

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Sonata in F Major George Frideric Handel

Introit

“Alleluia” Anonymous

*Alleluia, sing praise happy company; sing we all happy family;
strike the timbrels; pluck the harp strings; happy quills with joyful harmony.
Sing praise to the Lord your God on high. Alleluia.*

*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: *Our God is the God of all people,*
People: **people of pain and fear, people of anger and joy,**
Minister: *people of compassion and grace.*
People: **Let us worship God who makes all people one.**

*Hymn 471 “O Praise the Gracious Power” (*verses 1–4*)

Prayer of Confession

God of all,
you call us to welcome strangers as neighbors
and open our hearts to those who need a home,
yet we turn away from the poor and vulnerable,
guarding our own space and time, land and possessions.
Forgive our isolation and ignorance, our apathy and stinginess.
Break open all barriers so we may love our neighbors as ourselves. 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 85:8–13 Old Testament, page 514

Anthem

“All Who Are Thirsty, Come to the Spring” G. F. Handel
arr. Walter Ehret

*All who are thirsty, come to the spring,
which shall never run dry.
Drink deep of the spring of eternal life.
Come to the spring, which is the living word of God.*

First Lesson

Leviticus 19:17–18, 33–34 Old Testament, page 102

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 25:31–46 New Testament, page 27

Sermon

Alien No More Victoria G. Curtiss

Responding to the Word

*Hymn “The Children Come”

1. **The children come, not sure where they are going;
some little ones have seen their siblings die.
They’ve traveled north—a tide that keeps on growing,
a stream of life beneath the desert sky.
Their welcome here? Detention, overflowing.
O Lord of love, now hear your children’s cry!**

2. The children come in search of something better;
they've traveled here with nothing in their hands.
On one boy's belt, a number carved in leather
leads to a phone, a brother here, a plan.
They come alone—or sometimes band together;
they bring a plea that we will understand.
3. O Christ our Lord, you welcomed in the stranger;
you blessed the children, telling them to stay.
Be in the desert, with the tired and injured;
be at the border where they are afraid.
Be on each bus where children sense the danger,
as angry crowds are shouting, "Go away!"
4. God, let each one know justice, peace, and welcome—
and may your gift of mercy start with me.
For unto such as these belongs your kingdom,
and in each child, it is your face we see.
May we, your church, respond in truth and action,
and with you, Lord, say, "Let them come to me."

*Affirmation of Faith (*unison*)

(from Salvadoran refugees in Honduras to Guatemalan refugees in Mexico)

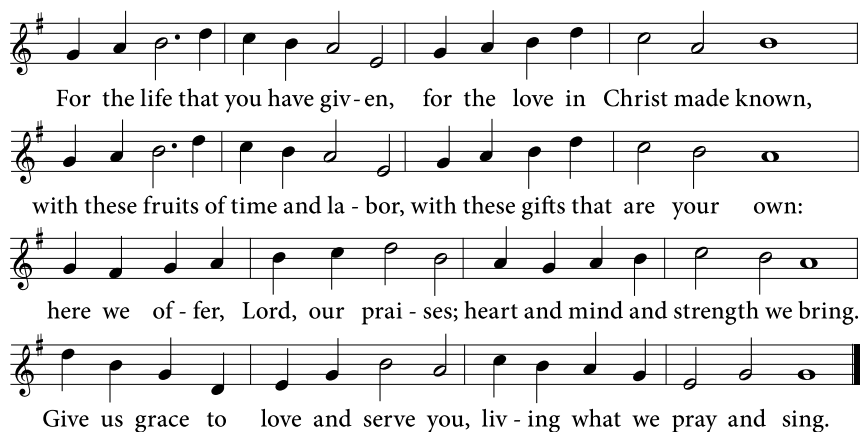
We still pray, we still sing,
we still dream of the day when the birds will return
and the flowers and our lost loved ones.
We still live with the belief
that love and gentleness and faith
will blossom forth one day like roses in winter.
We still believe that God will be born again in our land
as we prepare the stable of our hearts
for the birth of a new people.
By Christ's coming to the world in the form
of a stranger seeking welcome and as an exile
looking for the promise of refuge and hope,
may the God of Ruth and Moses bless us all. Amen.

Offering

Offertory Solo

"Laudamus Te" from *Mass in C Minor* Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
We praise you; we bless you; we adore you; we glorify you.

*Offertory 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.

Sealing the Word

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation

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.**

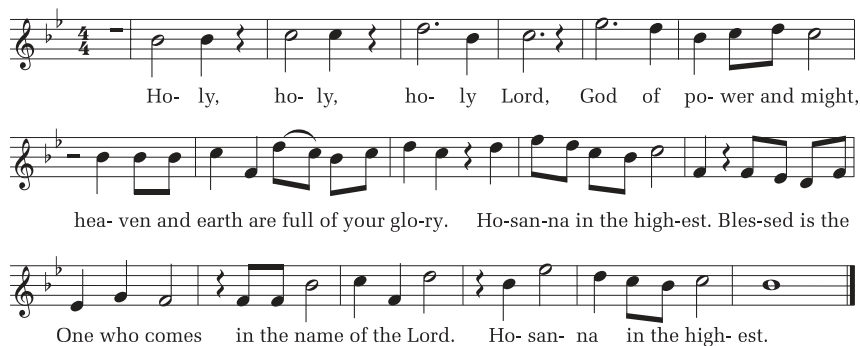
Minister: *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

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

Prayer

Minister: *It is truly right and our greatest joy . . .*

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



Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, God of po-wer and might,
hea-ven and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the high-est. Bles-sed is the
One who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

The Lord's Prayer (*unison*)

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by 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

Communion Anthem

“The Lord My Pasture Shall Prepare” Geoffrey Shaw

Prayer after Communion (*unison*)

God of grace, may we who have celebrated this holy meal
as a sign of the great love of Christ
show in our lives the fruits of his redemption,
through Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.

*Hymn 411 “Arise, Your Light Is Come!”

Bearing the Word into the World

*Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Hornpipe from *Water Music*. G. F. Handel

This morning, Communion is served by intinction.

The congregation comes forward by the center aisle to receive the bread, which they then dip into the chalice of grape juice.
(Gluten-free bread is available in a small tumbler in each basket of bread.)

Worshippers return to their pews by the side aisles.

The invitation to the Lord's Supper is not just for Presbyterians or “members of the church.” All who confess Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord are invited to partake of the Lord's Supper.

Even one who doubts or whose trust is wavering may receive the bread and grape juice (in place of wine) in order to be assured of God's love and grace in Jesus Christ.

Worship Leaders

Joyce Shin, Roberta Dawson, Victoria G. Curtiss

The Music Today

Women of the Morning Choir; Carol Carpenter, flutist;
Laura Perkett, soprano soloist
Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

Worship Notes

TODAY'S PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (PDA) OFFERING will support PDA's efforts to minister to the immigrant children flooding our country to escape dire conditions in Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala. Gifts to this offering can be made using the envelopes in the pew racks, by writing "PDA-children" on the memo line of a check made payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church, or online at www.bit.ly/PDAGifts

SHANNON KERSHNER is in Scotland, participating in a seminar that had been planned prior to her call to Fourth Church. There she is joining with Presbyterian pastors from North Carolina and from Scotland to talk about the church today. She returns on August 19.

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 words to "For the Life that You Have Given" are by Carl P. Daw Jr. © 1987; music is by Morgan Simmons © 1990, 1992 by Hope Publishing Co. The music for "Holy, Holy, Holy" is by John Sherer © 1997. The words to "The Children Come" are by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette © 2014. All rights reserved. All are used by permission.

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Judith L. Watt Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care

Layton Williams Pastoral Resident

John Buchanan Pastor Emeritus

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