

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

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Cantilene Josef Rheinberger

Introit

“Steal Away to Jesus” African American spiritual
arr. Malcolm Archer

*Steal away to Jesus, steal away home, I ain't got long to stay here.
My Lord, he calls me by the thunder, the trumpet sounds within my soul.*

*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: *God baptizes us with the power of the Holy Spirit.*

People: **We are empowered to be Christ's disciples.**

Leader: *The reign of God is here on earth.*

People: **Christ lives within and amongst us. Let us praise God's name!**

*Hymn 265 “Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun”

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Gracious God, we yearn to be filled with the embracing presence of your Spirit. Too often our senses are dulled by matters that demand our attention. Help us focus on what you want us to do. Too often our hands droop when they should reach out to support others, and our knees weaken when our feet seek your path. Jar us out of our listlessness and reservations. When we are shortsighted or misuse your grace, chasten our choices by your judgment and replace our schemes with your design for our lives. Deliver us from the undue need to control our own destiny and from anxiety when fate is uncertain. Embolden us to serve others. 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

"My Eyes For Beauty Pine" Herbert Howells

*My eyes for beauty pine, my soul for God's grace.
No other care nor hope is mine; to heaven I turn my face.
One splendor thence is shed from all the stars above,
'tis named when God's name is said; 'tis love, 'tis heavenly love.
And every gentle heart that burns with true desire
is lit from eyes that mirror part of that celestial fire.*

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter (*responsively*)

Psalm 139:1–6, 13–18 Old Testament, page 545

*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

Acts 1:1–14 New Testament, page 110

Minister: *The Word of the Lord*.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“On the Ground” Victoria G. Curtiss

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 719 “Come, Labor On”

*Affirmation of Faith (*unison*) Apostles’ Creed

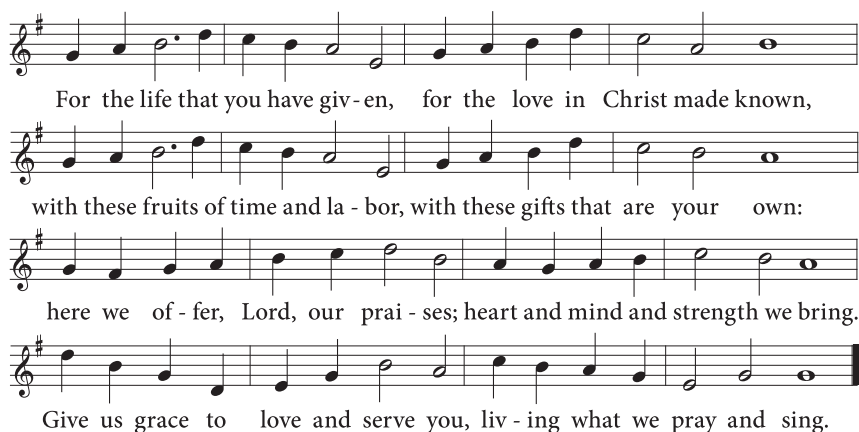
I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead; 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

Lied Louis Vierne

*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: *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, God of 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

"Ave Verum" Gabriel Fauré

*Hail, true body, born of the virgin Mary;
who has truly suffered on the cross for humanity,
whose side was pierced, pouring out water and blood.
Be a foretaste for us during our ordeal of death.*

Prayer after Communion (*unison*)

God of grace,
you renew us at your table with the bread of life.
May this food strengthen us in love
and help us to serve you in each other.
We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 746 "Send Me, Jesus"

*Benediction and Response

Postlude

Sonata para Cimbalo Fr. Manuel de Santo Elias

Worship Leaders

Lucy Forster-Smith, Christopher Gernand, Victoria G. Curtiss

The Music Today

Women of the Morning Choir

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

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

Worship Notes

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.

THE TEXTILE BANNERS AND PULPIT PARAMENT, "Unweavings," created by fiber artist Laurie Wohl, were commissioned by Fourth Church for use during the liturgical season of Ordinary Time, the longest season of the church year (the season between Epiphany and Lent and between Pentecost and Advent). Through their combination of scripture texts and images, these banners celebrate and elevate the perception of the sacred in the "ordinary" as we make our faith journey day to day

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

Joseph L. Morrow Minister for Evangelism

Jeffrey Doane Parish Associate for Older Adults

Abbi Heimach-Snipes Pastoral Resident

John Buchanan Pastor Emeritus

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