

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Now Thank We All Our God Piet Post

Let All Together Praise Our God Nikolaus Vetter

Fantasy on Now Thank We All Our God Feike Asma

*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: *The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it,
the world and those who live in it.*

People: Enter God's gates with thanksgiving
and God's courts with praise.

Minister: *Give thanks to God and bless God's name.*

People: For the Lord is good; God's steadfast love endures forever,
and God's faithfulness to all generations.

Minister: *Let us worship God with thanks and praise.*

*Hymn 367 "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Gracious God,
in love you spread good gifts before us,
more than we need or deserve.
You feed, heal, teach, and save us.
We confess that we often want more,
that we do not share as freely as you give.
We take your love and gifts for granted.
We resent what we lack and are jealous of neighbors.
We misuse what you intend for joy.
God, forgive our stubborn greed and our destructiveness.
In mercy, help us to take such pleasure in your goodness
that we will always be thanking you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Stand as you are able.

Declaration of Pardon

Minister: *Friends, believe the good news.*

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

Anthem

“The Lord Is Good” Christopher Tye

*The Lord is good! His love will raise a joyful harvest song;
sing “He is good!” and let his praise from every tongue be heard.*

The Lord is good! He gives us bread; he gives his children more.

The Lord is good! By him their souls with grace are fed a rich and endless store.

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter (*responsively*)

Psalm 116 Old Testament, page 533

*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

Philippians 4:4–9 New Testament, page 187

Leader: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Of Course and Nevertheless Victoria G. Curtiss and Kent Organ

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 36 “For the Fruit of All Creation”

Litany of Thanksgiving

Minister: *Give thanks to the Lord, who is good.*

People: **God's love is everlasting.**

Minister: *Come, let us praise God joyfully.*

People: **Let us come to God with thanksgiving.**

Minister: *For the good world; for things great and small,
beautiful and awesome; for seen and unseen splendors:*

People: **thank you, God.**

Minister: *For human life; for talking and moving and thinking together;
for common hopes and hardships shared from birth
until our dying:*

People: **thank you, God.**

Minister: *For work to do and strength to work; for the comradeship of labor;
for exchanges of good humor and encouragement:*

People: **thank you, God.**

Minister: *For marriage; for the mystery and joy of flesh made one;
for mutual forgiveness and burdens shared;
for secrets kept in love:*

People: **thank you, God.**

Minister: *For family; for living together and eating together;
for family amusements and family pleasures:*

People: **thank you, God.**

Minister: *For children; for their energy and curiosity;
for their brave play and startling frankness;
for their sudden sympathies:*

People: **thank you, God.**

Minister: *For the young; for their high hopes;
for their irreverence toward worn-out values;
for their search for freedom; for their solemn vows:*

People: **thank you, God.**

Minister: *For growing up and growing old;
for wisdom deepened by experience; for rest in leisure;
and for time made precious by its passing:*

People: **thank you, God.**

*Minister: For your help in times of doubt and sorrow;
for healing our diseases;
for preserving us in temptation and danger:*

People: thank you, God.

*Minister: For the church into which we have been called;
for the good news we receive by Word and Sacrament;
for our life together in the Lord:*

People: we praise you, God.

*Minister: For your Holy Spirit,
who guides our steps and brings us gifts of faith and love;
who prays in us and prompts our grateful worship:*

People: we praise you, God.

*Minister: Above all, O God, for your Son Jesus Christ,
who lived and died and lives again for our salvation;
for our hope in him; and for the joy of serving him:*

**People: we thank and praise you, Eternal God,
for all your goodness to us.**

Minister: Give thanks to the Lord, who is good.

People: God's love is everlasting.

Offering

Offertory Anthem

“Let All Things Now Living” Welsh melody
arr. Katherine K. Davis

*Let all things now living, a song of thanksgiving
to God the creator triumphantly raise,
who fashioned us and made us, protected and stayed us,
who guideth us on to the end of our days.
His banners are o'er us, his light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night,
'til shadows have vanished and darkness is banished,
as forward we travel from light into light.
His law he enforces, the stars in their courses,
the sun in his orbit obediently shine.
The hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,
the deep of the ocean proclaim him divine.
We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing;
with glad adoration a song let us raise,
'til all things now living unite in thanksgiving
to God in the highest, hosanna and praise!*

*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.

Prayer of Dedication (*unison*)

O God, in your Son Jesus Christ,
 you richly bless us with all that we need.
 In thanksgiving, we dedicate our lives to serve you
 and offer our gifts to further your reign on earth.
 Free us from all fear and worry, that trusting in your goodness
 we may always praise your mighty deeds and give you thanks
 for the bounty of your gifts. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 643 “Now Thank We All Our God”

*Benediction and Response

Postlude

“Now Thank We All Our God” Sigfrid Karg-Elert

Worship Leaders

Victoria G. Curtiss, Kent Organ

The Music Today

Members of the Morning Choir

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

Worship Notes

THE “LIGHT UP A LIFE” OFFERING is being received throughout November and December. “Light Up a Life” provides opportunity to support congregational programs, mission, and community outreach—including Chicago Lights programs—as well as denominational efforts. “Light Up a Life” gifts can be made using the special offering envelopes found in the pew racks or by writing “Light Up a Life” on the memo line of a check made payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church.

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US FOR ADVENT WORSHIP beginning this Sunday, November 29. We gather for worship each Sunday morning at 8:00 a.m. (Communion), 9:30 a.m., and 11:00 a.m. and again in the afternoon at 4:00 p.m. for our weekly Jazz Communion service. Our annual Festival Service of Advent Lessons and Music will take place on Sunday, December 13 at 6:30 p.m., and our Christmas Cantata, which this year will be John Rutter’s *Gloria*, will be part of the 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. services on Sunday, December 20. Details about this and the many other Advent and Christmas opportunities at Fourth Church—including this Friday’s 12:10 p.m. free concert by the Embellish Handbell Ensemble—can be found in the literature racks and at www.fourthchurch.org. Also available in the literature racks, online, and by email (send email addresses to devotions@fourthchurch.org) are daily devotions for the Advent and Christmas seasons.

SOURCES AND CREDITS: The Litany of Thanksgiving is from *Book of Common Worship*, pp. 792–793. 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.

Shannon J. Kershner Pastor

Victoria G. Curtiss Associate Pastor for Mission

Matt Helms Associate Pastor

for Children and Family Ministries

Hardy H. Kim Associate Pastor for Evangelism

Judith L. Watt Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care

Jeffrey Doane Parish Associate for Older Adults

Layton Williams Pastoral Resident

John Buchanan Pastor Emeritus

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THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO
Church office: 126 E. Chestnut Street, Chicago, IL 60611.2014
www.fourthchurch.org | www.facebook.com/fourthchurch
312.787.4570 | Voicemail 312.787.2729 | Fax: 312.787.4584