

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

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## Gathering around the Word

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### Prelude

Prelude and Fugue in E Major. . . . . Vincent Lübeck  
Festive Flutes . . . . . Everett Titcomb  
Choral. . . . . Joseph Jongen

### Introit

“God, Be Merciful” . . . . . Eric DeLamarter  
*God, be merciful unto us and show us the light of his countenance, that thy way  
may be known upon earth, thy saving health among all nations. Amen.*

\*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: *God is our rock and our fortress, our refuge and strength.*  
People: *God is our hope and our trust.*  
Praise the Lord!  
Leader: *Let us worship God.*

### \*Prayer of Praise

\*Hymn 41 . . . . . “O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!”

### Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

God of Life, you have been our God since before time even began.  
You promise us a realm that cannot be shaken and call us to serve  
you with praise and thanksgiving. But we forget and yield to fear.  
We trust only in the tangible rewards of your world and neglect your  
promises. We confess that we are a divided people; we foster separation  
and widen rifts in our families, our communities, our nation, and our  
world. Open us to your healing. Free us from all that distances us from  
your presence. Give us your grace, and inspire us to serve you with  
courage. We pray in the name of Jesus, our brother and our Savior. Amen.

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*\*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

Anthem

“There Is a Balm in Gilead” . . . . . African American spiritual  
arr. Larry L. Fleming

*There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole;  
there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.  
Sometimes I feel discouraged and think my work’s in vain,  
but then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again.  
If you cannot sing like angels, if you cannot preach like Paul,  
you can tell the love of Jesus and say, “He died for all!”*

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Listening for the Word

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Prayer for Illumination

Psalter (*responsively*)

Psalm 71:1–6. . . . . Old Testament, page 503

\*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

Luke 13:10–17 . . . . . New Testament, page 71

Leader: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon . . . . . Shannon J. Kershner

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## Responding to the Word

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\*Hymn 343 . . . . . “Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life”

\*Affirmation of Faith (*unison*) . . . . . from the Belhar Confession

We believe

that God has revealed God’s self as the one  
    who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people;  
that God, in a world full of injustice and enmity,  
    is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor, and  
    the wronged;  
that God calls the church to follow him in this;  
    for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to  
    the hungry;  
that God frees the prisoner and restores sight to the blind;  
that God supports the downtrodden, protects the stranger,  
helps orphans and widows, and blocks the path of the ungodly;  
that for God pure and undefiled religion is to visit  
    the orphans and the widows in their suffering;  
that God wishes to teach the church  
    to do what is good and to seek the right;  
that the church must therefore stand by people  
    in any form of suffering and need, which implies,  
    among other things, that the church must witness against  
    and strive against any form of injustice,  
    so that justice may roll down like waters  
    and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream;

Jesus is Lord.

To the one and only God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
be the honor and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Reception of New Members (11:00)

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

Offertory Anthem

“Ubi Caritas” . . . . . Ola Gjeilo

*Where charity and love are, God is there. The love of Christ has gathered us together. Let us rejoice and be glad in it. Let us revere and love the living God. And from sincere heart let us love one another. Amen.*

\*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*)

Loving God,  
 we rejoice that our lives have been made holy by you.  
 Inspired by the knowledge of your love,  
 giving thanks for the gifts you offer us each day,  
 we pray that these offerings and our lives  
 may further your reign on earth. Amen.

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Bearing the Word into the World

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\*Hymn 10 . . . . . “Sing Glory to the Name of God”

\*Benediction and Response

Postlude

Carillon of Westminster . . . . . Louis Vierne

## 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

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Abbi Heimach-Snipes, Arlene Faulk, Victoria G. Curtiss, Shannon J. Kershner

## The Music Today

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The Men's Choir

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

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

## Worship Notes

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THE MEN'S CHOIR is providing musical leadership during worship through September 4. The Men's Choir consists of men from the three adult choirs at Fourth Church: the Chancel Choir, Morning Choir, and Choral Society.

FOURTH CHURCH OFFERS A VARIETY of worship opportunities on Sunday, including an 8:00 a.m. Communion service and a jazz service with Communion at 4:00 p.m. Each Wednesday at 9:30 a.m., Morning Prayer is held in Buchanan Chapel as a time to remember in prayer members of the Fourth Church congregation and those in need. We also offer a monthly fourth-Friday prayer service in the style of Taizé, which meets this month on August 26 at 7:30 p.m.

THE BULLETIN COVER image depicts the fountain in the Michigan Avenue courtyard. The cover quote is from the late Peter Gomes's book *The Scandalous Gospel of Jesus*.

SOURCES AND CREDITS: The Call to Worship is from Psalm 71. Hymn tune names—as well as composers of the music and authors of the text—are listed in the hymnal with each hymn. The Prayer of Confession and the Prayer of Dedication are adapted from *Feasting on the Word: Worship Companion*, Ed: Kimberly Bracken Long, Louisville: WJKP, 2013. 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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**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

**Abbi Heimach-Snipes** Pastoral Resident

**John Buchanan** Pastor Emeritus

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