

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

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Fanfare and Chorus	Dieterich Buxtehude arr. Robert King
The Heavens Declare	Robert Wetzler
Prelude on "Brother James' Air"	Searle Wright arr. Ronald Ruvio
My Spirit Be Joyful	Johann Sebastian Bach arr. Douglas Wagner
All Creatures of Our God and King	German chorale arr. Gordon Schuster

Introit

"The Best of Rooms" Gerald Near
*Christ, he requires still, wheresoe'er he comes to feed or lodge,
to have the best of rooms. Give him the choice;
grant him the nobler part of all the house: the best of all's the heart.*

*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

Minister: *God of Abraham, Sarah and Hagar, Isaac and Rebekah,
all of our spiritual ancestors, draw near to us now.*

People: **Spirit of the living God, fall fresh on us.**

Minister: *God of creation, of water, earth, fire, and wind,
draw near to us now.*

People: **Spirit of the living God, fall fresh on us.**

Minister: *God of wonder, of dazzling light and sheer silence,
mountaintop experiences and shadow valley shepherds,
draw near to us now.*

People: **Melt us, mold us, fill us, use us.**

Minister: *Creator, Spirit, and Christ, fill us with your love and grace
in this time of worship.*

People: **Spirit of the living God, fall fresh on us.**

**Stand as you are able.*

*Prayer of Praise

*Hymn 619 “Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven”

Litany of Confession

Minister: *Lord Jesus Christ, from the moment of your birth in the manger to the empty tomb in the garden, you have always shined brightly with God’s love. But we confess that too often we make your love dull and are more content to conceal it rather than to reveal it. So if we are concealing your love because other priorities prevent us from seeing and serving people in need,*

People: **forgive us, Lord.**

Minister: *If we are concealing your love because all we reflect is our own self-centeredness,*

People: **forgive us, Lord.**

Minister: *If we are concealing your love through our lack of credible witness,*

People: **forgive us, Lord.**

Minister: *If we are concealing your love by our failure to empower those who are powerless,*

People: **forgive us, Lord.**

Minister: *If we are concealing your love because of our hard and unforgiving attitudes,*

People: **forgive us, Lord.**

Minister: *If we are concealing your love because of our prejudice and intolerance,*

People: **forgive us, Lord.**

Minister: *Yes, Holy One, forgive us. And then, we pray you might change us into being a people who shine brightly in this world as living testimonies of your love, your power, and your grace. Amen.*

Declaration of Pardon

Minister: *Friends, believe the good news.*

People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

Concerns of the Church

Anthem

“Resplenduit Facies Ejus” Tomás Luis de Victoria
He was transfigured before them and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them; and there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Alleluia.

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter (*responsively*)

Psalm 50:1–6. Old Testament, page 491

*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

Mark 9:2–9. New Testament, page 41

Minister: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon. Shannon J. Kershner

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 189 “O Wondrous Sight, O Vision Fair”

*Affirmation of Faith (*unison*) from “The Confession of 1967”
in *The Book of Confessions*, PC(USA)

In Jesus Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself.
We confess that Jesus Christ is God with us, the eternal Son of the Father,
who became human and lived among us
to fulfill the work of reconciliation.
We believe that the risen Christ is present in the church
by the power of the Holy Spirit to continue and complete his mission.
This work of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
is the foundation of all we say about God, ourselves, and the world.

Reception of New Members (11:00)

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

“Amen” Thomas Morley

Offering

Offertory Anthem

“In Splenditi Nube” Peter Philips

In the shining cloud the Holy Spirit was seen, and the voice of the Father was heard saying, “This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased; hear him.”

A cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice,

“This is my Son, the beloved; listen to him!”

*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*)

Holy God, giver of life,

we thank you for raising us up

and joining us together as one people,

your people, flesh and bone in the body of Christ.

As you have delivered us from death, use our lives and these gifts

to proclaim the good news of new life in you and for you. Amen.


Bearing the Word into the World

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

*Benediction and Response

Postlude

Canzon primi toni Giovanni Gabrieli
arr. R. King



Join us as we answer the Lenten call to thoughtfully take up the gifts of faith—worship, study, prayer, and service—in preparation for Holy Week and Christ’s journey to the cross.

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, February 18

Two services to begin our Lenten journey, both with Communion and the opportunity for the imposition of ashes

12:10 p.m.

Joyce Shin preaching

7:30 p.m.

Victoria G. Curtiss preaching

Lenten Midweek Services

Beginning Wednesday, February 25
at 6:30 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel

“Deep Calls to Deep”

A Lenten Contemplative Retreat

Friday, March 27–Saturday, March 28
The Well in La Grange Park

Refresh and renew your spiritual connection with God using spiritual practices of the church. Take part in worship, guided meditation, journaling, praying with images and psalms, or simply enjoying nature and solitude.

Details are available in the literature racks and at
www.fourthchurch.org/lent-easter

Worship Leaders

9:30 Joyce Shin, Marilee Hopkins, Victoria G. Curtiss, Shannon J. Kershner

11:00 Hardy H. Kim, Marilee Hopkins, Victoria G. Curtiss, Shannon J. Kershner

The Music Today

Tower Brass; the Handbell Choir; the Morning Choir

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

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

Briana Belding-Peck, Director of the Handbell Choir

Matthew Comerford, Artistic Director of Tower Brass

Worship Notes

TOWER BRASS, Fourth Church's brass ensemble, participates in worship services as well as special events and concerts throughout the year.

AS THE BULLETIN HEADINGS remind us, the center of our worship is the Word—by which we mean both Scripture, and also the Living Word of God, Jesus Christ. When Scripture is read and proclaimed, Jesus Christ the Living Word is present by the inward witness of the Holy Spirit. It is this Living Word that is the center of everything we do in worship. That worship follows the pattern we see in Isaiah 6: adoration, confession, absolution, thanksgiving, and service. We listen for the Word of God. We respond in song, affirmation of our faith, prayer, and the giving of our gifts and dedication of our lives, and then God sends us back into the world to live out our faith, looking for God's work all around us.

THE BULLETIN COVER photo depicts the Fourth Church steeple with the sun directly behind it on a foggy June afternoon several years ago. The cover quote is from the poem "Suddenly They Saw Him the Way He Was" in Madeleine L'Engle's book *The Ordering of Love*.

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This worship bulletin is printed on recyclable paper that contains recycled post-consumer waste and is acid free. All bulletins and inserts left in the baskets by the doors are recycled.

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