

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

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth Johann Sebastian Bach
My Heart Is Filled with Longing J. S. Bach

Introit

“Even Now, Says the Lord” Richard Proulx
Even now, says the Lord, return to me with your whole heart, for I am gracious and merciful.

*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: *Come away from the rush and worry of the world to worship God.*

People: **We come on God’s invitation, longing for peace and quiet for our souls.**

Leader: *Come, the banquet of hope and praise is ready.*

People: **We come on God’s invitation, seeking to be fed.**

Leader: *Come and feast on the love of God in Jesus Christ.*

People: **We come on God’s invitation, needing healing.**

Leader: *Come, rest your spirits and quiet your hearts for God is with us.*

People: **We come to praise God who calls us home.**

*Prayer of Praise

*Hymn 503 “Lord, We Have Come at Your Own Invitation”

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

Litany of Confession

Leader: *God of grace, we confess that we have elevated
the things of this world above you.
We have made idols of possessions and people
and used your name for causes
that are not consistent with you and your purposes.
God of Grace,*

People: forgive us.

Leader: *We have permitted our schedules to come first
and have not taken the time to worship you.
We have not always honored those who guided us in life.
We have participated in systems that take life instead of give it.
God of Grace,*

People: forgive us.

Leader: *We have been unfaithful in our covenant relationships.
We have yearned for, and sometimes taken, that which is not ours,
and we have misrepresented others' intentions.
God of Grace,*

People: forgive us.

Leader: *Forgive us, O God, for the many ways we fall short of your glory.
Speak to us in the silence, O Lord,
that we may learn to live together for your will alone . . .
(Please hold silence.)*

Extinguishing the Third Lenten Candle

Kyrie The Hymnal, 551

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

Anthem

“Though Knowest, Lord, the Secrets of Our Hearts” Henry Purcell
*Though knowest, Lord, the secrets of our hearts; shut not thy merciful ears unto our prayer,
but spare us, Lord, most holy. O God, most mighty, O holy and most merciful Savior, thou most
worthy judge eternal, suffer us not, at our last hour, for any pains of death to fall from thee. Amen.*

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter Psalm 63:1–8

Leader: *O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you;
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.*

People: **Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place,
that I might behold your power and your glory.**

Leader: *For your steadfast love is better than life itself;
my lips shall give you praise.*

People: **So will I bless you as long as I live
and lift up my hands in your name.**

Leader: *My spirit is content, as with the richest of foods,
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,*

People: **when I remember you upon my bed,
and meditate on you in the night watches.**

Leader: *For you have been my helper,
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.*

People: **My whole being clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast.**

*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.”

Scripture Lesson

Matthew 22:1–14 New Testament, page 23

Sermon Shannon J. Kershner

Responding to the Word

Silent Reflection

Throughout the season of Lent we are practicing silence as a way to grow closer to God and one another.

*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.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (*unison*) The Hymnal, page 35

Prayer Response

"Amen" Dale Wood

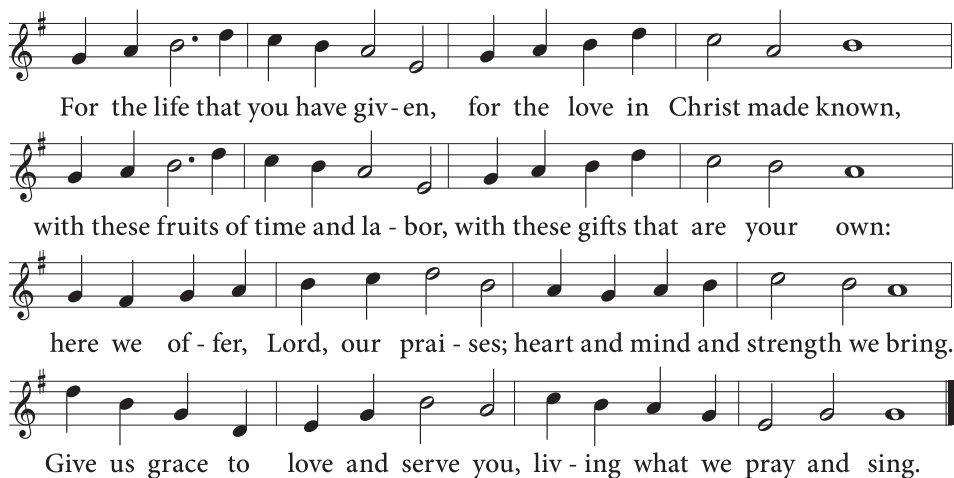
Offering

Offertory Anthem

"Miserere mei" William Byrd

*Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy, blot out my transgressions.*

*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*)

Gracious God, with the offering of these gifts,
we accept your invitation to newness of life.
Use these gifts—use us—to feed others as we have been fed,
to serve others as we have been served,
and to bless others as we have been blessed,
through the love of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 343 “Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life”

*Benediction and Response

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

Postlude

Toccata in B Minor Eugène Gigout

Worship Leaders

9:30 Joseph L. Morrow, Enjolique Reed, Jeffrey Doane, Shannon J. Kershner

11:00 Joseph L. Morrow, Holly O' Mara, Jeffrey Doane, Shannon J. Kershner

Extinguishing the Lenten Candle

9:30 Christiane and Doug Andrews

11:00 Marc Miller and Chris Horsman

The Music Today

Morning Choir

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

Worship Notes

EACH SUNDAY DURING LENT we are extinguishing a candle at the front of the Sanctuary. Just as we lit candles on the Advent wreath to symbolize the light coming into the world through the birth of Christ, so now our extinguishing of candles points to the Lenten progression from light to the shadows of Good Friday and the crucifixion.

THE LENTEN ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING SUPPORTS Chicago Lights Tutoring and Social Service Center; Fourth Church Meals and Shower Ministries; and the work of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Hunger, and Self-Development of People Programs. To make a gift, use the envelopes in the pew racks or write "Lenten Offering" on the memo line of a check made payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church. Gifts can also be made online at www.fourthchurch.org/give-online

THE BULLETIN COVER PHOTO depicts the acrylic sculpture hanging in Buchanan Chapel.

The cover quote is from N.T. Wright's book *Matthew for Everyone: Part 2*.

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Judith L. Watt Pastoral Care

Joseph L. Morrow Minister for Evangelism

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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.

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The Fourth Church logo (*front cover*) is based on the Great East Window in the Sanctuary.

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