

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

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## Gathering around the Word

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Prelude # Swing Low, Sweet Chariot . . . . . African American spiritual; arr. Dan Locklair

Introit # “Eternal Light” . . . . . Leo Sowerby

\*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 of our ancestors and God of our dreams,  
you have created us all in your image and in your likeness,*

People: and so we have the courage to dream the impossible.

Leader: *You spoke into the darkness and created light,*

People: and so we have the courage to dream the impossible.

Leader: *You have delivered your people through trials and tribulations  
since the beginning of time, right up until this present moment,*

People: and so we have the courage to dream the impossible.

Leader: *God, you have been the guiding light along the paths of hope and love,  
leading toward a beloved community where all are fully seen and loved,*

People: and so we still have the courage to dream the impossible.

\*Hymn 66 . . . . . “Every Time I Feel the Spirit”

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

God of justice and mercy, we confess that we have silenced our prophets, and all whose voices speak out for justice, because they make us uncomfortable. We have silenced our own voices in the calls to end oppression and violence by giving in to weariness and discouragement. We avoid the looks of the poor because they embarrass us. We want revenge on our enemies, feeding cycles of hatred. Forgive us, Lord, for repeating the mistakes of our ancestors, who ignored and killed their prophets. Forgive us for not following your call on our own lives. Strengthen us to be your instruments of transformative love. In the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

## 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 :: “Sometimes a Light Surprises” . . . . . Gustav Holst; arr. Mark Hill

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## Listening for the Word

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## Prayer for Illumination

Canticle . . . . . Isaiah 49:1-7

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

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\*Hymn 834 . . . . . “Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

\*Litany of Dedication . . . . . from “I Have a Dream” by Martin Luther King Jr.

Leader: *Even though we must face difficulties today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed—we hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men [and women] are created equal.*

People: I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia, sons [and daughters] of former slaves and sons [and daughters] of former slaveowners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood [and sisterhood.]

Leader: *I have a dream my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.*

People: I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places shall be made plain, and the crooked places shall be made straight, and the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together.

Leader: *When we allow freedom to ring from every town and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God’s children—black men [and women] and white men [and women], Jews and Gentiles, Catholics and Protestants—will be able to join hands and to sing in the words of the old . . . spiritual:*

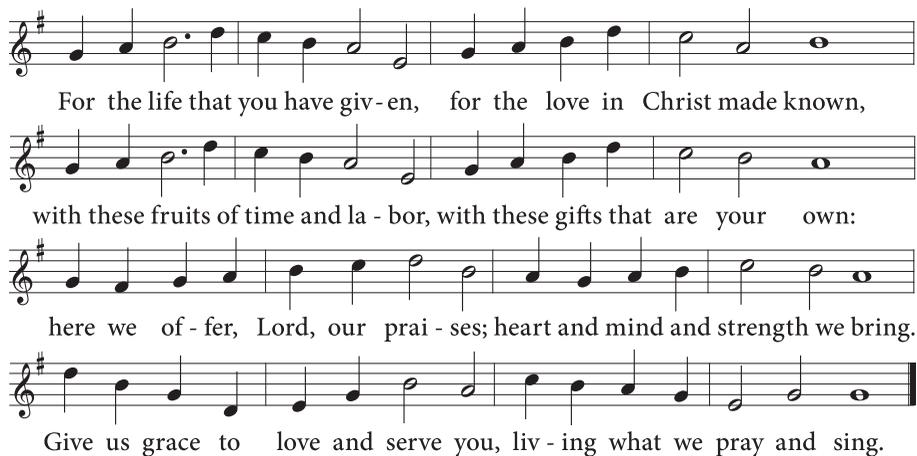
People: “Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!”

Minute for Mission

Offering

Offertory Voluntary :: Sicilienne . . . . . Maria Theresia von Paradis

## \*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.

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## Sealing the Word

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### 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 :: “Let Us Break Bread Together” . . . . . African American spiritual  
arr. Robert Lehman

*Let us break bread together on our knees; when I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,  
O Lord, have mercy on me. Let us drink wine together on our knees; when I fall on my knees,  
with my face to the rising sun, O Lord, have mercy on me. Let us praise God together on our  
knees; when I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun, O Lord, have mercy on me.*

Prayer after Communion (*unison*)

God of Jesus Christ and all our prophets: on this day when we honor the legacy of  
Dr. King, help us to carry forth your call to justice and radically inclusive love. Grant  
us courage to stand with the oppressed, to lift up the poor, to care for the earth, to live  
into Christ’s ways of peace. Fire us up to build a better future for all people. Amen.

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Bearing the Word into the World

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\*Hymn 700 . . . . . “I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me”

\*Benediction and Response

Postlude :: Prelude to a Te Deum . . . . . Marc-Antoine Charpentier

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

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Matt Helms, Marsha Heizer, Victoria G. Curtiss

## The Music Today

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Chancel Choir; Laura Perkett, oboist

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

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

Laura Bottei, Organ Scholar

## Worship Notes

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TODAY'S MINUTE FOR MISSION is presented by Andy McGaan, co-chair of the Chicago Lights Gala of Hope Committee.

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.”

THE BULLETIN COVER IMAGE depicts one of the windows in the south aisle, created in the Gothic style known as “Flamboyant” [flaming] because the stone tracery resembles tongues of fire.

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**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**

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