

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

Gathering around the Word

Prelude :: Pastorale César Franck

Introit :: “Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises” South African song

Hallelujah! We sing your praises; all our hearts are filled with gladness.

Christ the Lord to us said, “I am wine, I am bread, give to all who hunger.”

*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.

*Invocation

*Hymn 625 “How Great Thou Art”

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

God of light and love,

we have been so blind when your truth has been so clear.

When we could have looked ahead we fell behind.

When we could have viewed the wider picture we saw only a part.

When we could have sensed the Spirit leading we missed the way.

Forgive our dim apprehension of love’s clear leading.

Give us faith that trusts when it cannot see,

and illumine us by your Word and sacrament,

that we might follow your paths once more. 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.”

*Stand as you are able.

Concerns of the Church

Anthem :: “O for a Closer Walk” Charles V. Stanford

*O for a closer walk with God, a calm and heavenly frame;
a light to shine upon the road that leads me to the lamb.
Return, O holy dove, sweet messenger of rest;
I hate the sins that made thee mourn and drove thee from my breast.
So shall my walk be close with God, calm and serene my frame;
so purer light shall mark the road that leads me to the lamb.*

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lesson :: Micah 6:1–8 Old Testament, page 816

Psalter Psalm 15



*Acclamation (*sung*) The Hymnal, 583



Scripture Lesson :: Matthew 5:1–12 New Testament, page 4

Sermon :: “Blessings and Requirements” Matt Helms

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 749 “Come! Live in the Light!”

*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,

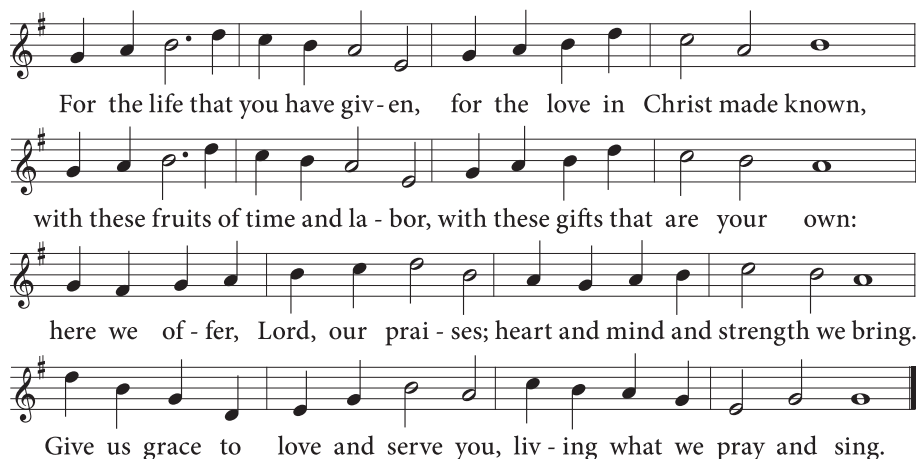
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

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 ♯ I Call to You, Lord Jesus Christ Johann Sebastian Bach

*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 :: "As before His Table" Gabriel Fauré

As before his table kneeling, we this sacrament revere;

ancient mysteries revealing, give the sign to eye and ear;

faith, our outward senses sealing, makes our inward vision clear.

Glory let us give, and blessing to the Father and the Son,

Holy Spirit praise addressing, ever three and ever one,

ever to his love confessing while eternal ages run. Amen.

Prayer after Communion (*unison*)

Amazing God, you come into our ordinary lives
and set a holy table among us,
filling our plates with the bread of life
and our cups with salvation.
Send us out, O God, with tenderheartedness
to touch an ordinary, everyday world
with the promise of your holiness. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 543 “God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me”

*Benediction and Response

Postlude :: Fanfare Jacques Nicolas Lemmons

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 Lord’s Supper is the sign and seal of eating and drinking in communion with the crucified and risen Lord. In this act, we remember that during his earthly ministry, Jesus shared meals with his followers and sat at dinner tables as a sign of acceptance of the sinner and the outcast.

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

Lucy Forster-Smith, John Phillips, Matt Helms

The Music Today

Chancel Choir

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

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

Laura Bottei, Organ Scholar

Worship Notes

THE BANNERS DISPLAYED IN THE SANCTUARY are based on seven statements attributed to Jesus Christ in the Gospel according to John in which Jesus declares “I am . . . the Resurrection and the Life; the Bread of Life; the Light of the World; the Gate; the Good Shepherd; the Way, the Truth, and the Life; and the Vine.” The banners were designed and created by Associate Pastor Victoria G. Curtiss.

THE BULLETIN COVER IMAGE depicts one of the ceiling canvases over the south aisle.

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 Church logo (*front cover*) is based on the Great East Window in the Sanctuary.

THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO

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