

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

Gathering around the Word

*Prelude

- Toccata and Fugue in F Major Dieterich Buxtehude
Petite Suite Gabriel Pierné
 Pastorale—Petite Gavotte—Guardian Angel
Swing Low, Sweet Chariot African American spiritual; arr. Dan Locklair

*Introit :: “Eternal Light” Leo Sowerby

*Eternal light, shine into our hearts; eternal goodness, deliver us from evil;
eternal power, be our support; eternal wisdom, scatter the darkness of our ignorance;
eternal pity, have mercy upon us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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: *God of the prophets, call to us today.*
People: **Call us into your ways of love, justice, and righteousness.**
Leader: *God of the poets, remind us again how much you love us.*
People: **Sing to us your ways of love, justice, and righteousness.**
Leader: *God of the disciples, teach us how to follow you.*
People: **Teach us your ways of love, justice, and righteousness.**
Leader: *For you are our home and you are our way. Amen.*

*Prayer of Praise

*Hymn 408 “There’s a Sweet, Sweet Spirit”

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

*Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Patient God, we try to stop Jesus from coming into our lives
for we know how disruptive he can be.
He wants us to preach the gospel with our whole selves,
but we prefer to look away or complain how hard that is to do.
He wants us to do what is right,
yet doing nothing comes so easily for some of us.
He would like us not to give up until justice is done,
until your righteousness is flowing down and covering all your people,
but we just don't seem to have the time.
We confess because we know we need to be forgiven by you, Glory and Grace.
Bathe us in the life-giving waters of your mercy so we can come up from the water,
ready to live baptism-shaped lives; ready to give you all the praise;
ready to learn justice, grace, and hope from your servant, Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Declaration of Pardon

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

*Concerns of the Church

*Anthem :: "Almighty God" Duke Ellington; arr. Anders Öhrwall

O God, almighty God, has those angels away up there above weaving sparkling fabrics just for you and me to love. Almighty God has those angels up in the proper place, waiting to receive and to welcome us and remake us in grace. Wash your face and hands and hearts and soul, 'cause you wash so well, so God will keep you safely where there's no sulfur smell. Almighty God has those angels as ready as can be, waiting to dress, caress, and bless us all in perpetuity.

Listening for the Word

*Prayer for Illumination

*Psalter Psalm 40:1-11

Leader: *I waited patiently upon the Lord, who stooped to me and heard my cry.*
People: The Lord lifted me out of the desolate pit, out of the miry clay,
and set my feet upon a high cliff, making my footing sure.

Leader: *The Lord put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God;
many shall see, and stand in awe, and they shall trust the Lord.*

People: **Happy are they who put their trust in the Lord!**
They do not turn to enemies or to those who follow lies.

Leader: *Great are the wonders you have done, O Lord my God!
In your plans for us none can be compared with you!
Oh, that I could make them known and tell them!
But they are more than I can count.*

People: **Sacrifice and offering you do not desire;
you have opened my ears:
burnt-offering and sin-offering you have not required.**

Leader: *And so I said, "Here I am; I come.
In the scroll of the book it is written of me:*

People: **'I love to do your will, O my God; your law is deep within me.'**"

Leader: *I proclaimed righteousness in the great assembly;
I have not restrained my lips, O Lord, you know.*

People: **I have not hidden your righteousness in my heart;
I have spoken of your faithfulness and your deliverance;
I have not concealed your steadfast love and truth from the great assembly.**

Leader: *You are the Lord; do not withhold your compassion from me;
may your steadfast love and your truth continually keep me safe.*

*Gloria Patri (*sung*) The Hymnal, 581

**Glory 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 :: John 1:29–42 New Testament, page 86

*Sermon Shannon J. Kershner

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 450 "Be Thou My Vision"

†Or "to the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Ghost."

*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.

New Members (11:00)

Prayers of the People

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

*Prayer Response :: "Amen" John Stainer

*Minute for Mission

*Offering

*Offertory Anthem :: "Simple Gifts" Shaker tune; arr. René Clausen

*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.

*Litany of Dedication and Commitment

Leader: *God of all races and nations,
we praise you for all your faithful servants
who have done justice, loved mercy, and walked humbly with you.
For apostles, martyrs, leaders, and saints
and for humble folks whose names never made the news
but are recorded in your book of life,*

People: we give you thanks, O God.

Leader: *Especially this day we thank you for our brother Martin,
for his courage and conviction, for his passion for peace,
and for his tireless quest of a nation that keeps faith with its promises;*

People: we give you thanks, O God.

Leader: *For the countless saints who stood in the front lines and marches,
integrated schools, restaurants, and churches,
or sat in buses and at lunch counters and refused to move,*

People: we give you thanks, O God.

Leader: *For nameless multitudes who suffered the tortures of slavery and the tyranny
of oppression, who were beaten and lynched, and for the nameless multitudes
today whose lives are stunted and cut short by our structures of brutality,*

People: we grieve and promise to work for justice, O God.

Leader: *And for our siblings of every race and nation who long for safety, freedom,
and hope in our community and land,*

People: we grieve and promise to work for justice, O God.

Leader: *Lead and guide us, that we may follow the way of Jesus Christ, who lives
and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.*

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 339 “Lift Every Voice and Sing”

*Benediction and Response

*Postlude :: A Trumpet Minuet Alfred Hollins

Worship Leaders

9:30 Jeff Doane, Elaine Filus, Joseph L. Morrow, Shannon J. Kershner

11:00 Jeff Doane, Pamela Spann, Joseph L. Morrow, Shannon J. Kershner

The Music Today

Morning Choir

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

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

Worship Notes

THIS WEEKEND WE JOIN CHURCHES AND COMMUNITIES across the nation in honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who was born ninety-one years ago, on January 15, 1929. As we do so, we read again these words Dr. King wrote from the Birmingham Jail in April 1963, excerpted from his letter that was first printed in the *Christian Century*: “Human progress never rolls in on the wheels of inevitability; it comes through the tireless effort of men and women willing to be coworkers with God, and without the hard work, time itself becomes an ally of the forces of stagnation. We must use time creatively, in the knowledge that the time is always ripe to do right.”

TODAY’S MINUTE FOR MISSION is presented by Andy McGaan and Dianne Blanco, co-chairs of the Chicago Lights Gala of Hope Committee.

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 photo depicts the underside of the sounding board over the pulpit.

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 and Prayer of Confession are adapted from www.rev-o-lution.org.

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

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