

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

Gathering around the Word

Prelude :: Trio in G Minor Josef Rheinberger

Introit :: “Come, and Let Us Sweetly Join Christ” Morgan Simmons

Come, and let us sweetly join Christ to praise in hymns divine.

Give we all, with one accord, glory to our common Lord.

*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: *Come, love the Lord your God!*

Let your eyes gleam with joy at the reunion of your spirits.

People: **God is the father who holds us when we tremble,**

the mother who cries over us when we are lost.

Leader: *Hear and obey the sound of God’s voice.*

Let your ears catch the step as God approaches the door.

People: **God is the parent who taught us to climb the stairs,**

who catches us from falling and lets us try again.

Leader: *Cling to God’s hands, wrap your arms around God’s knees.*

Let your hearts warm at being welcomed home.

People: **We praise and thank God for showing us**

how to live by his will and walk in her ways.

*Hymn 749 “Come! Live in the Light!”

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Though you are greater than even the most loving human parent, God,
we have an end to our patience and a limit to our strength.
Our faith wavers, our hope dims, our love stumbles over pride.
Sometimes when we offer our gifts to you there is no joy in our giving.
Help us to remember the words and actions
that may be cutting us off from our neighbors
and blocking our full engagement in sharing and in building community.
Give us insight, humility, and courage to seek forgiveness
and accomplish reconciliation; in the name of 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 :: “I’m Going to Sing” African American spiritual; arr. Ronald Anderson

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter Psalm 119:1-8

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!

Scripture Lesson :: Matthew 5:21–26 New Testament, page 4

Sermon :: “You Go First” Victoria G. Curtiss

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 445 “God, How Can We Forgive”

*Affirmation of Faith (*unison*) Romans 8:28, 37–39

We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus:
and we know that in everything God works for good with those who love God
and are called according to God’s purpose.

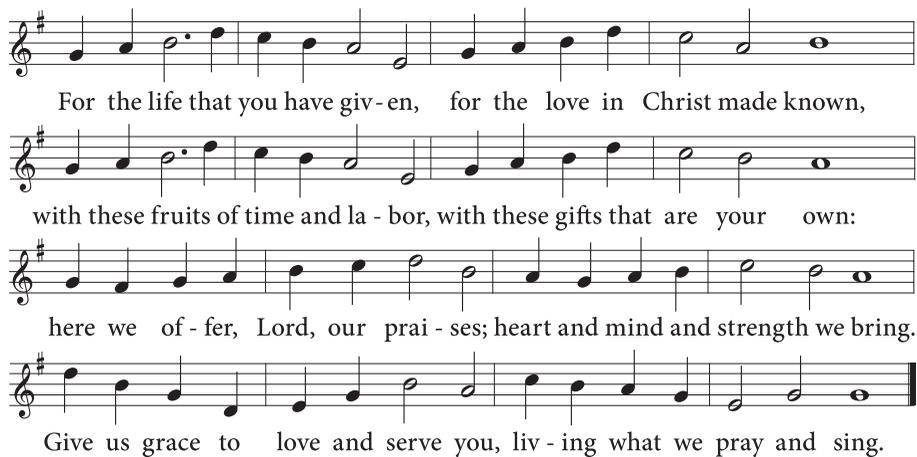
We are convinced that neither death nor life,
nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,
nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Minute for Discipleship

Offering

Offertory Solo :: “Ride on, King Jesus” African American spiritual; arr. Hall Johnson

*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 :: “O Sacrum Convivium” Robert Lee
*O sacred banquet in which Christ is received, the memory of his passion renewed,
the mind is filled with grace, and a pledge of future glory is given to us. Alleuia.*

Prayer after Communion (*unison*)

Gracious God, who called us from death to life, we give ourselves to you;
and with the church through all ages
we thank you for your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 753 “Make Me a Channel of Your Peace”

*Benediction and Response

Postlude :: Aria Pastorella Valentin Rathgeber

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

Matt Helms, Larry Thomas, Victoria G. Curtiss

The Music Today

Chancel Choir; Bill McMurry, soloist

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

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

Laura Bottei, Organ Scholar

Worship Notes

TODAY'S MINUTE FOR DISCIPLESHIP is presented by Sarah Younger on behalf of the Spiritual Formation Council.

AT THE TIME OF THE OFFERING, whether you give through Venmo (@Fourth-Church), online via our website, electronically via automatic debits to your bank or credit card, or make your contributions monthly, quarterly, or annually, we want you to take part in our communal offering of our gifts. If you give in one of these ways, we encourage you to use the "I give" cards, which you will find in the pew racks. As others place envelopes, checks, or cash into the offering plate, we invite you to acknowledge your giving in other forms by placing one of the "I give" cards into the offering plate.

THE BANNERS DISPLAYED IN THE SANCTUARY are based on six statements attributed to Jesus Christ in the Gospel according to John in which Jesus declares "I am . . . 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 the large hanging sculpture in Buchanan Chapel, as photographed from Chestnut Street at night.

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 Phyllis Cole and Everett Tilson (*Litanies and Other Prayers: Year A*). 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.

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