

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Prelude in E-flat Major Gilbert Martin

Introit

“Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart” Arthur Henry Messiter
arr. Norman J. Clayton

*Rejoice, ye pure in heart; rejoice, give thanks and sing.
Your festal banner waves on high, the cross of Christ your King.
Rejoice, give thanks and sing.*

*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: *Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord
with gladness. Come into God’s presence with singing!*

People: **For the Lord is a gracious God, whose mercy is everlasting
and whose faithfulness endures to all generations.**

*Hymn 399 “God Welcomes All” (*sung three times*)

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image; through Jesus Christ our Savior. (*Please hold silence.*) Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

Leader: *Friends, believe the good news.*

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

*Stand as you are able. †Or “Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.”

*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

“Forth in Thy Name” Richard Shepherd

Forth in thy name, O Lord, I go, my daily labor to pursue; thee, only thee, resolved to know in all I think or speak or do. The task thy wisdom hath assigned, O let me cheerfully fulfill, in all thy works thy presence find, and prove thine acceptable will. Thee may I set at my right hand, whose eyes my inmost substance see, and labor on at thy command, and offer all my works to thee. Give me to bear thy easy yoke, and every moment watch and pray, and still to things eternal look and hasten to thy glorious day. For thee delightfully employ whatever thy bounteous grace hath given, and run my course with even joy, and closely walk with thee to heaven.

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter (*responsively*). Psalm 48

Leader: *How great is God! How much to be praised
in God’s own city, God’s holy mountain.*

People: **A towering delight for all the world. Mount Zion,
seat of divine authority—the great ruler’s capital city.**

Leader: *God is in her fortified towers, and is known to be her sure defense.*

People: **Now look how the rulers are gathered;
together they come to attack.**

Leader: *As soon as they see, they are stunned; in terror they hurry away.*

People: **Here trembling seized them,
they writhe like women in childbirth.**

Leader: *The ships that sail from Tarsus—the east wind shatters them!*

People: **Just as we heard, we see for ourselves, in the city of the Lord
our God; the Lord of the armies of earth and sky, our God
has established this city forever.**

Leader: *Within your temple, O God, we reflect on your constant love.*

People: **You are praised wherever your story is told, as far as the earth's farthest end. All that you do brings justice.**

Leader: *Because of your just decisions, Mount Zion will sing for joy, Judah's towns will shout aloud.*

People: **Go all around Mount Zion, counting all her towers.**

Leader: *Think about her wall, examine her fortifications.
Then you can tell generations to come*

People: **that here is God, our God, who leads us forever and ever.**

*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 of the Apostles 10:1–17, 34–35. New Testament, page 120

Leader: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

“Embracing Diversity” Victoria G. Curtiss

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 317 “In Christ There Is No East or West”

*Affirmation of Faith (*unison*) Colossians 1:15–20

Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible. All things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn of the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. Amen.

[†]Or “to the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Ghost.”

Offering

Offertory Voluntary

“Ye Are the Light of the World” Frank La Forge

Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. Neither does one light a candle and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick, and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before all, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven. Ye have heard that it hath been said: Thou shalt love thy neighbor and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, love your enemies; bless them that curse you; do good to them that hate you; and pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute you; that ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven. Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

*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

Leader: *The Lord be with you.*

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: *Lift up your hearts.*

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

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

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

Prayer

Leader: *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.

Leader: . . . *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

“The Best of Rooms” Charles Wood
*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.*

Prayer after Communion (*unison*)

Loving God, you have given us a share in the one bread and the
one cup and made us one with Christ. Help us to bring your salvation
and joy to all the world. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 754 “Help Us Accept Each Other”

*Benediction and Response

Postlude: God of Grace Paul Manz

Worship Leaders

Rocky Supinger, Mary Zeltman, Victoria G. Curtiss

The Music Today

Women of the Morning Choir

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

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. A brochure with more information about the banners is available in the literature racks and online at www.fourthchurch.org/arts/liturgical.html

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. Psalm 48 translation by Gary Chamberlain, *The Psalms—A New Translation for Prayer and Worship*. 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

Shawn Fiedler Ministerial Associate for Worship

John Buchanan Pastor Emeritus

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THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO

Church office: 126 E. Chestnut Street, Chicago, IL 60611.2014

www.fourthchurch.org | www.facebook.com/fourthchurch

312.787.4570 | Voicemail: 312.787.2729 | Fax: 312.787.4584