

*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

I Call to You, Lord Jesus Christ . . . . . Johann Sebastian Bach  
Prelude and Fugue in C Minor . . . . . J. S. Bach  
arr. Ryohei Nakagawa

### Introit

“How Did My Heart Rejoice” . . . . . Curt Oliver  
*How did my heart rejoice to hear my friends devoutly say,  
“In Zion let us all appear to keep the solemn day.”  
I love her gates; I love the road;  
the church adorned with grace stands like a palace built for God,  
to show God’s milder face.  
Peace be within this sacred place and joy a constant guest;  
with holy gifts and heavenly grace be all believers blest. Amen.*

\*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: *God created the heavens and the earth*  
People: **and gave them to us to use and enjoy.**  
Minister: *God breathed life into each of us and set us upon the earth*  
People: **and sent Jesus Christ to save us from the pull of death.**  
Minister: *Everything that fills our souls with gladness and light  
is a gift from the Creator.*  
People: **Let us praise our God! Let us worship!**

### \*Prayer of Praise

\*Hymn 455 . . . . . “All Creatures of Our God and King”  
(*verse 3, women only; verse 4, men only*)

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*\*Stand as you are able.*

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Almighty God, you have named us and claimed us,  
yet we try to hide from that claiming.  
We settle for the seeming security and comforts of home,  
where our talents may be tucked away;  
our gifts preserved, but paralyzed.  
You call us to live in faith, investing in the world you made—  
to exercise our gifts, even at the risk of losing them.  
Have mercy upon us, Lord; have mercy.  
Help us understand your will for us.  
Teach us what you desire.  
Help us to steward well the gifts you have given us,  
that one day we might fully enter your joy. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

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

Concerns of the Church

Minute for Mission

Anthem

“Sing We Merrily” . . . . . John Marsh  
*Sing we merrily unto God our strength;  
make a cheerful noise unto the God of Jacob.  
Take the psalm; bring hither the tabret, the merry harp with the lute.  
Blow up the trumpet in the new moon, even in the time appointed,  
and upon our solemn feast day.*

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Listening for the Word

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Prayer for Illumination

Psalter (*responsively*)

Psalm 123 . . . . . Old Testament, page 540

\*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

Matthew 25:14–30. . . . . New Testament, page 27

Minister: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon. . . . . Shannon J. Kershner

Responding to the Word

\*Hymn 435 . . . . . “We All Are One in Mission”

\*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.

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

“Hear Our Prayer, O Lord” . . . . . George Brandon  
*Hear our prayer, O Lord. Incline thine ear to us, and grant us thy peace. Amen.*

Offering

Offertory Anthem

“Sound the Full Chorus” from *Solomon* . . . . . George Frideric Handel

*Sound the full chorus to sing the Lord’s praise,  
for God is our King and the sun of our days.  
Flow sweetly the numbers that dwell on his name,  
and rouse the whole nation in songs to his fame.*

\*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*)

There are no limits  
to the gifts you have given us, gracious Lord.  
Now we return thanks to you for these gifts,  
and we bring these tokens to you,  
asking for your blessing on both gifts and givers.  
May these offerings from our lives  
become a part of your witness  
of love and mercy throughout the world. Amen.

\*Hymn 482 . . . . . “Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty”

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Bearing the Word into the World

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\*Benediction and Response

Postlude

Lord, I Have Only Thee . . . . . Heinrich Schütz  
arr. Theresia Perry

## 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

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9:30 John W. Vest, Mike Hurtubise, Victoria G. Curtiss, Shannon J. Kershner

11:00 Hardy H. Kim, Mike Hurtubise, Victoria G. Curtiss, Shannon J. Kershner

## The Music Today

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Tower Brass

The Morning Choir

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

Matthew Comerford, Artistic Director of Tower Brass

## Worship Notes

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TODAY'S MINUTE FOR MISSION is presented by Sara Pfaff on behalf of the Mission Committee.

TOWER BRASS, Fourth Church's brass ensemble, participates in worship services as well as special events and concerts throughout the year.

EACH WEEK THE MUSIC of the worship service is offered as a gift to inspire the worshiping community and to bring all people closer to God. Through the music we can come to know the majesty and awe of God, the stillness and peace of God, even the dance and playfulness of God. The musicians, who offer their very best gifts to God and to the congregation, do not expect to be applauded but simply ask that you listen with open heart, mind, and soul to experience what God is trying to say through the music.

THE BULLETIN COVER photograph depicts autumn leaves floating in the courtyard fountain; the circular ripples are caused by falling raindrops. The cover quote by Fred B. Craddock is from *Preaching through the Christian Year, Year B*.

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 Hope Publishing Co.

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**Joyce Shin** Associate Pastor for Congregational Life

**John W. Vest** Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry

**Judith L. Watt** Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care

**Layton Williams** Pastoral Resident

**John Buchanan** Pastor Emeritus

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