

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

Gathering around the Word

Prelude :: Star of Hope Richard Keys Biggs

Introit :: “What Child Is This” English Ballad

*What child is this, who laid to rest, on Mary’s lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste, to bring him laud, the babe, the Son of Mary!*

*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: *God says, “Sing aloud with gladness!
Raise shouts for the chief of the nations.”*

People: Save your people, O Lord!

Leader: *The prophet says, “The Lord will gather the people from exile;*

People: *God will turn their sorrow into joy.”*

*Hymn 150 “As with Gladness Men of Old”

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Eternal God, a thousand years in your sight are like a watch in the night. Though you have led us in days past, we have not always followed. We have pursued our own ends, our own desires, our own ambitions. We have ignored your leading—at times neglecting the needy, dismissing the difficult, resisting good news. Forgive us and guide us now and always, that our hearts may learn to choose your will and new resolves be strengthened; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Stand as you are able.

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

Antem # “O Nata Lux” Thomas Tallis

*O born of light, you are light indeed, Jesus, our Savior in need. Abide with us and be near,
hear our praise and prayer. In human flesh you came and paid with your life for all sinners.
Grant that we may reach our goal, to be made one with you in heart and soul.*

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter Psalm 147:12–20

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*Acclamation (*sung*). The Hymnal, 583

Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est!

Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 152 “What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright”

*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.

Minute for Mission

Offering

Offertory Voluntary :: O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright Johann Pachelbel

*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 :: "Raise a Song of Gladness" Jacques Berthier

Raise a song of gladness, peoples of the earth.

Christ has come, bringing peace, joy to every heart, alleluia.

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 151 “We Three Kings of Orient Are”

*Benediction and Response

Postlude :: What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright Aaron David Miller

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

The Music Today

Chancel Choir

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

Worship Notes

TODAY'S MINUTE FOR MISSION is presented by Mairlyn Ezri on behalf of the Employment Network, a partnership between Fourth Church and the St. Sabina Employment Resource Center.

THE "LIGHT UP A LIFE" OFFERING is 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.

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: 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 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
