

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

Gathering around the Word

Prelude # Adagio in E Major Frank Bridge

Introit # “To Thee, O Lord, Do I Lift Up My Soul” Sergei Rachmaninoff
To thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul; my God, I trust in thee.

*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.

*Invocation

*Hymn 716 “God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending”

Litany of Confession

Leader: *Holy God, you promise us a life full of blessing, but we do not always believe.*
God of grace,

People: **forgive us.**

Leader: *You incite us to hope, but we fall back in fear. God of grace,*

People: **forgive us.**

Leader: *You urge us to give freely, but we cling to what we have. God of grace,*

People: **forgive us.**

Leader: *You call us to watch at all times for you, but we grow lazy and self-absorbed.*
God of grace,

People: **forgive us.**

Leader: *Forgive us. Increase our hope, enlarge our hearts, and in this silence,*
awaken us to the wonders you work in the world every day . . .

(Please hold silence.)

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

Extinguishing the Fourth 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.**

*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 :: “O for a Closer Walk” Charles Villiers Stanford

O for a closer walk with God, a calm and heavenly frame; a light to shine upon the road that leads me to the Lamb! Return, O holy dove, sweet messenger of rest. I hate the sins that made thee mourn and drove thee from my breast. So shall my walk be close with God, calm and serene my frame; so purer light shall mark the road that leads me to the Lamb.

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter Psalm 32



Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name.



Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life.

*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 :: Matthew 25:14–30 New Testament, page 27

Sermon Lucy Forster-Smith

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

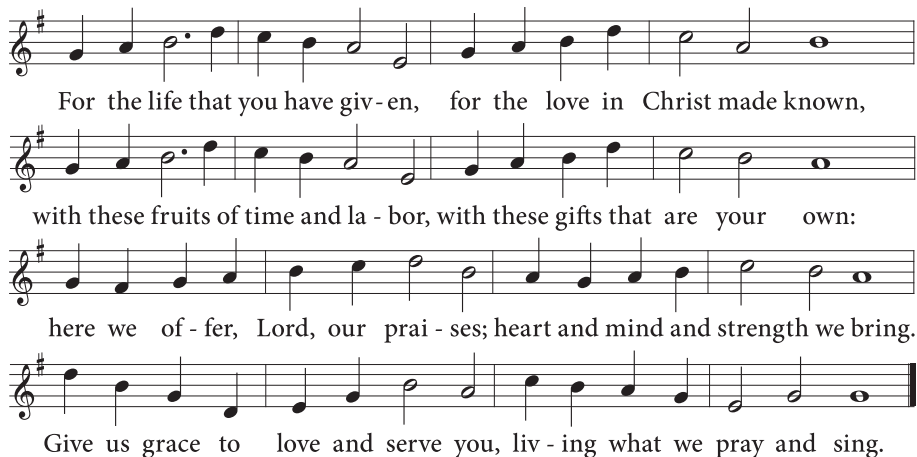
I believe in God the Father Almighty,
 Maker of heaven and earth,
 and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
 who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
 born of the Virgin Mary,
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, dead, and buried;
 he descended into hell;
 the third day he rose again from the 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.

Offering

Offertory Voluntary :: Ah, Holy Jesus, How Hast Thou Offended? Johannes Brahms

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

*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 Saving Victim” Roland E. Martin

Prayer after Communion (*unison*)

You accompany us by your ever-living presence, Most Holy Christ. Your light is light to our path and your love is the animating force to overcome all that assails us. We have been fed at your table with the life-giving bread and the cup poured out for the remission of our sin. Uphold us with a right spirit as we step forth from this place to share what we simply cannot contain: our love for Jesus, our friend, our companion, our Savior. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 719 “Come, Labor On”

*Benediction and Response

Postlude :: O God, Thou Faithful God. Johannes Brahms

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. Even one who doubts or whose trust is wavering may receive the bread and grape juice (in place of wine) in order to be assured of God’s love and grace in Jesus Christ.

Worship Leaders

Victoria G. Curtiss, Lucy Forster-Smith

Extinguishing the Lenten Candle

Suzie Shade

The Music Today

Chancel Choir

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

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist; Justin Taylor, Organ Scholar

Worship Notes

THE SEASON OF LENT calls Christians to embrace the faith journey by reflecting upon and deepening their relationship with God and by acting upon their Christian beliefs. During this season, we are invited to thoughtfully take up the gifts of faith—worship, study, prayer, and service—in preparation for Holy Week and Christ’s journey to the cross.

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

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: 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.

This worship bulletin is printed on acid-free paper. All bulletins and inserts left in the baskets by the doors are recycled.

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