

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

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Steal Away African American spiritual
arr. Philip Keveren

The Rising Paul Sullivan

How Great Thou Art Swedish folk melody
arr. Brian Childers

Introit

“Come, Let Us Journey Now” Shaker song
arr. Susan Matsui

*Come, let us journey now as children of light in the Lord’s righteousness;
shadows fall away, virtue is bright, justice, truth before us.
All illumined, when the light shines, makes the darkness fade unknowing;
wake now, O sleeper, and rise from the dead, for Christ, his light, is showing.*

*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: *Come, sisters and brothers, gather together.*

People: Let us seek God while God may be found.
Call upon God while God is near.

Minister: *Come, all who are weary and seek rest from busy weeks
and anxious worry;*

People: here, find rest for your souls.

Minister: *Come, all who are scattered and torn;*

People: here, find a joyous peace and a living hope.

Minister: *This is the hour of blessing.*

People: Let us worship God.

**Stand as you are able.*

*Prayer of Praise

*Hymn 20 “All Things Bright and Beautiful”

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Glorious God, your thoughts are not our thoughts,
nor are your ways our ways.
You look at us and see us first as “beloved ones.”
But we often look in the mirror and first scan for flaws.
You see our lives in the context of eternity.
Yet we demand instant results and look for tomorrow
before savoring today.
Your Love chose to suffer in order to save.
But sometimes we feel threatened by that Love, which risks all for all.
So we pray for your grace and your pardon.
Forgive in us what has gone wrong.
Repair in us what is wasted. Reveal in us what is good.
And send us out as new creations. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Minister: *Friends, believe the good news.*

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Concerns of the Church

Minute for Discipleship

Anthem

“A Chorister’s Prayer” Bruce Neswick

*Bless, O Lord, us thy servants who minister in thy temple;
grant that what we sing with our lips we may believe in our hearts,
and what we believe in our hearts we may show forth in our lives;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter (*responsively*)

Psalm 45:1–2, 6–9 Old Testament, page 489

*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.

Scripture Lesson

Mark 7 (*selected verses*) New Testament, page 39

Minister: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Shannon J. Kershner

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 429 “As a Chalice Cast of Gold”

*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” Camille Saint-Saëns

Offertory Anthem

“Think on These Things” Robert A. Harris

*Think on these things.
Whatever things are true, whatever things are honest,
whatever things are just, whatever things are pure,
whatever things are lovely and are of good report;
if there be any virtue and anything worthy of praise,
think on these things.*

*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*)

Bless in every way, O Lord, the gifts of the people here given.
Enrich the ministries of your people, and make us grateful
to be able to let go of the things we do not, finally, own. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 432 “How Clear is Our Vocation, Lord”

*Benediction and Response

Postlude

Grand Chorus. R. G. Hailing

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

Hardy H. Kim, Janice Grant, Judith L. Watt, Shannon J. Kershner

The Music Today

Women of the Chancel and Morning Choirs

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

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

Briana Belding-Peck, handbell soloist

Worship Notes

THE WOMEN OF THE CHANCEL AND MORNING CHOIRS are providing musical leadership during worship through September 6. The Chancel Choir—which welcomes all singers—will resume rehearsals on Thursday, September 10 at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary Choir Loft.

TODAY'S MINUTE FOR DISCIPLESHIP is presented by Beena David on behalf of Music Ministry at Fourth Church.

THE TEXTILE BANNERS AND PULPIT PARAMENT, “UNWEAVINGS,” created by fiber artist Laurie Wohl, were commissioned by Fourth Church for use during the liturgical season of Ordinary Time, the longest season of the church year (the season between Epiphany and Lent and between Pentecost and Advent). Through their combination of scripture texts and images, these banners celebrate and elevate the perception of the sacred in the “ordinary” as we make our faith journey day to day.

THE BULLETIN COVER IMAGE depicts the carved arch over the doors in Stone Chapel. The cover quote is from David Lose's online devotions, “Daily Bread” (www.davidlose.net).

SOURCES AND CREDITS: The Prayer of Confession is adapted from *Wee Worship Book* © Wild Goose Worship Group, p. 44. The Prayer of Dedication is adapted from *Feasting on the Word Liturgies for Year C*, vol. 1, p. 53. 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.

Shannon J. Kershner Pastor
Victoria G. Curtiss Associate Pastor for Mission
Matt Helms Associate Pastor
for Children and Family Ministry
Hardy H. Kim Associate Pastor for Evangelism

Joyce Shin Associate Pastor for Congregational Life
Judith L. Watt Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care
Jeffrey Doane Parish Associate for Older Adults
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