

*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

Carillon ..... Leo Sowerby  
Variations on “America” ..... Charles Ives

### Introit

“Search Me, O God” ..... Eric DeLamarter  
*Search me, O God, and know my heart;  
try me, and know my thought;  
and see if there be any wicked way in me;  
and lead me into the life everlasting. 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: *We gather in the presence of God,*  
People: **in our need, and bringing with us the needs of the world.**  
Leader: *We come to God, for God comes to us in Jesus,*  
People: **and God knows what being human is like.**  
Leader: *We come with our faith and with our doubts;*  
People: **we come with our hopes and with our fears.**  
Leader: *We come as we are, because God has invited us,*  
People: **and God has promised never to turn us away.**

### \*Prayer of Praise

\*Hymn 331 ..... “God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand”

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*\*Stand as you are able.*

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Compassionate and gentle God,  
you have created us in love to be your people.  
As we pause in prayer, we are reminded  
that we have lost sight of this gift  
and perhaps have forgotten how to really love you.  
We have put our faith in the riches of this world,  
impressed ourselves with misguided power,  
and looked for help and direction in the wrong places.  
Send your Spirit to come and breathe its presence into us.  
Remake us in your image once again.  
We pray these things in the name  
of the One who rose from the grave. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

Minister: *Friends, believe the good news:*  
People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Concerns of the Church

Anthem

“Shall We Gather at the River?” . . . . . Robert Lowry  
arr. Heather Graves

*Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod,  
with its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God?  
Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful river,  
gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.  
Shall we gather at the river? No darkness where we will be;  
grace our spirits will deliver, in its waters our remedy.  
Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful river,  
gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.  
Here we part from one another; I'm leaving sorrow,  
soon I'll reach that shining harbor walking tall into tomorrow.  
Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful river,  
gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.*

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## Listening for the Word

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### Prayer for Illumination

#### Psalter (*responsively*)

Psalms 13 . . . . . Old Testament, page 468

\*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

Genesis 22:1-14 . . . . . Old Testament, page 17

Minister: *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 346 . . . . . “For the Healing of the Nations”

\*Affirmation of Faith (*unison*) . . . . . from A Brief Statement of Faith

In life and in death we belong to God.

Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit,  
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,  
whom alone we worship and serve.

In everlasting love,  
the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people  
to bless all families of the earth.

Hearing their cry,  
God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage.

Loving us still,  
God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.

Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,  
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,  
God is faithful still.

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

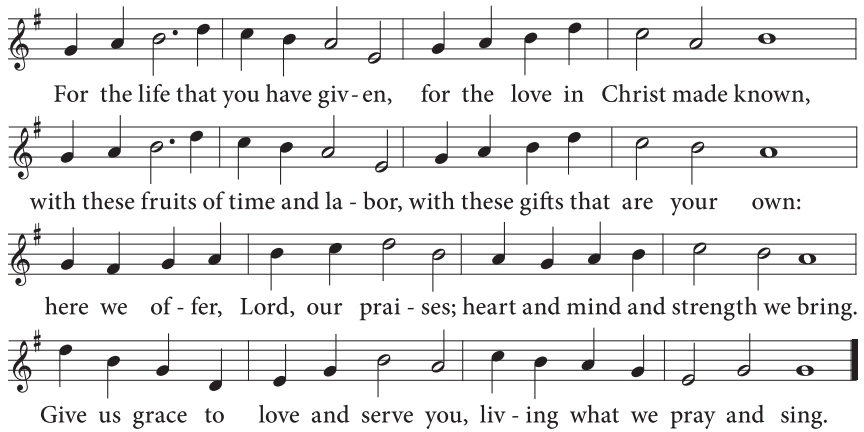
“God Be Merciful” . . . . . E. DeLamarter  
*God be merciful unto us, show us the light of his countenance that thy way  
may be known upon earth, thy saving health among all nations. Amen.*

Offertory Anthem

“Simple Gifts” . . . . . Shaker melody  
arr. Aaron Copland

*’Tis the gift to be simple, ’tis the gift to be free,  
’tis the gift to come down where you ought to be;  
and when we find ourselves in the place just right,  
’twill be in the valley of love and delight.  
When true simplicity is gained,  
to bow and to bend we shan’t be ashamed.  
To turn, turn will be our delight,  
’til by turning, turning we come round right.*

\*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*)

Blessed are you, O Lord, God of all creation;  
in your mercy you provide every good thing for us.  
Receive these offerings as signs of our commitment  
to serve you all our days.  
We give ourselves in the name of your Love Made Flesh,  
Jesus Christ. Amen.

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Bearing the Word into the World

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\*Hymn 339 ..... “Lift Every Voice and Sing”

\*Benediction and Response

Postlude

American Hymn. .... Richard Keys Biggs

## Worship Leaders

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9:30 Judith L. Watt, Jim Kendzel, Emily Reome, Abbi Heimach-Snipes  
Shannon J. Kershner

11:00 Judith L. Watt, Linda Gibboney, Ned Morely, Abbi Heimach-Snipes  
Shannon J. Kershner

## The Music Today

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The Men's Choir

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

## Worship Notes

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THE FOURTH CHURCH MEN'S CHOIR is singing in worship through July 16;  
the Women's Choir will be singing from July 23 through September 3.

THE BANNERS DISPLAYED IN THE SANCTUARY are based on seven statements  
attributed to Jesus Christ in the Gospel according to John in which Jesus declares  
"I am . . . the Resurrection and the Life; the Bread of Life; the Light of the World;  
the Gate; the Good Shepherd; the Way, the Truth, and the Life; and the Vine."  
The banners were designed and created by Associate Pastor Victoria G. Curtiss.  
In the literature racks is a brochure explaining them, with accompanying prayers.

THE BULLETIN COVER image depicts one of the massive stone pillars near the east  
end of the Sanctuary. The cover quote is from Linda Pepe's sermon "Abraham:  
This Is a Test."

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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