

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

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Come Thou Now, Jesus, Down from Heaven Johann Sebastian Bach
On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry. Aaron David Miller
Savior of the Nations, Come Dietrich Buxtehude

Introit

"Freedom Is Coming" South African song
O freedom is coming; O yes, I know. O Jesus is coming; O yes, I know.

*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.

*Call to Worship

Minister: *Our God is the One who comes to us in a burning bush,
in an angel's song, in a newborn child.*
People: **Our God is the One who cannot be found locked in the church,
not even in the sanctuary.**
Minister: *Watch . . . for you know not when God comes.*
People: **Watch, that you might be found
whenever, wherever God comes.**
Minister: *Let us worship!*

*Prayer of Praise

*Hymn 88 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"
(verse 4, men only; verse 5, women only)

Liturgy of the Advent Wreath

Leader 1: *One candle to remind us of the prophets,
the second for John the Baptist,
who called people to change their way of living
to prepare for the coming of Christ.
The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has never put it out.*

**Stand as you are able.*

Leader 2: *God sent the messenger, a man named John,
who came to tell people about the light
so that all should hear the message and believe.* (John 1:5–7)

People: Disturbing God,
we thank you for the witness of John the Baptist.
Help us to be open to the changing power of your love
and your call to live lives of peace;
and help us to be true witnesses
to the power of Jesus in our lives. Amen.

Sung Response (*unison*) to the tune “Cradle Song” (The Hymnal, 114)

Come surely, Lord Jesus, as dawn follows night.
Our hearts long to greet you, as roses, the light.
Salvation, draw near us; our vision engage.
One candle is lit for the hope of the age.
Come quickly, shalom, teach us how to prepare
for a gift that compels us with justice to care.
Our spirits are restless till sin and war cease.
One candle is lit for the reign of God’s peace.

Litany of Confession

Minister: *We live in a world held down by sin,
a world of hunger, pain, and injustice.*

People: We confess we are part of this world
and have not always played our part in confronting the shadows
and bringing the light of Christ to troubled places.

Minister: *We are a part of the body of Christ, a body that is sometimes
known more by our fighting than our loving.*

People: We confess our own tendencies to argue or to shut out
rather than to seek peace and to welcome.

Minister: *We are beloved people, created in the image and likeness of God.*

People: We confess we do not always live up to God’s dream for us:

Minister: *Though God says, “Let there be light!”*

People: we fear to come out of the shadows.

Minister: *Though God says, “You are the salt for the earth,”*

People: we rest content with blandness.

Minister: *Though God says, “Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you,”*

People: we live afraid of the power of God’s love for us
and for all God’s people.

Forgive us, God. Forgive us, and make us new. 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 85:1–2, 8–13 Old Testament, page 514

First Lesson

Isaiah 40:1–11 Old Testament, page 627

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

Mark 1:1–8 New Testament, page 32

Minister: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon. Shannon J. Kershner

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 96 “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

*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 “This Is the Record of John” by Orlando Gibbons

*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 Anthems

O Magnum Mysterium Tomás Luis de Victoria
Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence Edward C. Bairstow

Psalm 23 *(recited in unison after all have received the cup)*

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures,
he leadeth me beside the still waters.
He restoreth my soul; he leadeth me in
the paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil; for thou art with me;
thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence
of mine enemies; thou anointest my head with oil;
my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy
shall follow me all the days of my life;
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

*Prayer after Communion
and Dedication of Our Homebound Elements *(unison)*

Gracious God, you have made us one
with all your people in heaven and on earth.
As the bread and cup go out from this time of worship
into times of worship at bedsides and in homes,
we pray for those who will receive these elements of grace.
May they also feel the way you tie us all together in you.
May all of our love be your love reaching out into the life of the world,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Hymn 360 “Christ Is Coming!”

Bearing the Word into the World

*Benediction and Response

Postlude

Toccata from “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”. Bruce Neswick

Worship Leaders

9:30 John W. Vest, Laura Sterkel, Joyce Shin, Shannon J. Kershner
11:00 Hardy H. Kim, Laura Sterkel, Judith L. Watt, Shannon J. Kershner

Lighting the Advent Wreath

9:30 The Kulich Family
11:00 The Grady Family

The Music Today

The Morning Choir
John W. W. Sherer, Organist and Director of Music
Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

Worship Notes

FOURTH CHURCH CELEBRATES THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER each Sunday at 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. worship and at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. services on the first Sunday of even-numbered months. 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, even those who doubt or whose trust is wavering, are invited to partake of the Lord's Supper, in which we are assured of God's love and grace. This morning the congregation is served in the pews by elders and deacons in an act symbolizing their role as servant leaders. The congregation also takes on the role of serving: worshipers take the bread (which is gluten-free) and grape juice from the plate held by their neighbor, and then they take the plate and serve the neighbor on their other side. Empty glasses are placed in the ringed holes in the pew racks.

THE BULLETIN COVER quote is from Richard D. N. Dickinson's essay "Advent Expectancy but with Costs" in *Social Themes of the Church Year*.

SOURCES AND CREDITS: The call to worship is adapted from "The Coming of God," from *Kneeling in Bethlehem* by Ann Weams, copyright © 2005 WJKP. All rights reserved. Used by permission. The liturgy of our Advent wreath is adapted from *Candles and Conifers: Resources for All Saints' and Advent* by Ruth Burgess, copyright © 2005 Wild Goose Publications and is reproduced by permission. The litany of confession is adapted from <http://www.wellsprings.org.uk/wellsprings.htm>. 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. The music for "Holy, Holy, Holy" is by John Sherer © 1997.

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

Layton Williams 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