

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

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Light of a Clear Blue Morning Dolly Parton; arr. Craig Hella Johnson
I Will Arise and Go Shawn Kirchner
For He Shall Give His Angels Charge over Thee Felix Mendelssohn
Grazioso Arnold B. Sherman

Introit

“God Be in My Head” Will Nichols
God be in my head and in my understanding.
God be in my eyes and in my looking.
God be in my mouth and in my speaking.
God be in my heart and in my thinking.
God me in my end and in my departing.

*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: *O come, let us sing to the Lord*
and shout with joy to the rock of our salvation!
People: Let us come into God’s presence with thanksgiving,
singing joyful songs of praise.

*Prayer of Praise

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

*Hymn 193 “Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain”

Litany of Confession (*unison*)

Eternal God, our judge and redeemer,
we confess that we have tried to hide from you,
for we have done wrong.
We have lived for ourselves and apart from you.
We have turned from our neighbors and refused to bear the burdens of others.
We have ignored the pain of the world
and passed by the hungry, the poor, and the oppressed.
In your great mercy forgive our sins and free us from selfishness,
that we may choose your will and obey your commandments;
through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

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

Concerns of the Church

Anthem :: “A Nywe Werk” Sean Doherty

*A nywe werk is come on honde, thorw might and grace of God ys sonde.
To save the lost of every londe, for now is fre that erst was bonde. Alleluia.*

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter Psalm 99

Leader: *The Lord is king; let the people tremble.
The Lord is enthroned upon the cherubim;
let the earth shake.*

People: The Lord, great in Zion,
is high above all peoples.

Leader: *Let them confess God's name,
which is great and awesome;
God is the Holy One.*

People: **O mighty king, lover of justice, you have established equity;
you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.**

Leader: *Proclaim the greatness of the Lord
and fall down before God's footstool;
God is the Holy One.*

People: **Moses and Aaron among your priests,
and Samuel among those who call upon your name, O Lord
they called upon you, and you answered them,**

Leader: *you spoke to them out of the pillar of cloud;
they kept your testimonies and the decree that you gave them.*

People: **O Lord our God, you answered them indeed;
you were a God who forgave them,
yet punished them for their evil deeds.**

Leader: *Proclaim the greatness of the Lord
and worship upon God's holy hill;
for the Lord our God is the Holy One.*

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

**Glorify 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 :: Matthew 17:1-9 New Testament, page 17

Reflections

- Confirmation Youth (9:30)
- Senior High Youth (11:00)

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 156 "Sing of God Made Manifest"

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

*Affirmation of Faith (*unison*) Colossians 1:15–20

Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation;
in him all things in heaven and on earth were created,
things visible and invisible.
All things have been created through him and for him.
He himself is before all things,
and in him all things hold together.
He is head of the body, the church;
he is the beginning, the firstborn of the dead,
so that he might come to have first place in everything.
For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,
and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things,
whether on earth or in heaven,
by making peace through the blood of his cross. Amen.

Prayers of the People

The Lord’s Prayer (*unison*)

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Prayer Response :: “O Lord, Hear Our Prayer” Eric H. Thiman

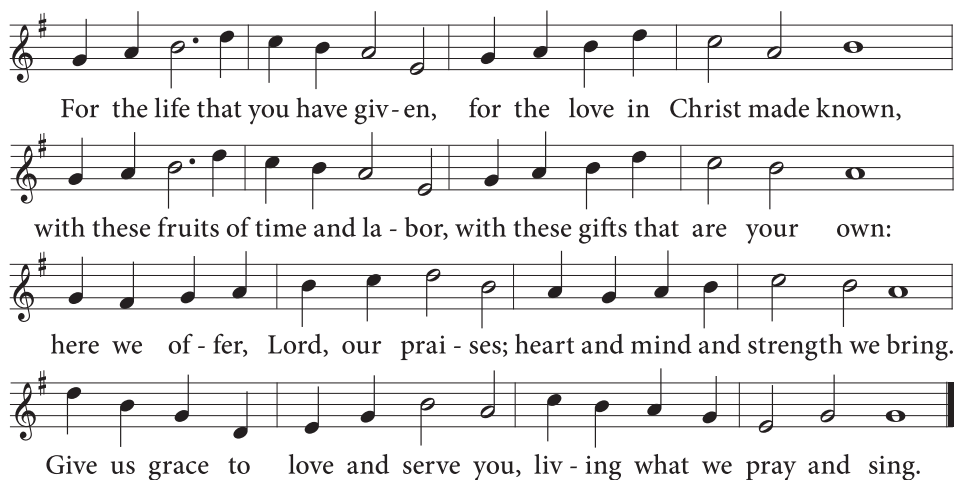
O Lord, hear our prayer, and let our cry come before thee.

Offering

Offertory Anthem :: “Song of Simeon” Will Nichols

*Lord, let now thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word,
for mine eyes have seen thy salvation,
which thou has prepared in the presence of all peoples;
a light as revelation to the Gentiles, and a glory to thy people Israel.*

*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.

*Prayer of Dedication (*unison*)

Dear God, receive our offering.
Guide those who use it,
that it may help to bring fullness of life
to those who live in need and long for our care. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 10 “Sing Glory to the Name of God”

*Benediction and Response

Postlude ♯ In Thee Is Joy Johannes Matthias Michel

Worship Leaders

9:30 Junior High and Confirmation Youth: Will Kozlowski, Delia Marianetti, Henry Turner

11:00 Senior High Youth: Clara Radtke, Luke Meyer

The Music Today

Alma College Choir; Handbell Choir; Members of the Morning Choir

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

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

Briana Belding-Peck, Director of the Handbell Choir

Worship Notes

THE WORDS FOR TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE, including the unison prayers, were crafted with the thoughts, energy, and honesty of Fourth Church youth, modeling for all of us that the best words we can offer to God are those already dwelling in our hearts and minds.

WE ARE LIVESTREAMING today's 11:00 a.m. service at www.bit.ly/FPCworship, where it can also be watched in the coming week.

FOURTH CHURCH WELCOMES THE ALMA COLLEGE CHOIR from Alma, Michigan—one of the fifty-six colleges and universities associated with the Presbyterian Church (USA)—and thanks them for offering their musical gifts this morning.

THE BANNERS DISPLAYED IN THE SANCTUARY are based on six "I am" statements attributed to Jesus Christ in the Gospel according to John. The banners were designed and created by Associate Pastor Victoria G. Curtiss.

THE BULLETIN COVER photo depicts a little bird finding shelter by a planter in the Michigan Avenue courtyard during a snowstorm.

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.

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

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