

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

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Prelude and Fugue in B Minor Johann Sebastian Bach
Partita in E Major J. S. Bach
Prelude

Introit

“Freedom Is Coming” South African song
Freedom is coming, O yes, I know. Jesus is coming, O yes, I know.

*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

Leader: *Today is the day the Lord has made.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.*

People: Let us be glad this day, for life, for breath,
and for freedom of worship.

Leader: *Blessed are you, who come in the name of the Lord.*

People: We come to offer our gifts of praise and gratitude to God,
who made all of creation.

*Prayer of Praise

*Hymn 388 “Come All You People”

**Stand as you are able.*

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Merciful God, you call for us to stray from sin;
however, we turn our backs to you,
for we are too weak to withstand the draw of sin.
We pray you will forgive our sins,
no matter how large or small they are.
In your mercy, we confess our sinfulness,
our offenses towards you,
and our shortcomings when trying to follow your Word.
Offer us redemption and guide us so that we shall not sin again.
(Please hold silence)
Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: *Our God brings new life to the desperate;*
People: we can face the new day with courage.
Leader: *Our God changes water into wine;*
People: even our lives can change and be changed into hope.
Alleluia! Amen.

Concerns of the Church

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter (*responsively*)

Psalm 84 Old Testament, page 513

*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

Malachi 3:1-4 Old Testament, page 838

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

Reflections from Our Youth

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 69 “I, the Lord of Sea and Sky”

*Affirmation of Faith

Leader: *Friends, this is the good news which we have received, in which we stand and by which we are saved if we hold it fast: that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; that he was buried; that he was raised on the third day; and that he appeared first to the women, then to Peter, and then to the twelve, and then to the many faithful witnesses. Please join me as we say what we believe together.*

People: **We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jesus Christ is the first and the last, the beginning and the end. Jesus Christ is our Lord. Through him we are forgiven and redeemed. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Offertory Anthem

“Seek Him That Maketh the Seven Stars” Jonathan Dove
Seek him that maketh the seven stars and Orion and turneth the shadow of death into the morning. Alleluia, yea, the darkness shineth as the day, the night is light about me. Amen.

*Offertory 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.

Sealing the Word

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation

Great Thanksgiving

Leader: *The Lord be with you.*

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: *Lift up your hearts.*

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

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

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

Prayer

Leader: *Gracious God, it is right to give you thanks. . . .
who forever sing to the glory of your name:*

Sanctus (*sung*) The Hymnal, 552

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

Leader: *Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ
. . . dedicated to your service.*

Memorial Acclamation (*sung*). The Hymnal, 553

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.
Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Leader: *Now, gracious God . . .
. . . as Jesus taught us to pray saying:*

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

“Alleluia” Eric Whitacre
Alleluia. Amen.

Psalm 23 (*recited in unison after all have received the cup*)

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures, he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul; he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name’s sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies; thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

*Prayer after Communion (*unison*)

Loving God, throughout the ages, you have led your children. You have fed our hunger with the bread of life and you have quenched our thirst with the cup of salvation. Having fed us now in this sacred meal, guide us in Christ’s footsteps to love you with our entire being, to love our neighbors as ourselves, to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with you. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 749 “Come! Live in the Light!”

*Benediction and Response

Postlude

Carillon Herbert Murrill

Worship Leaders

9:30 Rocky Supinger, Shelley Donaldson, Shannon Kershner, Senior High Youth

11:00 Rocky Supinger, Shelley Donaldson, Shannon Kershner, Confirmation Youth

The Music Today

The Morning Choir; The Drum Circle; Carla Janzen and Gillian Hollis, soloists

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

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

John Doty, Director of the Drum Circle

Carling Hank, violinist

Worship Notes

TODAY FOURTH CHURCH CELEBRATES THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER. Communion is not just for Presbyterians or "members of the church." All who confess Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, even those who doubt or whose trust is wavering, are invited to partake of the Lord's Supper, in which we are assured of God's love and grace. This morning the congregation is served in the pews by Fourth Church youth, elders, and deacons. The congregation also takes on the role of serving: worshipers take the bread (which is gluten-free) and grape juice from the plate held by their neighbor, and then they take the plate and serve the neighbor on their other side. Empty glasses are placed in the ringed holes in the pew racks.

THE BULLETIN COVER IMAGE, which was photographed from inside the cloister looking toward Michigan Avenue, illustrates how tree branches that look skeletal and grey against the daytime winter sky are transformed into a luminous presence at night.

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.

Shannon J. Kershner Pastor

Victoria G. Curtiss Associate Pastor for Mission

Matt Helms Associate Pastor
for Children and Family Ministry

Hardy H. Kim Associate Pastor for Evangelism

Rocky Supinger Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry

Judith L. Watt Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care

Nanette Sawyer Minister for Congregational Life

Jeffrey Doane Parish Associate for Older Adults

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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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