

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *(unison)*

You have nurtured us at your table, O God, that we may go forth to share the Bread of life with others. Continue to renew us with your ongoing love in which we stand and help others to stand. May the healing and compassion we experience in you be the gifts we offer to others. Amen.

***HYMN 436** "We Are Your People" *Tune: WHITFIELD*

BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

POSTLUDE Abide with Me, Fast Falls the Eventide
William Bolcom

WORSHIP LEADERS

Victoria G. Curtiss Associate Pastor

The Vespers Choir

John W. W. Sherer Organist and Director of Music

The Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago

John M. Buchanan, Pastor

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vespers

6:30 p.m. Sunday February 1, 2009

A LIGHT IN THE CITY
FOURTH
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
www.fourthchurch.org

PRELUDE Deck Yourself, My Soul, with Gladness
Johann Sebastian Bach

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Join the company of seekers in praise and thanksgiving to God.

People: **With our whole hearts we come, marveling at the powerful works of our Creator.**

Leader: God is gracious and merciful to us, entering into covenant with all who respond.

People: **In humility and amazement we answer, for the authority of Christ compels us.**

Leader: God calls us to a prophetic witness and judges the truth of our words and deeds.

People: **Out of our need for renewal and clearer vision we are here to remember and learn.**

***HYMN 465** "Here, O Lord, Your Servants Gather" *Tune: TÖKYÖ*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(unison)*

Merciful God, deliver us from knowledge that puffs us up and makes us insensitive to others' needs. We confess that sometimes our freedom has offended another's conscience and our carelessness has caused others to stumble and fall. Our actions have not been consistent with what we say we believe. Forgive us, O God, and restore us to a meaningful covenant with you and our neighbors. In Jesus' name. Amen.

**Stand as you are able.*

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Minister: Friends, believe the good news.

People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Leader: As God's forgiven people, we are reconciled to God and one another. The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

PSALTER Psalm 111 (*responsively*) (page 531, O.T.)

ANTHEM "O Sacred Feast" *Healey Willan*

SCRIPTURE LESSON 1 Corinthians 8:1–13 (page 160, N.T.)

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

COMMUNION MEDITATION by Victoria G. Curtiss
FOR THE SAKE OF YOUR NEIGHBOR

"Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up." 1 Cor. 8:1

***HYMN 367** "Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love"
Tune: CHEREPONI

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*unison*)

**We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good
news to the poor and release to the captives,
teaching by word and deed and blessing the
children, healing the sick and binding up the
brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving
sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the
gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and
sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths
of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the
world. God raised this Jesus from the dead,
vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power**

**of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life
eternal. With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can
separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus
our Lord. Amen.**

from A Brief Statement of Faith, PCUSA

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM "Jesu, Dulcis Memoria"

Tomás Luis de Victoria

Jesus, the very thought of thee with sweetness fills
the breast, but sweeter far thy face to see and in
thy presence rest.

***DOXOLOGY** (The Hymnal, 592)

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

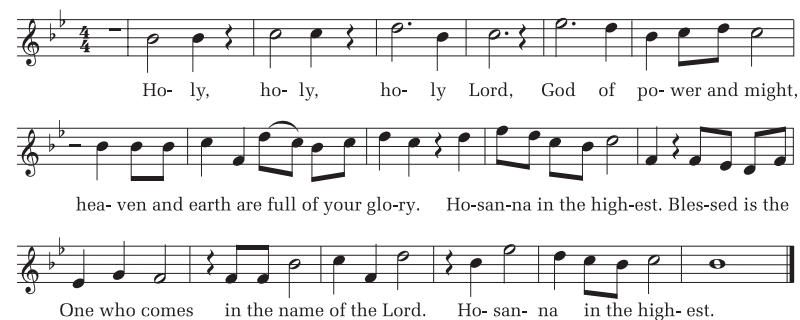
People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PRAYER

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



Music: John W.W. Sherer; © 1997. Used by permission.