

## Gathering around the Word

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### Prelude

Sanctuary . . . . . Gwyneth Walker  
1. Reverence

### Introit

“The Best of Rooms” . . . . . Gerald Near  
*Christ, he requires still, wheresoever he comes to feed or lodge,  
to have the best of rooms: give him the choice;  
grant him the nobler part of all the house: the best of all’s the heart.*

\*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: *Come to rejoice together; God is present with us.*  
People: **We come to be washed and cleansed, forgiven and freed.**  
Leader: *Sing praises to God, all you faithful ones.*  
People: **We are restored to life morning after morning.**  
Leader: *Let us extol our God, who lifts us up.*  
People: **We give thanks to God’s holy name.**

\*Hymn 805 . . . . . “Come Sing to God”

### Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Loving God, we confess that too often in our times of need  
we run around aimlessly and hurt others instead of turning to you.  
When we find ourselves in the pit,  
we don’t trust that you are there and will pull us up.  
Instead we look for help in the wrong places  
and pursue our own ideas of what is best for ourselves.  
Forgive us for doubting or distrusting you.  
Teach us healthy self-care and robust responsiveness to your will. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

Leader: *Friends, believe the good news.*

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

\*Exchange of Peace

Leader: *The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.*

People: **And also with you.**

*We invite you to greet those around you, wishing them “peace” or “the peace of Christ.”*

Concerns of the Church

Anthem

“Prayer for Transfiguration Day” . . . . . John Weaver  
*O God, in the glorious transfiguration of Christ, your Son, you have confirmed the mystery of the faith by the testimony of the apostles. In the voice that came from the bright cloud, you proclaimed him to be your Son and told us to heed his teachings. O God, make us heirs with Christ, in his glory forevermore, alleluia. Amen.*

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Listening for the Word

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Prayer for Illumination

Psalter (*responsively*)

Psalm 30 . . . . . Old Testament, page 478

\*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

Mark 1:40–45 . . . . . New Testament, page 33

Minister: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

“I Do Choose” . . . . . Victoria G. Curtiss

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## Responding to the Word

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\*Hymn 793 . . . . . “O Christ, the Healer”

\*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.

Offering

Offertory Voluntary

Prelude on an Introit . . . . . André Fleury

\*Offertory 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.

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## Sealing the Word

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### THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

#### Invitation

#### Great Thanksgiving

Minister: *The Lord be with you.*

People: **And also with you.**

Minister: *Lift up your hearts.*

People: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Minister: *Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.*

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

#### Prayer

Minister: *It is truly right and our greatest joy . . .*

*. . . forever singing to the glory of your name:*

Sanctus (*sung*) . . . . . The Hymnal, 565

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

Minister: . . . *Great is the mystery of faith:*

Memorial Acclamation (*sung*) . . . . . The Hymnal, 566

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

#### 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.

# The Communion

## Communion Anthem

“Transfiguration Day” . . . . . Morgan Simmons

*Jesus on the mountain peak stands alone in glory blazing;  
let us, if we dare to speak, join the saints and angels praising.  
Alleluia! This is God’s beloved Son.  
Law and prophets sing before him, first and last and only one.  
All creation shall adore him. Alleluia!*

## Prayer after Communion (*unison*)

At your table, Spirit of Oneness,  
you have brought us together as one community,  
healing our wounds and separation.  
Send us forth as witnesses to your transforming power. Amen.

## Bearing the Word into the World

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

\*Benediction and Response

## Postlude

Fugue in D Major . . . . . Johann Pachelbel

THIS MORNING, COMMUNION IS SERVED BY INTINCTION.  
The congregation comes forward by the center aisle to receive the bread, which they then dip into the chalice of grape juice. (Gluten-free bread is available in a small tumbler in each basket of bread.) Worshipers return to their pews by the side aisles.  
The invitation to the Lord’s Supper is not just for Presbyterians or “members of the church.” All who confess Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord are invited to partake of the Lord’s Supper. Even one who doubts or whose trust is wavering may receive the bread and grape juice (in place of wine) in order to be assured of God’s love and grace in Jesus Christ.

## Worship Leaders

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Matt Helms, Mary Durham, Victoria G. Curtiss

## The Music Today

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Chancel Choir

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

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

Grant Nill, Organ Scholar

## Worship Notes

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FOURTH CHURCH OFFERS A VARIETY of worship opportunities on Sundays, including this 8:00 a.m. Communion service, worship at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m., 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 will also offer a service in the style of Taizé on Friday, February 23 at 7:30 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel.

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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.

**Shannon J. Kershner** Pastor

**Lucy Forster-Smith** Senior Associate Pastor

Associate Pastors

**Victoria G. Curtiss** Mission

**Matt Helms** Children and Family Ministry

**Nanette Sawyer** Discipleship and Small Group Ministry

**Rocky Supinger** Youth Ministry

**Judith L. Watt** Pastoral Care

**Jeffrey Doane** Parish Associate for Older Adults

**Abbi Heimach-Snipes** Pastoral Resident

**John Buchanan** Pastor Emeritus

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**THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO**

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