

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

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Kyrie! O God, Holy Ghost. Johann Sebastian Bach
Canzonetta William Mathias

Introit

“Christ Is Our Cornerstone” John Darwall
arr. Theodore Hoelty-Nickel

*Christ is our cornerstone, on him alone we build;
with his true saints alone the courts of heaven are filled.
On his great love our hopes we place of present grace and joys above.*

*Doxology (*sung*). The Hymnal, 592

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 From Psalm 86

Minister: *God is great and does wondrous things.*

People: Teach us your way, O God.

Minister: *God helps and comforts us.*

People: God is merciful and gracious, slow to anger,
and abounding in steadfast love and mercy.

Minister: *Let us worship God.*

*Prayer of Praise

*Hymn 281 “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

**Stand as you are able.*

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Creator God,
you breathed the breath of life into every one of your children.
You know our every need and care for us faithfully.
Yet we often fail to follow your call.
We lack the courage to care for all people,
including those who differ from us,
those who demand too much,
and those who need too much.
We are too impatient with each other.
Have mercy upon us.
Enlarge our world to include all your children.
We pray in the name of Christ, who lived and loved fully. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

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

Concerns of the Church

Minute for Mission

Listening for the Word

Anthem

“There Is a Balm in Gilead” African American spiritual
arr. Jerry Johnson

*There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole.
There is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.
Sometimes I feel discouraged and think my work’s in vain,
but then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again.
If you can’t preach like Peter, if you can’t pray like Paul,
just tell the love of Jesus and say he died for all.*

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter (*responsively*)

Psalms 86:1–10, 16–17. Old Testament, page 514

*Gloria Patri (*sung*). The Hymnal, 579

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

Genesis 21:8–21. Old Testament, page 16
Minister: *The Word of the Lord.*
People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Shannon J. Kershner

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 298 “There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

*Affirmation of Faith (*unison*) The 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*)

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.

Prayer Response

“Amen” Vincent Persichetti

Offering

Offertory Anthem

“Ain’t-a That Good News” African American spiritual
arr. William L. Dawson

*I got a crown up in the kingdom, ain’t-a that good news!
I’m going to lay down this world, going to shoulder up my cross,
take it home to my Jesus, ain’t-a that good news.
I got a harp up in that kingdom, I got a robe up in the kingdom,
ain’t-a that good news.*

*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 Thanksgiving and Dedication (*unison*)

O God, receive these gifts—and give us open hands.
Fill our lives—and give us open hearts.
Infuse us with your Spirit—and give us open minds.
Send your blessing upon this congregation—and give us open doors.
We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

*Hymn 371 “Lift High the Cross”

Bearing the Word into the World

*Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Sonata on the First Tone José Lidone

Worship in the Reformed Tradition

As the headings in our bulletin remind us each week, the center of our worship is **the Word**—by which we mean both Scripture and the Living Word of God, Jesus Christ. Our Scripture witnesses to God and God’s activity. When it is read and proclaimed, Jesus Christ the Living Word is present by the inward witness of the Holy Spirit. It is this Living Word that is the center of everything we do in worship.

That worship follows the pattern we see in Isaiah 6 (page 597 of the Old Testament): adoration, confession, absolution, thanksgiving, and service. Overwhelmed by God’s majesty and glory, we **gather** together in **praise** offered through song and prayer.

In the face of that great goodness of God, we also see how we fall short of being who we were created to be and so we join in a **prayer of confession**. We then proclaim the **forgiveness** that we know in Jesus Christ. We live our lives in this cycle of realizing where we fall short, being honest to God about that, and then recognizing that God always forgives us, even before the words are on our lips, and lets us start new.

As we listen for the Word of God, **Scripture** is read. The **sermon** is proclaimed. We respond to the Word with thanksgiving, joining in **song** and **affirming our faith**, using words from the Presbyterian Church (USA)’s *Book of Confessions*—whether it be the Apostles’ Creed, a Brief Statement of Faith, or one of the other professions of faith—or words taken directly from Scripture.

Following Jesus’ instruction to pray, in the **Prayers of the People** we bring human need before God in hope, trust, and thanksgiving for God’s faithfulness, concluding with the **Lord’s Prayer**. Our response of thanksgiving also includes the giving of our material goods, bringing to God the **offerings** of our work as symbols of our gratitude and our acknowledgment that everything we have comes from God. In prayer we **dedicate** these gifts and our lives to the work of the church and God’s mission.

God then **sends** us, like Isaiah, back out into the world in service. Our final **hymn** of grateful praise moves directly into a **charge and blessing** to take what we have heard, to take what we have learned, and to actively live it out in the world, looking for God’s work all around us.

Worship Leaders

Hardy H. Kim, Laura Sterkel, Judith L. Watt, Shannon J. Kershner

The Music Today

Men of the Chancel and Morning Choirs

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

Worship Notes

TODAY'S MINUTE FOR MISSION is presented by Hope Daniels on behalf of the Chicago Lights Urban Farm. The community outreach arm of Fourth Presbyterian Church, Chicago Lights also includes five other programs: Summer Day, Tutoring, the Elam Davies Social Service Center, Chicago Lights Academic Success in Schools (CLASS), and Free Write Jail Arts and Literacy.

THE BULLETIN COVER PHOTO—showing the Narthex as photographed from the center aisle—invokes the stained glass as a metaphor for the divine and the clear window for the mutual consideration between us and God. The cover quote is from the hymn “O God, You Search Me,” based on Psalm 139 and © Bernadette Farrell. It appears in *Glory to God*, the new Presbyterian hymnal.

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 Prayer of Dedication is adapted from a prayer written by Maren C. Tirabassi in the book *Before the Amen: Creative Resources for Worship* by Maren C. and Maria I. Tirabassi © 2007 Pilgrim Press. 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. Used by permission.

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