

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Four Quiet Voluntaries Eric H. Thiman
Allegretto

Introit

“God Be in My Head” John Erickson
God be in my head and in my understanding; God be in mine eyes and in my looking; God be in my mouth and in my speaking; God be in my heart and in my thinking; God be at mine end and at 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

One: Our lives are in God’s hands.

Many: The Merciful One delivers us from our worst selves.

*One: God grants us the mind of Christ to discern the highest good
and to see the glory of God.*

Many: Jesus Christ gives us faith and redeems us with love.

Let us praise God’s Name.

*Hymn 394 “Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation”

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

**We come before you with good intentions, O God,
but we confess that our fears have led to denial.
Our self-interest has prompted false witness.
We have compromised our integrity to avoid criticism.
We have bowed down to idols whose fleeting promises
seem momentarily attractive. We want to do what is right,
but we do not want to suffer. We would like to get rid of the burden
of our mistakes but find it difficult to change.
Deliver us from ourselves, and make us new. Amen.**

Declaration of Pardon

Minister: *Friends, believe the good news.*

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

Concerns of the Church

Anthem

“To My Humble Supplication” Gordon Jacob

*To my humble supplication, Lord, give ear and acceptance;
save thy servant that hath none help nor hope but thee alone.*

*Send relieving gladness to my soul oppressed with sadness,
which from clog of earth set free, winged with zeal flies up to thee.*

*To thee, rich in mercies treasure, and in goodness without measure,
never failing help to those who on thy sure help repose.*

*Heavenly tutor, of thy kindness teach my dullness, guide my blindness,
that my steps thy paths may tread, which to endless bliss do lead.*

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter (*responsively*)

Psalms 19 Old Testament, page 472

First Lesson

Matthew 16:13–19, 21–23 New Testament, page 17

*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.**

Second Lesson

Mark 14:26–31, 53–54, 66–72 New Testament, page 49

Minister: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Upon This Rock Victoria G. Curtiss

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 427 “Jesus Knows the Inmost Heart”

*Affirmation of Faith (*unison*). . . . from *A Brief Statement of Faith* (PCUSA)

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor
and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed
and blessing the children, healing the sick
and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts,
forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.
Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,
Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain
and giving his life for the sins of the world.
God raised Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life,
breaking the power of sin and evil,
delivering us from death to life eternal. Amen.

Offering

Offertory Solo

“My Savior and My God” Ralph Hudson and Jay Althouse

*My life, my love, I give to thee, thou Lamb of God who died for me.
O may I ever faithful be, my Savior and my God.
O thou who died on Calvary, to save my soul and set me free,
I dedicate my life to thee, my Savior and my God.
I live for him who died for me, how richer then my life will be.
I'll bow to him on bended knee, my Savior and my God.*

*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

Minister: *The Lord be with you.*

People: **And also with you.**

Minister: *Lift up your hearts.*

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Minister: *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Prayer

Minister: *It is truly right and our greatest joy . . .*

. . . who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Ho- ly, ho- ly, ho- ly Lord, God of po- wer and might,
hea- ven and earth are full of your glo- ry. Ho- san- na in the high- est. Bles- sed is the
One who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho- san- na in the high- est.

The Lord's Prayer (*unison*)

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.**

The Communion

Communion Anthem

"Lord, for Thy Tender Mercy's Sake" Richard Farrant

*Lord, for thy tender mercy's sake, lay not our sins to our charge,
but forgive that is past and give us grace to amend our sinful lives;
to decline from sin and incline to virtue, that we may walk
in a perfect heart before thee now and evermore.*

Prayer after Communion (*unison*)

God, our help and strength,
you have satisfied our hunger with this Eucharistic meal.
Strengthen our faith and will,
that through the death and resurrection of your Son
we may be led to salvation,
for he is Lord now and forever. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 439 “O My Soul, Bless Your Redeemer”

*Benediction and Response

Postlude

O Bread of Life from Heaven Johannes Brahms

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.)
Worshippers 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.” All who confess Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord are invited to partake of the Lord’s Supper. 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.

THE ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING
is being received throughout Lent. Gifts to this offering support Chicago Lights Tutoring and the Elam Davies Social Service Center as well as the work of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Hunger, and Self-Development of People Programs. To make a “One Great Hour of Sharing” gift, you can use the envelopes in the pew racks or write “Lenten Offering” on the memo line of a check made payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church.

Worship Leaders

Judith L. Watt, Larry Thomas, Victoria G. Curtiss

The Music Today

The Chancel Choir; Cole Seaton, soloist
John W. W. Sherer, Organist and Director of Music
Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist
MJ Chen, Organ Scholar

Worship Notes

OUR LENTEN SERMON SERIES, “WE WERE THERE,” calls us to engage with biblical characters who encountered Christ in his final journey to the cross. Each Sunday’s lectern parament—created by Vicky Curtiss—evokes the theme of that day, and each week the parament from the previous Sunday is added to the Communion Table.

- Sunday, February 22 “Anointing Woman” (Mark 14:3–9)
- Sunday, March 1 “Slave with Cut-off Ear” (Luke 22:39–53)
- Sunday, March 8 “Peter” (Mark 14:28–38, 66–72)
- Sunday, March 15 “High Priest Caiaphas” (Mark 14:53–65)
- Sunday, March 22 “Judas” (Matthew 26:14–16, 47–50)
- Palm Sunday, March 29 “The Crowd/The Mob” (Mark 11:1–11, 15:6–15)
- Good Friday, April 3 “The Centurion” (Mark 15:33–39)
- Easter Sunday, April 5 “The Women at the Tomb” (Mark 16:1–8)

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 by Hope Publishing Co. The music for “Holy, Holy, Holy” is by John Sherer © 1997.

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