

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

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Now Thank We All Our God
from *Cantata no. 79* Johann Sebastian Bach
Let All Together Praise Our God Nikolaus Vetter
Fantasy on “Now Thank We All Our God” Feike Asma

*Doxology (*sung*). The Hymnal, 606
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.

*Invocation

*Hymn 386 “Come, Worship God”

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

God, you are the giver of every good thing.
Your generosity never ceases.
We confess our failure
to appreciate what you value:
we neglect the things that call for our care
and instead hold close to us
the things we can live without.
Forgive us, God.
Help us to know the difference
between what matters and what doesn’t,
and help us to make a difference
in the things that count. 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*)

Psalm 111 Old Testament, page 531

Anthem

“Praise Him” from *Cantata No. 207* J. S. Bach

*Praise him, the great creator, for his goodness, for his bounty,
showered upon us throughout the year.*

*Praise him, snow and wind and rain; praise him, buds and blossoms fair,
fruits and fields of golden grain, beasts of earth and birds of air.*

Praise the Lord, ye heavens adore him, angels in the height.

Sun and moon rejoice before him; praise him, all ye stars of light.

First Lesson

Ecclesiastes 1:1–11 Old Testament, page 580

Leader: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: Thanks be to God.

*Gloria Patri (*sung*) The Hymnal, 581

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

Isaiah 55:6–11 Old Testament, page 644

Minister: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

The Good That Never Goes to Waste. Joyce Shin

*“So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.”*

Isaiah 55:11 (NRSV)

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 652 "A Grateful Heart"

*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.

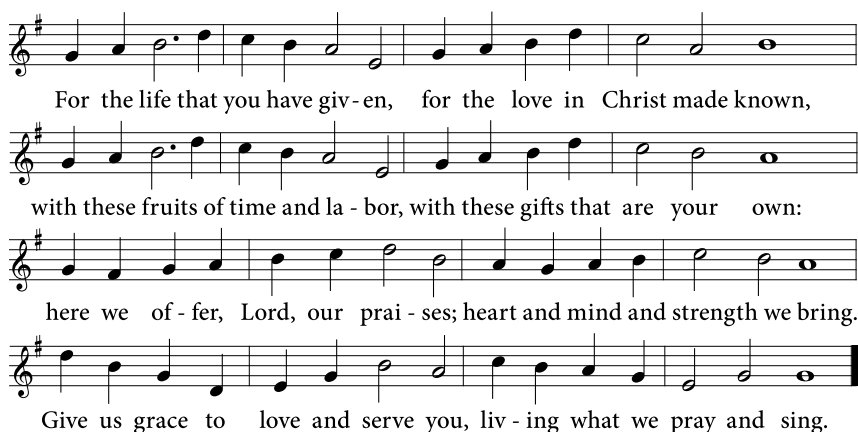
Offering

Offertory Anthem

"O Be Joyful in the Lord" Charles Wood

*O be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands;
serve the Lord with gladness
and come before his presence with a song.
Be ye sure that the Lord he is God;
it is he that hath made us and not we ourselves.
We are his people and the sheep of his pasture.
O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving
and into his courts with praise.
Be thankful unto him, and speak good of his name,
for the Lord is gracious; his mercy is everlasting,
and his truth endureth from generation to generation.
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.*

*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 Thanksgiving and Dedication (*unison*)

Gracious God,
we thank you for the gifts we can give:
our time, talent, and treasure.
We are confident
that you have a purpose
for them and for us.
Put us to work
that we may do the good you intend.
Then, when all is said and done,
complete the work
we leave unfinished.
Until that day,
when all things are made whole,
we pray. Amen.

*Hymn 643 “Now Thank We All Our God”

Bearing the Word into the World

*Benediction and Response

Postlude

Choral Improvisation

on “Now Thank We All Our God” Sigfrid Karg-Elert

Advent News and Opportunities at Fourth Church

An Advent Wreath Workshop for children and families will be held this Sunday, November 30 from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Parish House Dining Room.

Holiday concerts featuring Chanticleer, the St. Charles Singers, Chicago *a cappella*, the Chicago Chamber Orchestra, and the Lakeside Singers will be presented at Fourth Church over the next three weeks. See www.fourthchurch.org/concerts for dates and ticket information.

The **“Christmas Wishes” gift project** collects gifts for Chicago Lights Tutoring students who might not otherwise receive them. To receive a student’s wish list or to volunteer to help collect or wrap gifts, call Anne Ellis at 312.573.3369.

The **annual Fair Trade Gift Bazaar** will be held on Saturday and Sunday, December 6 and 7 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Anderson Hall and Borwell Dining Room.

Items for Christmas gift bags are being collected for guests of the Chicago Lights Elam Davies Social Service Center. Instructions and a list of needed items are available at the reception desk. Filled bags are to be returned to the reception desk by Sunday, December 7.

The **Festival of Advent Lessons and Music** will take place on Sunday, December 14 at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. A cookies-and-cocoa reception will follow in Anderson Hall.

Help decorate the Sanctuary and Gratz Center and also memorialize or honor loved ones by contributing to the purchase of Christmas flowers. A list of those remembered will be printed in the Christmas bulletin. Contributions can be made using forms in the literature racks and at www.fourthchurch.org. Completed forms must be returned by Friday, December 12 for names to appear in the bulletin.

An Advent Contemplative Retreat will be held Saturday–Sunday, December 13–14 at The Well in La Grange Park. Details are available in the literature racks. Registration forms are due by next Sunday, December 7.

A **“Christmas with Tower Brass” concert** will be held on Saturday, December 20 at 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

A **Christmas Cantata**, featuring Benjamin Britten’s *A Ceremony of Carols*, will be sung by the Morning Choir, accompanied by harpist Kara Bershad, on Sunday, December 21 during 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. worship.

Worship Leaders

John W. Vest, Joyce Shin

The Music Today

The Morning Choir
Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

Worship Notes

THE “LIGHT UP A LIFE” OFFERING is being received throughout November and December. This year-end giving campaign supports congregational programs, mission, and community outreach—including Chicago Lights programs—and denominational efforts. “Light Up a Life” gifts can be made using the special offering envelopes found in the pew racks or by writing “Light Up a Life” on the memo line of a check made payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church.

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 image is from one of the ceiling canvases over the south aisle, painted by Frederick C. Bartlett when the church was built in 1914.

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.

Shannon J. Kershner Pastor	
Victoria G. Curtiss Associate Pastor for Mission	John W. Vest Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry
Matt Helms Minister for Children and Families	Judith L. Watt Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care
Hardy H. Kim Associate Pastor for Evangelism	Layton Williams Pastoral Resident
Joyce Shin Associate Pastor for Congregational Life	John Buchanan Pastor Emeritus

<i>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.</i>	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
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