

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

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Intermezzo in E-flat Minor Johannes Brahms
Two Sonatas in D Major Domenico Scarlatti

Introit

“Spirit of the Living God” Daniel Iverson
arr. Richard E. Gerig
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Break me, melt me, mold me, fill me.

*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: *Come praise our Creator, love beyond our imagining,
yet closer than our breathing.*
Many: **We come to meet the risen Christ, embodied in our living.**
One: *Come to stand alongside the poor, empowered by the Spirit.*
Many: **We come in solidarity to worship the God of all peoples.**

*Hymn 644 “Give Thanks, O Christian People”

**Stand as you are able.*

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

O God, your word is fruitless when the mighty are not put down,
the humble remain humiliated,
the hungry are not filled, and the rich are.
Make good your word, and begin with us.
We confess that we are alienated from one another.
Our hearts and our ears have been closed to hear the voices of the poor
and share their struggle.
Transform us to be people of peace, compassion, and justice,
and send us away empty with longing
for your promises to come true in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

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

Concerns of the Church

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter

Psalm 133 (*responsively*) Old Testament, page 543

Anthem

“Thou Knowest, Lord, the Secrets of Our Hearts”. Henry Purcell
*Thou knowest, Lord, the secrets of our hearts; shut not thy merciful ears
unto our prayers, but spare us Lord most holy, O God most mighty,
O holy and most merciful Savior, thou most worthy judge eternal, suffer us not.
Suffer us not at one last hour for any pains of death to fall from thee.*

First Lesson

2 Corinthians 4:7–18 New Testament, page 170

Leader: *The Word of the Lord.*
People: Thanks be to God.

*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

Isaiah 65:17-25 Old Testament, page 654

Sermon

Creating Something New Nancy and Shelvis Smith-Mather

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 761 “Called as Partners in Christ’s Service”

*Affirmation of Faith from the United Congregational Church of South Africa

Leader: *As one people within the household of God, in the unity of the faith, in the communion of saints, in love and goodwill to all, let us in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ give ourselves afresh to him and to one another in joyous covenant: promising to walk together with God and one another in all the privileges and duties of our high calling in Christ Jesus.*

All: We believe in God, our Heavenly Father;
we confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior;
we depend on the guidance of the Holy Spirit;
we seek to live in God’s presence
according to all God has made known and will make known to us.
We covenant to Worship, Work, and Witness together
in the fellowship of the church . . .
for the building up of the Body of Christ
and the manifestation of the Kingdom of God on earth.
Alleluia, Amen. Alleluia, Amen. Alleluia, 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

“Amen” Anonymous

Offering

Offertory Anthem

“Rise Up” Tucker Biddlecombe

My Lord taught me to rise up, and I ain't about to let him down. Zacchaeus was a man about four feet high; he heard that Jesus was a passing by; he climbed to the top of that big old tree, and he said, “Hey Jesus, look at me.” Jesus was crucified, dead and gone, long before the struggle for freedom was won, but just when you thought we were all alone, the third day came, and he arose.

*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*)

You call forth eternal hope within us, O God,
 because of your redeeming grace.
 We stand before you ready and eager to serve.
 May our gifts and our lives further your purposes
 and help build your new creation.
 In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 853 “We Are Marching in the Light of God”

*Benediction and Response

Postlude

Allegro Maestoso André Fleury

Worship in the Reformed Tradition

As the headings in our bulletin remind us each week, the center of our worship is **the Word**—by which we mean both Scripture and the Living Word of God, Jesus Christ. Our Scripture witnesses to God and God’s activity. When it 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 (page 597 of the Old Testament): adoration, confession, absolution, thanksgiving, and service. Overwhelmed by God’s majesty and glory, we **gather** together in **praise** offered through song and prayer.

In the face of that great goodness of God, we also see how we fall short of being who we were created to be and so we join in a **prayer of confession**. We then proclaim the **forgiveness** that we know in Jesus Christ. We live our lives in this cycle of realizing where we fall short, being honest to God about that, and then recognizing that God always forgives us, even before the words are on our lips, and lets us start new.

As we listen for the Word of God, **Scripture** is read. The **sermon** is proclaimed. We respond to the Word with thanksgiving, joining in **song** and **affirming our faith**, using words from the Presbyterian Church (USA)’s *Book of Confessions*—whether it be the Apostles’ Creed, a Brief Statement of Faith, or one of the other professions of faith—or words taken directly from Scripture.

Following Jesus’ instruction to pray, in the **Prayers of the People** we bring human need before God in hope, trust, and thanksgiving for God’s faithfulness, concluding with the **Lord’s Prayer**. Our response of thanksgiving also includes the giving of our material goods, bringing to God the **offerings** of our work as symbols of our gratitude and our acknowledgment that everything we have comes from God. In prayer we **dedicate** these gifts and our lives to the work of the church and God’s mission.

God then **sends** us, like Isaiah, back out into the world in service. Our final **hymn** of grateful praise moves directly into a **charge and blessing** to take what we have heard, to take what we have learned, and to actively live it out in the world, looking for God’s work all around us.

Worship Leaders

Victoria G. Curtiss, Jean Marie Koon, Judith L. Watt,
Nancy and Shelvis Smith-Mather

The Music Today

Men of the Chancel and Morning Choirs
Daniel Henry and Brett Potts, soloists
Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

Worship Notes

TODAY WE WELCOME TO THE FOURTH CHURCH PULPIT Nancy and Shelvis Smith-Mather, Presbyterian Church (USA) mission co-workers in South Sudan. They work with the South Sudan Education and Peace Initiative, which Fourth Church has supported the past two years with half of its \$1 million gift to the Presbyterian Church (USA) Joining Hearts and Hands campaign. You can read more about that at www.bit.ly/FPCMissionPartners

THE BULLETIN COVER photograph depicts one of the pendants—evocative of the globe—that hangs from the chandeliers in the Sanctuary.

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.

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Judith L. Watt Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care

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John Buchanan Pastor Emeritus

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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