

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

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Lord, Take My Heart, It Beats for Thee Sigfrid Karg-Elert
Apparition of the Eternal Church. Olivier Messiaen

Introit

“O Lord, Open Thou Our Lips” George Guest
*O Lord, open thou our lips, and our mouth shall show forth thy praise.
O God, make speed to save us. O Lord, make haste to help us.
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. Praise ye the Lord. The Lord’s name be praised.*

*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: *From the rising of the sun till its setting in the west,*
People: God’s holy name be praised.
Leader: *In the visions of the old and the dreaming of the young,*
People: God’s holy name be praised.
Leader: *Let all that has life and breath praise the Lord.*
People: Amen. We praise the Lord!

*Prayer of Praise

*Hymn 33 “Praise the Lord! God’s Glories Show”

**Stand as you are able.*

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Spirit of God, you are the breath of creation and the wind of change.
You open up to us new dreams and give us hope in Jesus Christ.
Forgive us our closed minds,
which barricade themselves against new possibility,
preferring the past to what you might want to do through us tomorrow.
Forgive our closed eyes, which fail to see the needs of your world
and overlook opportunities for service and compassion.
Forgive our closed hands,
which clutch our resources for our own use alone.
Forgive our closed hearts,
which limit our affections to those we already know.
Spirit of new life,
break down any walls of selfishness, and pry us open for your love.
Help us unleash that love into your world. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

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

Concerns of the Church

Anthem

“The Road Home” Stephen Paulus
*Tell me where is the road I can call my own, that I left, that I lost so long ago?
All these years I have wandered, O, when will I know there’s a way, there’s a road
that will lead me home? After wind, after rain, when the dark is done, as I wake
from a dream in the gold of day, through the air there’s a calling from far away,
there’s a voice I can hear that will lead me home. Rise up, follow me, come away
is the call, with the love in your heart as the only song; there is no such beauty
as where you belong. Rise up, follow me, I will lead you home.*

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter (*responsively*)

Psalms 139:1–12 Old Testament, page 545

*Gloria Patri (*sung*) The Hymnal, 581

Glorify 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 28:10–19 Old Testament, page 24

Minister: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Shannon J. Kershner

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 637 “O Sing to the 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

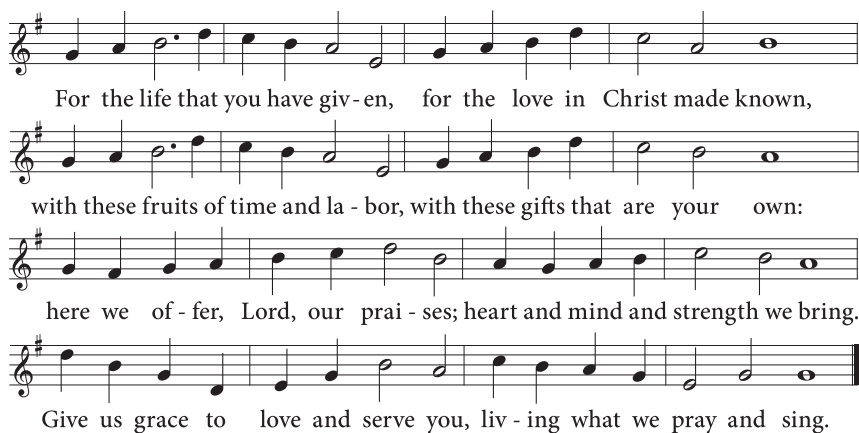
“Amen” Camille Saint-Saëns

Offertory Anthem

“Gloria” John W. W. Sherer

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God’s people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the holy one, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the most high, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. 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*)

Generous God, you are our portion and our cup.
In you our hearts are glad, our souls rejoice, and our bodies rest.
Bless and multiply our offerings and pledges
that they may bring the joy of your presence
more deeply into the world. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 550 “Give Praise to the Lord”

*Benediction and Response

Postlude

Sortie César Franck

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

9:30 Rocky Supinger, Susan Boggie, Judith L. Watt, Shannon J. Kershner

11:00 Rocky Supinger, Kathryn Burkhardt, Elaine Filus, Judith L. Watt,
Shannon J. Kershner

The Music Today

The Women's Choir

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

Worship Notes

THE FOURTH CHURCH WOMEN'S CHOIR is singing in worship through September 3. The Chancel and Morning Choirs will return on September 10.

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 photo depicts a wooden carving of an angel at the base of the tall organ pipes on the south wall of the choir loft.

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 Prayer of Confession is adapted from a prayer written by Christopher Ellis in *Bread of Tomorrow: Prayers for the Church Year*. 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

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

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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