ARE LIVE STREAMING TODAY’S 11:00 A.M. SERVICE at www.bit.ly/FPCworship, where it can also be watched in the coming week.

THE BULLETIN COVER IMAGE depicts snow falling in front of the Michigan Avenue cloister on a winter night. The cover quote is from Madeline L’Engle’s book *The Summer of the Great Grandmother*.

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

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: The Call to Worship is adapted from Kenneth I. Morse (rockhay.tripod.com). Hymn tune names—as well as composers of the music and authors of the text—are listed in the hymnal with each hymn. The Prayer of Confession is adapted from ruminari.wordpress.com.

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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