

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

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Adagio in A Minor Johann Sebastian Bach

Introit :: “Goodness Is Stronger Than Evil” John L. Bell

*Goodness is stronger than evil; love is stronger than hate; light is stronger than darkness;
life is stronger than death. Victory is ours through God who loves us.*

*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: *Lord, you have searched me, and you know me;
you know my sitting down and my rising up.*

People: You discern my thoughts from afar,
and you are acquainted with all my ways.

Leader: *There is not a word that comes to my lips that is unknown to you, O Lord.*

People: Knowledge like yours is too wonderful for me;
therefore I give you thanks and praise.

*Hymn 450 “Be Thou My Vision”

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Almighty God, you call us to serve you. You call us to follow faithfully. But we confess that we are occupied with our own concerns. We strive to hold on to what we have. We nurse our hurts from injustices of the past. O God, there is so much we don’t understand about ourselves or about one another. And there is so much we don’t want to admit about the justice you desire. Forgive us, O God, for the ways in which we choose not to hear and not to act and not to change. We pray in the name of the One who calls us forward, Jesus, our Christ. Amen.

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

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

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter (*responsively*)

Psalm 36 Old Testament, page 482

Anthem

“From the Rising of the Sun” Frederick A. G. Ouseley

From the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same my name shall be great among the Gentiles; and in every place incense shall be offered up unto my name; for my name shall be great among the heathen, thus saith the Lord!

Living Epistle

“Letter from Birmingham Jail” (*excerpt*) Martin Luther King Jr.

*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

John 2:1–11 New Testament, page 87

Sermon Judith L. Watt

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

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 834 “Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

*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 Solo

“Beatus ille servus” Anonymous

Blessed is the one who fears the Lord, when he comes and knocks at the door.

*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, 552

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.

Leader: . . . *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*) The Hymnal, page 35

The Communion

Communion Anthem :: "O Bless the Lord, My Soul" Mikhail Ippolitov-Ivanov

O bless the Lord, my soul. Blessed art thou, O Lord. O bless the Lord, my soul, and let all that is within me bless his holy name. O bless the Lord, my soul, and do not forget all of his generous acts; who forgives all of your wrongs, your iniquities, your sins, and who heals all your diseases, all of your ills, who redeems your life from destruction, who crowns you with loving-kindness, compassion, and steadfast love.

***Litany of Dedication and Commitment**

Leader: *A child once dreamed the Voice was calling his name . . . “Samuel”;*
fishermen once heard the Voice when a young man bid them follow;
and still the Voice beckons today . . . can you hear?

People: Here I am. Send me.

Leader: *Moses protested vehemently as the Voice spoke at the burning bush;*
Mary stood amazed as the Voice proclaimed impending birth;
and still the Voice beckons today . . . can you hear?

People: Here I am. Send me.

Leader: *Rosa Parks followed the Voice to the front of the bus;*
Martin Luther King Jr. heard the Voice as the bullet shattered;
and still the Voice beckons today . . . can you hear?

People: Here I am. Send me.

Leader: *The Voice beckons from humble places . . .*
in the tears of hungry children,
in the cries of the frail and frightened elderly,
in the pleas of those whose dreams have been too long deferred;
and still the Voice beckons today . . . can you hear?

People: Here I am. Send me.

Leader: *A timid believer pauses to listen to the Voice;*
a struggling church hears the Voice and turns;
and still the Voice beckons today . . . can you hear?

People: Here I am. Send me.

Bearing the Word into the World

***Hymn 379** **“We Shall Overcome”**

***Benediction and Response**

Postlude :: Prelude to a Te Deum **Marc-Antoine Charpentier**

Worship Leaders

Lucy Forster-Smith, Judith L. Watt

The Music Today

Chancel Choir; Kacey Kurpinsky, soprano soloist; Carol Carpenter, flutist

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

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

Justin Taylor, Organ Scholar

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.

NINETY YEARS AGO, on January 15, 1929, Martin Luther King Jr. was born in Atlanta. Only thirty-five years later, this pastor and civil rights leader received the Nobel Peace Prize. On this weekend when we join churches and communities across the nation in honoring the life and legacy of Dr. King, we read again the words he wrote from the Birmingham Jail in April 1963, excerpted from his letter that was first printed in the *Christian Century*.

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 M. Fiedler Ministerial Associate for Worship

John Buchanan Pastor Emeritus

SOURCES AND CREDITS: Today's liturgy is adapted from *Book of Common Worship* (Westminster John Knox Press, 2018). 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.

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