

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

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Three Liturgical Preludes George Oldroyd

I. *Tranquillamente e dolente*

Introit

“O Creator of the Cosmos” American folk hymn

O creator of the cosmos, we present our hearts in prayer. We are awestruck by your glory which surrounds us everywhere. From the birdsong of the morning to a stormy sky at night, you reveal yourself in nature, in its gentleness and might.

*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: *In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.*

People: **God saw that it was good!**

Leader: *God created the sun, moon, and stars
and separated the waters from the dry land.*

People: **God saw that it was good!**

Leader: *God created vegetation, the plants, and fruit trees of all kinds.*

People: **God saw that it was good!**

Leader: *God created fish and birds and every living creature of every kind.*

People: **God saw that it was good!**

Leader: *God created humankind in God’s own image and blessed them.*

People: **God gave every plant and every fruit for food.**

Leader: *God saw everything that God had made and, indeed,*

People: **God saw that it was very good!**

*Hymn 15 “All Creatures of Our God and King”

Litany of Confession (*unison*)

Forgive us, O God, when we are unkind to people,
when we are careless with animals,
when we choose the cheapest or easiest,
when we don't care about the consequences of our choices,
when we waste energy and water,
when we lack respect for the earth,
when we are complacent and overcome by apathy.
Forgive us, O God, and reconcile us to yourself,
to one another, and to the creation. 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

“The Heavens Are Telling the Glory of God” Franz Josef Haydn
from *The Creation*
*The heavens are telling the glory of God; the wonder of his works displays the firmament.
Today that is coming, speaks it the day; the night that is gone to following night.
In all the lands resounds the word, never unperceived, ever understood.*

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter (*responsively*)

Psalms 104:1-4, 14-24 Old Testament, page 524

*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

Luke 12:22-31 New Testament, page 70

Minister: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Creation Cares” Lucy Forster-Smith

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 20 “All Things Bright and Beautiful”

*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

“Blessed Jesus, We Are Here” Johann Sebastian Bach

*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.

Sealing the Word

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: *Redeemer of the lost, on this day of joy and hope . . .*

*. . . we join our voices with all your people in every age,
time, and place, who forever sing your praises:*

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

“Rise Up, My Love, My Fair One” Healey Willan

*Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away,
for lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone;
the flowers appear upon the earth;
the time of the singing of birds is come.*

Prayer after Communion (*unison*)

For all that you have created, for all that you have given us,
O God, we thank you.
For the whole earth and for our little part of it, we thank you.
Blessed by this Table, send us forth into the world
that we may bring life and grace to every place of need. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 26 “Earth and All Stars!”

*Benediction and Response

Postlude

The Holy Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia! Johann Sebastian Bach

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

Judith L. Watt, Jerry Johnson, Lucy Forster-Smith

The Music Today

Chancel Choir; Beena David, Micah Dingler, and Daniel Henry, soloists
John W. W. Sherer, Organist and Director of Music
Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist
Grant Nill, Organ Scholar

Worship Notes

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, April 27 at 7:30 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel as we do on the fourth Friday of each month.

EARTH DAY is annually celebrated worldwide on April 22, and thus we fittingly observe today as Care of Creation Sunday, a day when we hold in prayer God's amazing creation and recommit ourselves to the good stewardship of that life-giving gift. Today's multicolored processional ribbons, clergy stoles, and paraments recall the rainbow God set in the sky as a covenant between God, the earth, and all creatures therein (Genesis 9:13).

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 Christian Aid and Christian Ecology Link. 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

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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