

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

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Variations on “America” Charles Ives

Introit

“Come, Thou Almighty King” Felice de Giardini
arr. Theodore Hoelty-Nickel

*Come, thou almighty King, help us thy name to sing, help us to praise.
Father all glorious, o'er us victorious, come and reign over us, ancient of days.*

*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

Minister: *All you whose souls are thirsty,*

People: **this is the place for water.**

Minister: *All you whose hearts are hungry,*

People: **this is the place to be fed.**

Minister: *All you who carry heavy burdens,*

People: **this is the place to lay them down.**

Minister: *Let us worship the One who sustains us.*

*Prayer of Praise

*Hymn 376 “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

**Stand as you are able.*

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Gracious God, we know Christ died to free us from sin
and to free us for faithfulness.
But we have failed to live what we know.
To those who seek your help, you grant strength;
yet we strive to do for ourselves.
To those who lift their hearts, you bend low;
yet we forget and fail to call on you.
To those who die in faith, you give new life;
yet we cling to what is safe and familiar.
Lord, forgive our lack of gratitude, our neglect of your good gifts,
and our selfish living. Bind us to you that we might live for you. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

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

Concerns of the Church

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter (*responsively*)

Psalms 46 Old Testament, page 489

Anthem

“My Lord, What a Morning” African American spiritual
arr. R. Lee Gilliam

*My Lord, what a morning, when the stars begin to fall.
You’ll hear the trumpet sound, to wake the nations underground,
looking to my God’s right hand, when the stars begin to fall.
You’ll hear the sinners mourn, to wake the nations underground,
looking to my God’s right hand, when the stars begin to fall.*

First Lesson

Romans 7:15–25a New Testament, page 147
Leader: *The Word of the Lord.*
People: Thanks be to God.

*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.

Second Lesson

Matthew 11:16–19, 25–30New Testament, page 11

Minister: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Shannon J. Kershner

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 403“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

*Affirmation of Faith (*unison*) From Colossians 1:15–20

Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God,
 the firstborn of all creation;
 in him all things in heaven and on earth were created,
 things visible and invisible.
 All things have been created through him and for him.
 He himself is before all things,
 and in him all things hold together.
 He is the head of the body, the church;
 he is the beginning, the firstborn of the dead,
 so that he might come to have first place in everything.
 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,
 and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things,
 whether on earth or in heaven,
 by making peace through the blood of his cross. 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” Morgan Simmons

Offering

Offertory Anthem

“Ride the Chariot” African American spiritual
arr. William Henry Smith

I'm going to ride the chariot in the morning, Lord; I'm getting ready for the judgment day, my Lord. Are you ready, my brother? O, yes. Are you ready for the journey? O, yes. Do you want to see your Jesus? O, yes, I'm waiting for the chariot because I'm ready to go. Are you ready my sister? O, yes. Do you want to see your Jesus? O, yes, I'm waiting for the chariot because I'm ready to go.

*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*)

God, we give our lives to you.
We give our time to you.
We give our money to you.
May we work for life, love, and peace.
Take our gifts and lead us. Amen.

*Hymn 564 “O Beautiful for Spacious Skies”

Bearing the Word into the World

*Charge and Benediction

Postlude

American Hymn Richard Keys Biggs

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

Judith L. Watt, John W. Vest, Shannon J. Kershner

The Music Today

Men of the Chancel and Morning Choirs

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

Worship Notes

THE TEXTILE BANNERS AND PULPIT PARAMENT, “Unweavings,” created by fiber artist Laurie Wohl, were commissioned by Fourth Church for use during the liturgical season of Ordinary Time, the longest season of the church year (the season between Epiphany and Lent and between Pentecost and Advent). Through their combination of scripture texts and images, these banners celebrate and elevate the perception of the sacred in the “ordinary” as we make our faith journey day to day. Numerous other works by Laurie Wohl are on exhibit in the Loggia through July.

THE BULLETIN COVER PHOTO depicts a white flower in the Michigan Avenue courtyard after a rainstorm. The cover quote is from Walter Brueggemann’s book *Awed to Heaven, Rooted in Earth: Prayers of Walter Brueggemann*.

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 Call to Worship is from *The Wee Worship Book* / Iona. 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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