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

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

We All Believe in One True God .................. Johann Sebastian Bach
Jesu, Joy of All Desiring ............................. J. S. Bach
Variations on “Come, Holy Ghost” ................. Maurice Duruflé
A Celtic Ring ....................................... Susan Geschke

Introit

“Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, One God” ............... Iain Quinn
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God; come, let us adore him.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

*Doxology (sung) ........................................ The Hymnal, 606
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all creatures here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore;
praise Triune God whom we adore. Amen.

*Call to Worship

Leader: Almighty God is known as wisdom before the dawn of creation.
People: Jesus Christ is perfect love made flesh.
Leader: The Holy Spirit of God is ever-present.
People: We now praise God, Three in One.

*Prayer of Praise

*Hymn 11 ........................................ “Source and Sovereign, Rock and Cloud”

Prayer of Confession (unison)

O hidden love of God, forgive us for those times when we have taken your mystery for granted, and forgive us all the more when we thought we had unraveled the mystery and acted like we knew it all—the how, the where, and the why. Let us not harbor anything in our hearts that may spoil our fellowship with you or with one another. Work with us and within us. Make of us what you want of us. Use us as your will requires. Amen.

*Stand as you are able.
Declaration of Pardon

Minister: Friends, believe this good news:

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

Concerns of the Church

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter (responsively)

Psalm 8 ............................... Old Testament, page 466

Anthem

“Trinitarian Blessings” ................................. K. Lee Scott

May the sending one sing in you; may the seeking one walk with you;
may the greeting one stand by you in your gladness and in your grieving.
May the gifted one relieve you; may the given one retrieve you;
may the giving one receive you, in your falling and your restoring.
May the binding one unite you; may the one beloved invite you;
may the loving one delight you, three in one, joy in life unending.

First Lesson


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,

Second Lesson


Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Dancing in a Circle” ................................. Victoria G. Curtiss
Responding to the Word

*Hymn 9 ........................................ “The Play of the Godhead”

*Affirmation of Faith (unison) ......................... The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father; through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life.
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look forward to the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. 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” ................................................. Richard Warner
Offertory Anthem

“All You Works of the Lord, Bless the Lord” Kenneth Jennings

All you works of the Lord, bless the Lord; praise him and magnify him forever.

You angels of the Lord, bless the Lord; you heavens, bless the Lord; all you powers of the Lord, bless the Lord. You sun and moon, bless the Lord; you stars of heaven, bless the Lord; you showers and dew, bless the Lord. You winds of God, bless the Lord; you fire and heat, bless the Lord; you winter and summer, bless the Lord. You dews and frost, bless the Lord; you frost and cold, bless the Lord; you ice and snow, bless the Lord.

You nights and days, bless the Lord; you light and darkness, bless the Lord; you lightnings and clouds, bless the Lord. Let the earth bless the Lord; you mountains and hills, bless the Lord; all you green things that grow on earth, bless the Lord. You wells and springs, bless the Lord. You rivers and seas, bless the Lord; you whales and all who move in the waters, bless the Lord. All you birds of the air, bless the Lord; all you beasts and cattle, bless the Lord; all you children of mortals, bless the Lord. You people of God, bless the Lord; you priests of the Lord, bless the Lord; you servants of the Lord, bless the Lord.

You spirits and souls of the righteous; you pure and humble of heart, bless the Lord.


*Presentation of the Offering and Response

For the life that you have given, for the love in Christ made known,

with these fruits of time and labor, with these gifts that are your own:

here we offer, Lord, our praises; heart and mind and strength we bring.

Give us grace to love and serve you, living what we pray and sing.

*Prayer of Dedication (unison)

We offer to you, Holy One, the gifts of our lives and our treasure and pray that our gifts are pleasing in your sight.

May we manifest your unity in the diverse ministries you entrust to us, truly reflecting your triune majesty in the faith that acts, in the hope that does not disappoint, and in the love that endures. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 3 “Womb of Life and Source of Being”

*Benediction and Response

Postlude

Te Deum Laudamus (We Praise You, O God) Jean Langlais
Today is Trinity Sunday, the day when the church celebrates the mystery of God as Three in One: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; one God who is Creator, Redeemer, and Comforter.

*The Trinity*
Andrei Rublev (painted ca. 1410–11 or 1425–27)
Tempera, 45 x 56 inches | Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow
Worship Leaders

Judith L. Watt, David Miller, Hardy H. Kim, Victoria G. Curtiss

The Music Today

The Morning Choir; The Handbell Choir
John W. W. Sherer, Organist and Director of Music
Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist
Brian Belding-Peck, Director of the Handbell Choir

Worship Notes

FORTH CHURCH EXPRESS ITS GRATITUDE to the Handbell Choir and the Morning Choir for their musical leadership at the 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. services throughout the academic year.

THE BULLETIN COVER photo depicts a few of the many clusterings of three architectural elements (symbolizing the Trinity) to be found at Fourth Church. These groupings include both the top part of the Great East Window at the rear of the Sanctuary (a stylized version of that window is the Fourth Church logo, seen for example on the front of the News and Opportunities insert) and the triple-window configuration of the Great West Window in the front of the Sanctuary.

Shown on the cover is the peak of the roof over Michigan Avenue; there is a trefoil (triangle-circle symbol) in the top cross, a theme echoed by trefoils throughout the Gratz Center. The lower three windows on the cover are above three fanciful demons that hearken back to the gargoyles of the Middle Ages. The upper three windows on the cover (which are reflecting the early morning light from the east but are not visible from inside the Sanctuary) are clustered within a Reuleaux triangle—a shape formed from the intersection of three circles, each having its center on the boundary of the other two. The three overlapping circles are a common symbol for the Trinity.

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.