

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

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## Gathering around the Word

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### Prelude

Adagio in G Minor . . . . . Tommaso Albinoni  
Largo . . . . . George Frideric Handel  
arr. Kevin McChesney

### Introit

“Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart” . . . . . Arthur Henry Messiter  
arr. Norman J. Clayton

*Rejoice, ye pure in heart.  
Rejoice, give thanks and sing.  
Your festal banner wave on high,  
the cross of Christ your King.  
Rejoice, give thanks and sing.*

\*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: *Let us sing praises for the wonders of God.*

People: Let us give thanks for the works of God.

Minister: *Let us rejoice in the love of God!*

People: Let us worship in the presence of God!

### \*Prayer of Praise

\*Hymn 483 . . . . . “Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above”

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*\*Stand as you are able.*

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

God of mercy, hear our prayer today,  
as we bring our lives before you.  
Some of us dwell too much on the past.  
We want to face your new day with hope and with courage,  
but many times our own lives weigh us down.  
We forget to forgive one another.  
We dwell on our own past mistakes.  
We refuse to let go of dead issues and worn-out memories.  
We find it hard to believe that you can truly love people like us.  
Free us, O God. Free us from our own limited imaginations.  
Free us from our own limited grace.  
Free us from ourselves.  
Free us into truly hearing your promise  
that nothing can separate us from your love.  
We pray in Jesus' name. 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

“We Wait for Thy Loving-Kindness, O God” . . . . . Stephen Elvey  
*We wait for thy loving-kindness, O God, in the midst of thy temple.*

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Listening for the Word

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Prayer for Illumination

Psalter (*responsively*)

Psalm 105:1-11 . . . . . Old Testament, page 525

\*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 8:26–39 . . . . . New Testament, page 148

Minister: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon . . . . . Shannon J. Kershner

Responding to the Word

\*Hymn 339 . . . . . “Be Thou My Vision”

\*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.

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” . . . . . Anonymous

Offering

Offertory Solo

“O, Divine Redeemer” . . . . . Charles Gounod

Ah, turn me not away; receive me though unworthy. Hear my cry; behold, Lord, my distress. Answer me from thy throne; haste thee, Lord, to mine aid; thy pity show in my deep anguish. Let not the sword of vengeance smite me, though righteous thine anger, O Lord. Shield me in danger; O regard me; on thee, Lord, alone will I call. O divine redeemer, I pray thee, grant me pardon, and remember not my sins. Forgive me, O divine redeemer. Night gathers round my soul; fearful I cry to thee; come to my aid, O Lord. Save me, O Lord, in thy mercy.

\*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)

Holy and merciful God, you know the joy that is in us  
 when we offer ourselves, our time,  
 and our possessions for the work you give us.  
 Use these gifts to heal and teach, comfort and challenge,  
 that all the world might give you praise  
 and all your people might taste and know your love. Amen.

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

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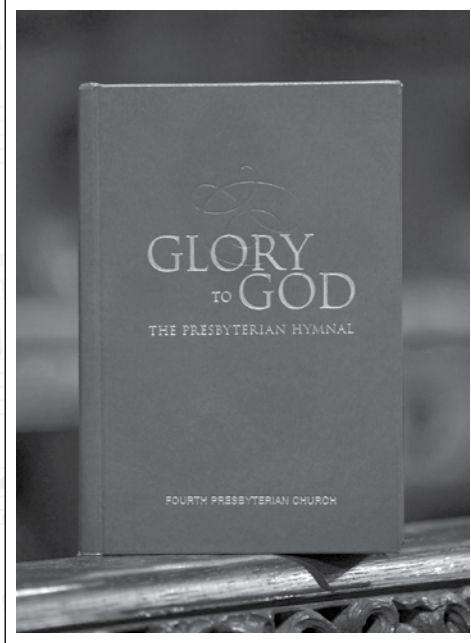
Bearing the Word into the World

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\*Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah . . . . . Paul Manz



## ***Glory to God!***

Between now and Sunday, September 14, we are inviting members and friends of Fourth Presbyterian Church to take advantage of a rare opportunity:

Sponsoring new hymnals in their family's name, their own name, or in the name of someone they want to memorialize or honor.

Personalized bookplates will be placed in each hymnal prior to the first Sunday of Advent, when we will begin using this new Presbyterian hymnal, which Session approved for purchase in December of last year.

Sponsorship forms, as well as additional information about the hymnals—which contain all of the hymns we sing from our current hymnal as well as wonderful new settings of the psalms, more Taizé music, and songs from around the world—can be found in the pew racks and during Coffee Hour this morning. There you can also browse the new hymnal and see sample bookplates.

Forms and information are also available by contacting Andrea Miller at [amiller@fourthchurch.org](mailto:amiller@fourthchurch.org) (312.640.2576) and online at [www.fourthchurch.org/worship/hymnal.html](http://www.fourthchurch.org/worship/hymnal.html)

## Worship Leaders

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Joyce Shin, Rick Sabol, John W. Vest, Shannon J. Kershner

## The Music Today

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Women of the Chancel and Morning Choirs; Briana Belding-Peck, handbell soloist;  
Sarah Van der Ploeg, soprano soloist

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

## Worship Notes

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TODAY'S MINUTE FOR DISCIPLESHIP is presented by Stacey Shonkwiler on behalf of the Children and Family Ministry Committee.

BRIANA BELDING-PECK is ringing a handbell solo during the prelude today, which she does by holding two to three bells in each hand and quickly changing bells when needed. Briana is Director of the Fourth Church Handbell Choir. Anyone interested in joining that choir is encouraged to contact John Sherer at 312.787.4570. Rehearsals will begin Sunday, September 7.

AS THE BULLETIN HEADINGS remind us, the center of our worship is the Word—by which we mean both Scripture and also the Living Word of God, Jesus Christ. When Scripture 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. We listen for the Word of God. We respond in song, affirmation of our faith, prayer, and the giving of our gifts and dedication of our lives, and then God sends us back into the world to live out our faith, looking for God's work all around us.

THE BULLETIN COVER PHOTO depicts ivy growing on the wall of the Michigan Avenue cloister. The cover quote is from Henri Nouwen's book *Life of the Beloved: Spiritual Living in a Secular World*.

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 has been reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion* © 2013 (Adapted). 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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**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

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