

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Four Schübler Chorales Johann Sebastian Bach
“Sleepers Wake!” A Voice Astounds Us
My Soul Doth Magnify the Lord
Lord Jesus Christ, Abide with Us
Come Thou, Jesu, from Heaven to Earth

Introit

“Gloria” (9:30) David Giardiniere
“Our King and Savior Draweth Nigh” (11:00) Stephen Sturk

*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: *The days are surely coming, says the Lord,
when God will fulfill the promises made.*
People: Every valley shall be lifted up
and every mountain and hill be made low.
Leader: *In those days, God will cause a mighty branch to spring forth
who will execute justice and righteousness;*
People: steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
righteousness and peace will look down from the sky.
Leader: *Prepare the way of our Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.*
People: The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom.
Leader: *The people who have lived in the shadows have seen a great light;
those who live in the land of the deepest night,
on them the sun shall soon shine.*
People: The glory of God’s love shall soon be revealed,
and all the people shall see it and be made new.

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

*Prayer of Praise

*Hymn 88 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

O God, we live as if the light had never defeated the night in the world or in us. We confess that we ignore the Christ you sent to be among us, to be in us. We’ve kept the birth of your Son confined to the Christmas season and do not yearn for his birth each moment in our waiting hearts. Lord, you came to us in the fullness of time. Forgive us for not opening our eyes to your coming. It’s time that we prepare for your coming. It’s time that we prepare for your unending reign on earth. Hear us, O God, as we come before you in silence, confessing those sins we do not speak aloud, but hold in our hearts . . .

(Please hold silence.)

Kyrie (*sung*) The Hymnal, 551

Lord, have mercy; Christ have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy; Christ have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.

Declaration of Pardon

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

Concerns of the Church

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter (*sung*)

“Lord, to You My Soul Is Lifted” (Psalm 25) The Hymnal, 420

First Lesson

Jeremiah 33:14–16 Old Testament, page 694
Leader: *The Word of the Lord.*
People: Thanks be to God.

*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.

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

Second Lesson

Luke 21:25-36 New Testament, page 80

Leader: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Sermon Shannon J. Kershner

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 83 “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

*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 Anthem

“Rorate coeli” Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina

Pour out dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the just one. Let the earth open and bring forth a Savior. Show us your mercy, O Lord, and grant us your salvation. Come, O Lord, and do not delay. Alleluia.

*Offering 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 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 . . .*

. . . who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Sanctus (*sung*) The Hymnal, 552

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, 553

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

- “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” Edward C. Bairstow
Let all mortal flesh keep silence and stand with fear and trembling and lift itself above all earthly thought. For the King of kings and Lord of lords, Christ our God, cometh forth to be our oblation and to be given for food to the faithful. Before him come the choirs of angels, with every principality and power; the cherubim with many eyes, and winged seraphim who veil their faces as they shout exultingly the hymn, alleluia.
- “E’en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come” Paul Manz

Psalm 23 *(recited in unison after all have received the cup)*

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures, he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul; he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name’s sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies; thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

*Prayer and Dedication of Homebound Communion *(unison)*

Gracious God, you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. As the bread and cup go out from this time of worship into times of worship at bedsides and in homes, we pray for those who will receive these elements of grace. May they also feel the way you tie us all together in you. May all of our love be your love reaching out into the life of the world; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

- *Hymn 357 “The Days Are Surely Coming”
- *Benediction and Response
Worshippers who wish to do so are invited to sing along with the choir during the Benediction responses.

Postlude

- On Jordan’s Banks the Baptist’s Cry Aaron David Miller

Worship Leaders

Rocky Supinger, Joseph L. Morrow, Shannon J. Kershner

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Fourth Church Youth

The Music Today

Morning Choir; Youth Choir (9:30)

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

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

Katy Sinclair, Associate Director of Music for Children and Youth

Hsing-Huei Huang, pianist

Worship Notes

TODAY FOURTH CHURCH CELEBRATES THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER.

Communion is not just for Presbyterians or "members of the church." All who confess Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, even those who doubt or whose trust is wavering, are invited to partake of the Lord's Supper, in which we are assured of God's love and grace. This morning the congregation is served in the pews by Fourth Church elders and deacons. The congregation also takes on the role of serving: worshipers take the bread (which is gluten-free) and grape juice from the plate held by their neighbor, and then they take the plate and serve the neighbor on their other side. Empty glasses are placed in the ringed holes in the pew racks.

THE "LIGHT UP A LIFE" OFFERING is being received throughout Advent. "Light Up a Life" provides opportunity to support congregational programs, mission, and community outreach, including Chicago Lights programs. "Light Up a Life" gifts can be made using the special offering envelopes found in the pew racks.

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

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.

THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO

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