

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

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Earth Prayers Augusta Read Thomas
Be Thou My Vision Irish ballad; arr. Zsolt Gárdonyi
Gabriel's Oboe Ennio Morricone

Introit

“O Lord, Open Thou Our Lips” George Guest
*O Lord, open thou our lips; and our mouth shall show forth thy praise.
O God, make speed to save us; O Lord, make haste to help us.
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.
Praise ye the Lord. The Lord's name be praised.*

*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 Based on Romans 8
Minister: *All creation waits with eager longing for God's reconciliation
of the world.*
People: We groan inwardly as we wait.
Minister: *And as we wait, we hope for what we do not see.*
People: As we wait and hope, let us worship together!

*Prayer of Praise

*Hymn 248 “You Are Before Me, Lord”

**Stand as you are able.*

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, you knit us together in our mother's womb.
You know us better than we know ourselves.
So we approach you with confidence in your mercy and compassion.
We confess our use of excuses to cover neglect,
 our habit of putting the blame on someone else,
 and our quick defense when things go wrong.
We are critical when kindness would do better,
 judgmental when consideration is more faithful.
We doubt the powers of faith to lead,
 of love to create,
 of compassion to heal.
Forgive, God, our hurry that leaves out humor and patience.
Give us delight in your creation, in your goodness, and in ourselves.
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

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

Concerns of the Church

Minute for Discipleship

Anthem

"The Road Home" Stephen Paulus
*Tell me where is the road I can call my own, that I left, that I lost so long ago?
All these years I have wandered; O when will I know there's a way, there's a road
that will lead me home? After wind, after rain, when the dark is done, as I wake
from a dream in the gold of day, through the air there's a calling from far away;
there's a voice I can hear that will lead me home. Rise up, follow me, come away
is the call, with the love in your heart as the only song. There is no such beauty as
where you belong; rise up, follow me, I will lead you home.*

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter (*responsively*)

Psalm 139:1–12, 23–24 Old Testament, page 545

*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

Romans 8:12–25 New Testament, page 147

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*) From *A Declaration of Faith*

All things will be renewed in Christ.
 In Christ God gave us a glimpse of the new creation
 God has already begun and will surely finish.
 We do not know when the final day will come.
 In our time we see only broken and scattered signs
 that the renewal of all things is under way.
 We do not yet see the end of cruelty and suffering
 in the world, the church, or our own lives.
 But we see Jesus as Lord.
 As he stands at the center of our history,
 we are confident he will stand at its end.
 He will judge all people and nations.
 Evil will be condemned and rooted out of God’s good creation.
 There will be no more tears or pain.
 All things will be made new.
 The fellowship of human beings with God and each other
 will be perfected. . . .
 Hope in God gives us courage for the struggle.

Reception of New Members (11:00)

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

“Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee” John B. Dykes; arr. Alfred B. Smith
*Jesus, the very thought of thee with sweetness fills my breast,
but sweeter far thy face to see and in thy presence rest.*

Offering

Offertory Solo

“My Heart Ever Faithful” Johann Sebastian Bach
*My heart ever faithful, sing praises, be joyful, thy Jesus is near.
Away with complaining, faith ever maintaining, my Jesus is here!*

*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*)

Thank you God:
you are our soil, our food,
our water, our sun,
everything we need to grow.
We offer these gifts to you
asking for your direction,
as we work each day
so that your reign of light
becomes more and more of a reality
in this groaning world. Amen.

*Hymn 423 “Jesus Shall Reign Where’er the Sun”

Bearing the Word into the World

*Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Rigaudon André Campra

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: 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

9:30 John W. Vest, Molly Baskin, Victoria G. Curtiss, Shannon J. Kershner

11:00 Hardy H. Kim, Molly Baskin, Victoria G. Curtiss, Shannon J. Kershner

The Music Today

Women of the Chancel and Morning Choirs; Merideth Hite, oboist;

Gillian Hollis, soloist

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

Worship Notes

TODAY'S MINUTE FOR DISCIPLESHIP is presented by Judy Kerch on behalf of the Worship, Music, and Arts Committee.

MERIDETH HITE, THE OBOE SOLOIST DURING THE PRELUDE and a Fourth Church member, has been the coordinator of the Music Institute of Chicago offerings at Fourth Church during this past year. Through this partnership, the Music Institute offers private music lessons, classes, and music therapy to children and adults at the Gratz Center. Information about these lessons and classes is available from the Music Institute of Chicago (www.musicinst.org). Merideth Hite will be moving to the University of Southern Mississippi this fall to become their Assistant Professor of Oboe.

THE BULLETIN COVER PHOTO, taken in Buchanan Chapel in 2013 before the hanging sculpture by Alyson Shotz was installed, shows how through the crucifixion and resurrection—symbolized by the crosses on the floor—and rebirth—symbolized by the baptismal font—the light can indeed overcome the darkness.

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 Affirmation of Faith is from “A Declaration of Faith,” which was commended—as a resource for congregational study and use in worship—by the General Assembly of the PCUS in 1977 and in 1985 by the General Assembly of the PCUSA. 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.

Shannon J. Kershner Pastor

Victoria G. Curtiss Associate Pastor for Mission

Matt Helms Minister for Children and Families

Hardy H. Kim Associate Pastor for Evangelism

Joyce Shin Associate Pastor for Congregational Life

John W. Vest Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry

Judith L. Watt Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care

Edwin Estevez Pastoral Resident

John Buchanan Pastor Emeritus

This worship bulletin is printed on recyclable paper that contains recycled post-consumer waste and is acid free. All bulletins and inserts left in the baskets by the doors are recycled.

THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO
Church office: 126 E. Chestnut Street, Chicago, IL 60611.2014
www.fourthchurch.org | www.facebook.com/fourthchurch
312.787.4570 | Voicemail 312.787.2729 | Fax: 312.787.4584