

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

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## Gathering around the Word

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### Prelude

Allegretto . . . . . William Wolstenholme  
Meditation . . . . . Edward d'Evry

### Introit

“Praise Ye the Lord” . . . . . Dale Grotenhuis  
*Praise ye the Lord; praise him, O ye servants of the Lord.  
Praise the name of the Lord; praise the Lord.*

\*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: *We say to our God, “You are our Lord.”*  
People: **We have no good apart from our God.**  
Leader: *The Lord shows us the path of life.*  
People: **In God’s presence there is fullness of joy.**  
Leader: *Let us worship God and praise God’s name forever!*

### \*Prayer of Praise

\*Hymn 39 . . . . . “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

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

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Generous God, just as your creating Word brought forth all that is,  
so you promise to create new heavens and a new earth,  
free from injustice, oppression, and brokenness.  
Yet even with those promises, we often live in fear and despair.  
We let anxiety make a home in our souls,  
and sometimes we feel helpless to do any good.  
And yet you call us to live out our baptism. Bless you, O Lord.  
Bless you for your love that sustains us.  
Bless you for the way you give us courage at just the right time.  
Bless you for the grace that keeps us from being complacent.  
Bless you, O Lord. May we live in a way that shows our gratitude  
and embodies your justice. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

Leader: *Friends, believe the good news:*  
People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Concerns of the Church

Anthem

“O Be Joyful” . . . . . Philip W. J. Stopford  
*O be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness and come  
before his presence with a song. Be ye sure that the Lord he is God. It is he that  
hath made us and not we ourselves. We are his people and the sheep of his pasture.  
O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving and into his courts with praise.  
Be thankful unto him and speak good of his name. For the Lord is gracious,  
his mercy is everlasting, and his truth endureth from generation to generation.  
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.*

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Listening for the Word

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Prayer for Illumination

Psalter (*responsively*)

Psalm 16. . . . . Old Testament, page 469

\*Gloria Patri (*sung*) . . . . . The Hymnal, 581

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:<sup>†</sup>  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen. Amen.

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<sup>†</sup>Or “to the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Ghost.”

Scripture Lesson

1 Samuel 1:4–20. . . . . Old Testament, page 233

Leader: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon . . . . . Shannon J. Kershner

Responding to the Word

\*Hymn 324. . . . . “For All the Faithful Women”

\*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;  
 on 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.

New Members (11:00)

Prayers of the People

The Lord’s Prayer

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”. . . . . Eric DeLamarter

Minute for Mission

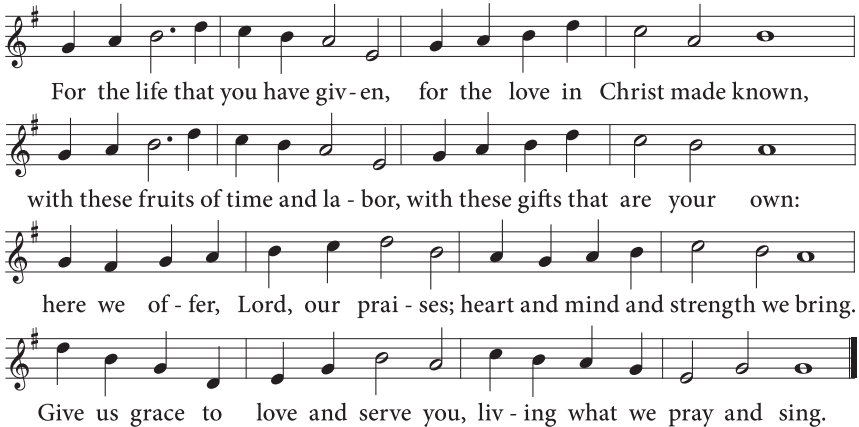
# Offering

## Offertory Anthem

“Lord, Thou Hast Been Our Refuge” . . . . . Ralph Vaughan Williams

*Lord, thou hast been our refuge from one generation to another, before the mountains were brought forth, or ever the earth and the world were made, thou art God from everlasting and world without end. Thou turnest man to destruction; again thou sayest, come again ye children of men, for a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday, seeing that is past as a watch in the night. O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come; our shelter from the stormy blast and our eternal home. As soon as thou scatterest them they are even as a sleep and fade away suddenly like the grass. In the morning it is green and groweth up, but in the evening it is cut down, dried up and withered. For we consume away in thy displeasure and are afraid at thy wrathful indignation. For when thou art angry all our days are gone; we bring our years to an end as a tale that is told, the years of our age are three score years and ten, and though men be so strong that they come to fourscore years, yet is their strength but labor and sorrow. Turn thee again, O Lord, at the last. Be gracious unto thy servants. O satisfy us with thy mercy and that soon, so shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life. Lord, thou hast been our refuge from one generation to another, before the mountains were brought forth, or ever the earth and the world were made, thou art God from everlasting and world without end. And the glorious majesty of the Lord be upon us. Prosper thou the work of our hands, prosper thou our handiwork.*

### \*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*)

Make us thankful each day, O God,  
for the gifts that come upon us from your bounty.  
Guide us to use these offerings to your glory  
for the health of your people and this creation. Amen.

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## Bearing the Word into the World

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\*Hymn 643. . . . . “Now Thank We All Our God”

\*Benediction and Response

*Worshippers who wish to do so are invited to sing along with the choir  
during the Benediction responses.*

Postlude

Toccatà . . . . . E. d’Evry

## Worship Leaders

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9:30 Jeffrey Weber, Jeffrey Doane, Greg Kershner, Judith L. Watt  
Shannon J. Kershner

11:00 Kathryn Burkhardt, Jeffrey Doane, Lisa Stracks, Judith L. Watt  
Shannon J. Kershner

## The Music Today

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Morning Choir

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

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

## Worship Notes

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TODAY'S MINUTE FOR MISSION highlighting ways to share Christmas joy this season is being presented by Colleen Mraz.

THE COMPOSER of the first anthem, Philip Stopford, was born in England in 1977 and began his musical career at the age of eight as a member of the choir at Westminster Abbey. After graduating from Oxford he became Organist at St. Anne's Cathedral in Belfast, Ireland. In 2015 he moved to America to become Music Director of Christ Church in Bronxville, New York.

THE BULLETIN COVER photo depicts candles at a Taizé service in Buchanan Chapel (the next Taizé service will be held at 7:30 p.m. on New Year's Eve). The cover quote is from Walter Brueggemann's prayer, "Come to Our Shut-Down Places" (On reading 1 Samuel 1) in his book *Awed to Heaven, Rooted in Earth*.

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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

**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**

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