

*Prayer of Praise

*Hymn 65 “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

Litany of Confession

Leader: *Gracious God, in Jesus Christ you broke the barrier of sin and pain which separates us from our neighbor, ourselves, and you.*

We seek your grace so we might move from alienation to new life.

People: **So God, grant us new life in you.**

Leader: *When we deny your presence in our busy days—*

People: **O God, grant us new life in you.**

Leader: *When we feel justified in our anger and resentment toward others—*

People: **O God, grant us new life in you.**

Leader: *When we judge others before looking at ourselves—*

People: **O God, grant us new life in you.**

Leader: *When we try and forget those in need because it is too overwhelming to us—*

People: **O God, grant us new life in you.**

Leader: *When we refuse to follow your will because we are fearful and untrusting—*

People: **O God, grant us new life in you.**

Leader: *When we seek the security of false gods and turn our faces from your light—*

People: **O God, grant us new life in you.**

Leader: *O God, do grant us new life in you, so that our cries of confession might be transformed into alleluias of restoration.*

We pray in the name of our Savior.

People: **Amen.**

Declaration of Pardon

Minister: *Friends, believe the good news:*

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

Concerns of the Church

Minute for Mission

Anthem

“Alleluia” from *Exsultate Jubilate* Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
arr. Bryceson Treharne

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter (*responsively*)

Psalm 124 Old Testament, page 540

*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

Exodus 1:8—2:10. Old Testament, page 47

Minister: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Shannon J. Kershner

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 817 “We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight”

*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”..... Anonymous

Offertory Anthem

“We Wait for Thy Loving-Kindness” Stephen Elvey
We wait for thy loving-kindness, O God, in the midst of thy temple.

*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*)

O God, you are an extravagant God—
all we have to do is look around us and see that this is so.
All that we have, all that we are, belongs to you.
Accept these offerings of our money
as one way we express our gratitude for your goodness.
Help us to remember that it takes all of us
for your mission and ministry to flourish in our community.
May we mirror your generosity in the way we live our lives. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 771 “What Is the World Like”

*Benediction and Response

Postlude

A Trumpet Minuet Alfred Hollins

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: 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 Judith L. Watt, Brian Satre, Lies Garner, Victoria G. Curtiss
Shannon J. Kershner

11:00 Judith L. Watt, Eric Olson, Elinor Hite, Victoria G. Curtiss
Shannon J. Kershner

The Music Today

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.

TODAY'S MINUTE FOR MISSION is presented by Kimberly Watson on behalf of the Tutoring program of Chicago Lights, the nonprofit community outreach arm of Fourth Church.

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 birds drinking from the courtyard fountain. The cover quote is from "Fear vs. Compassion," Rick Morley's commentary on Exodus 1:8–2:10 in the blog "A Garden Path" at www.rickmorley.com

SOURCES AND CREDITS: The Call to Worship is adapted from *The Wee Worship Book* (Wild Good Publications with the Wild Goose Worship Group. Glasgow, 1999). 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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Victoria G. Curtiss Associate Pastor for Mission
Matt Helms Associate Pastor
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Rocky Supinger Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry

Judith L. Watt Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care
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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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