

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

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Pavane Maurice Ravel
Minuet and Rigaudon M. Ravel
from *Le Tombeau de Couperin*

Introit

“All the Earth Doth Worship Thee” Anonymous
All the earth doth worship thee; angels cry aloud to thee, holy blessed Trinity.

*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: *Sing songs of hope and peace.*

People: God’s love and power have lifted us.

Minister: *Sing songs of mercy and grace.*

People: God’s mercy and forgiveness frame our lives.

Minister: *Thanks be to God for all God’s love and mercy.*

People: Praise be to God for God’s healing power.

Minister: *Let us worship!*

*Prayer of Praise

*Hymn 806 “I’ll Praise My Maker”

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Loving God, we know that you call us to live out our faith each day with acts of generosity and kindness. But we fall short of this ideal. You ask that we love our neighbor as ourselves, but sometimes we are tired or scared, so we restrict our compassion and put up boundaries around care. You desire that we show mercy, especially to those in need, but we can be so self-focused. We might allow our own needs to distract us from even noticing others. Forgive us, O God, and redirect us to follow your lead. Amen.

**Stand as you are able.*

Assurance of Pardon

Minister: *Friends, believe the good news.*

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Concerns of the Church

Minute for Discipleship

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter *(responsively)*

Psalms 125 Old Testament, page 540

Anthem

“Just as a Father” Luigi Cherubini
arr. James Kirby

*Just as a father, full of compassion, offers loving-kindness unto all of his children,
so the Lord is gracious to those who love him.*

First Lesson

Isaiah 35:4–7 Old Testament, page 623

Minister: *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

Mark 7:24-30 New Testament, page 40

Minister: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Shannon J. Kershner

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 693 “Though I May Speak”

*Affirmation of Faith (*unison*) Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. 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" Max Bruch

Offertory Anthem

"Forth in Thy Name" Richard Shepherd
*Forth in thy name, O Lord, I go, my daily labor to pursue.
Thee, only thee, resolved to know in all I think or speak or do.
The task thy wisdom hath assigned, O let me cheerfully fulfill.
In all my works thy presence find and prove thine acceptable will.
Thee may I set at my right hand, whose eyes my inmost substance see,
and labor on at thy command, and offer all my works to thee.
Give me to bear thy easy yoke, and every moment watch and pray,
and still to things eternal look, and hasten to thy glorious day.
For thee delightfully employ whatever thy bounteous grace hath given,
and run my course with even joy, and closely walk with thee to heaven.*

*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*)

O Lord, we have this in common with those around the world:
 You have created us all. You are our God, and we are your people.
 Bless these gifts and the generosity of those who give them,
 that they might feed the hungry, clothe the poor,
 and help those who are in need. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 610 “O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

*Benediction and Response

Postlude

Carillon Herbert Murrill

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

Jeffrey Doane, Andrew McGaan, Judith L. Watt, Shannon J. Kershner

The Music Today

Women of the Chancel and Morning Choirs

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

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

Worship Notes

FOURTH CHURCH EXPRESSES ITS GRATITUDE to the women of the Chancel and Morning Choirs for their musical leadership during morning worship this summer. Beginning next Sunday, the full Chancel Choir and Morning Choir will return to the 8:00 a.m. and the 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. services respectively. Those interested in singing with the Chancel Choir are invited to join their weekly rehearsals, which resume on Thursday, September 10 at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary Choir Loft.

TODAY'S MINUTE FOR DISCIPLESHIP is presented by Ashley Elskus on behalf of the Center for Life and Learning.

THE TEMPORARY ELECTRONIC ORGAN that we have been using since last summer has been moved from the Choir Loft to the Sanctuary floor. It will remain there this fall while work is done in the loft to install the rebuilt pipe organ, which we anticipate dedicating on November 22.

THE BULLETIN COVER IMAGE depicts the easternmost of the seven-foot-tall carved wooden angels over the north aisle 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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Matt Helms Associate Pastor
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Joyce Shin Associate Pastor for Congregational Life
Judith L. Watt Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care
Jeffrey Doane Parish Associate for Older Adults
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John Buchanan Pastor Emeritus

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