

*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

Trio Sonata in E-flat Major . . . . . Johann Sebastian Bach  
Allegro Moderato–Adagio–Allegro

### Introit

“Sing to the Lord of Harvest” . . . . . German chorale  
arr. Theodore Hoelty-Nickel

*Sing to the Lord of harvest, sing songs of love and praise;  
with joyful hearts and voices your alleluias raise.  
By him the rolling seasons in fruitful order move;  
sing to the Lord of harvest a song of happy love.*

\*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 in Christ is at the center and the boundaries,  
inviting us to follow.*

People: Thanks be to God.

Leader: *God the Creator is within and without,  
recreating and redeeming.*

People: Thanks be to God.

Leader: *God the Holy Spirit calls us and leads us,  
hovering over us with peace.*

People: Thanks be to God. Let us worship with joy!

### \*Prayer of Praise

\*Hymn 401 . . . . . “Here in This Place”

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*\*Stand as you are able.*

Litany of Confession

Leader: *O God, we come to you now, in spirit and in truth,  
with a desire to be honest with you and with ourselves.  
When we find ourselves watching others,  
being critical of their discipleship,  
making judgments, and setting our own rules,*

People: **have mercy on us.**

Leader: *When we live for the sake of appearance,  
more concerned with how our faith looks to others  
than how our faith transforms our lives,*

People: **have mercy on us.**

Leader: *When we spend all our time on things that do not matter  
rather than acting with courage in walking your way,*

People: **have mercy on us.**

Leader: *Creative One,  
challenge everything in our lives that is not authentic,  
so we may move forward in truth.  
Bring us to your grace and renew our souls.*

People: **Amen.**

Declaration of Pardon

Minister: *Friends, believe the good news:*

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

Concerns of the Church

Anthem

“Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God” . . . . . Healey Willan  
arr. Henry V. Gerike

*Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from thy presence, and take not thy Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation, and uphold me with thy free Spirit.*

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Listening for the Word

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Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson

Deuteronomy 30:15–20 . . . . . Old Testament, page 179

\*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

Psalm 139 . . . . . New Testament, page 545  
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 28 . . . . . “You Are Before Me, Lord”

\*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

“O Lord, My Trust Is in Thy Mercy” . . . . . Eric DeLamarter  
O Lord, my trust is in thy mercy, and my heart is joyful in thy salvation,  
for thou hast heard my prayer.

Offertory Anthem

“Praise, Lord, for Thee in Zion Waits” . . . . . Eric H. Thiman  
Praise, Lord, for thee in Zion waits; prayer shall besiege thy temple gates.  
All flesh shall to thy throne repair and find through Christ salvation there.  
How blest thy saints, how safely led, how surely kept, how richly fed!  
Savior of all on earth and sea, how happy they who rest in thee.  
Thy hand sets fast the mighty hills; thy voice the troubled ocean stills.  
Evening and morning hymn thy praise and earth thy bounty wide displays. 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)

God of all, we are so thankful for this opportunity to give.  
Multiply these gifts so that we may continue  
to do the work of your justice and mercy.  
Give to us your Spirit so that we may reflect you  
in all that we do and say.  
In your holy name we pray. Amen.

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Bearing the Word into the World

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\*Hymn 450 . . . . . “Be Thou My Vision”

\*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

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Matt Helms, Eloise Foster, Judith L. Watt, Shannon J. Kershner

## The Music Today

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The Men's Choir; Marshall Rollings, soloist  
Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

## Worship Notes

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FOURTH CHURCH EXPRESSES ITS GRATITUDE to the Men's Choir for their musical leadership during morning worship this summer. The Chancel Choir—which welcomes all singers—will resume rehearsals on Thursday, September 8 at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary Choir Loft. Anyone interested in joining a Fourth Church choir is encouraged to contact John Sherer (312.981.3592; jsherer@fourthchurch.org).

THE BULLETIN COVER photograph depicts the Michigan Avenue entrance doors. The cover quote is adapted from Anthony de Mello's book *The Song of the Bird*.

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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**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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