

*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

Shall We Gather at the River. . . . . John Ferguson

### Introit

“Open to Me the Gates of Righteousness” . . . . . Eric Thiman

*Open to me the gates of righteousness; I will go into them, and I will praise the Lord.*

\*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 156 . . . . . “Sing of God Made Manifest”

### Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Gracious God, we are precious in your sight, yet we often forget that we are your beloved. We confess our love can be fickle and inconsistent. We follow selfish goals and deny that our way of life can harm others and hurt your world. Gracious God, we want to change. We long for the baptismal waters to soak into our spirits and to transform our lives. We ask for you to create in us a clean heart, strengthen our resolve, reconcile us to one another, and bless us with your peace. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

Minister: *Friends, believe the good news.*

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Concerns of the Church

Anthem

“Down to the River to Pray” . . . . . American folk song  
arr. Robert Lee

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Listening for the Word

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Prayer for Illumination

Psalter (*responsively*)

Psalms 29 . . . . . Old Testament, page 477

\*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

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 . . . . . New Testament, page 56

Leader: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon . . . . . Shannon J. Kershner

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Responding to the Word

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\*Hymn 164 . . . . . “Down Galilee’s Slow Roadways”

A REAFFIRMATION OF OUR BAPTISMAL VOWS

\*Baptismal Litany

Minister: *Remember your baptism and be glad!*

People: The waters of God’s mercy have flowed,  
and we have been cleansed and refreshed.

Minister: *Remember the waters*

*that God gathered together and called seas:  
the mothers of rivers, lakes, and springs  
that quench the thirst of the earth and all its inhabitants.*

People: We drink of the water of God's creation  
and praise God's name for life.

Minister: *Remember the waters of the Red Sea and God's salvation.*

People: With the people of old,  
we have been freed from our oppression  
and brought to a new land.

Minister: *Remember the well where our Samaritan sister  
found Jesus and received her blessing.*

People: We know that sacred place,  
for Jesus has also encountered us there,  
speaking truth to us and loving us.

Minister: *Remember Jesus at the River Jordan:*

People: the One who was without sin took upon himself our sin.

Minister: *We are redeemed by Jesus, called to live his righteousness.*

People: May God be our help.

Minister: *Remember God's grace; we are redeemed by Jesus  
and not by who we are or what we do.*

People: Thanks be to God for unmerited grace!

Minister: *Remember your baptism and be glad!*

People: We remember and our lives are filled with joy!

\*The Apostles' Creed (*unison*)

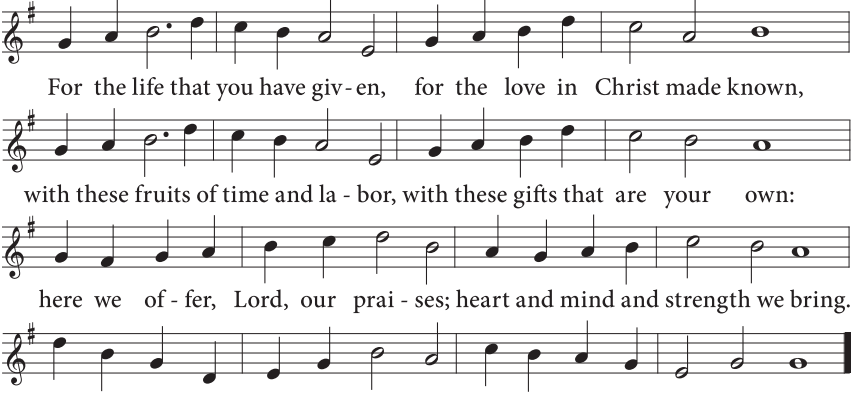
I believe in God the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell;  
the third day he rose again from 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 Voluntary

“At the River” . . . . . Aaron Copland

### \*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.

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## Sealing the Word

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### 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 Lord.**

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

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

#### Prayer

Minister: *Into the shadows of silence . . .*

*. . . singing forever to the glory of your name:*

Sanctus (*sung*) . . . . . The Hymnal, 552

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest,  
hosanna in the highest.

Minister: . . . *Great is the mystery of faith:*

Memorial Acclamation (*sung*) . . . . . The Hymnal, 553

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.  
Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

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

"Your Only Son" . . . . . Twila Paris

*Your only Son, no sin to hide, but you have sent him from your side to walk  
upon this guilty sod and to become the Lamb of God. O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb  
of God, I love the holy Lamb of God! O wash me in his precious blood, my Jesus  
Christ, the Lamb of God. I was so lost, I should have died, but you have brought  
me to your side to be led by your staff and rod and to be called a lamb of God.  
O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the holy Lamb of God! O wash me  
in his precious blood, my Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.*

Prayer after Communion (*unison*)

O God, in this meal we have been given a foretaste of the feast  
that is to come. Help us always to be alert to your gifts in our midst;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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## Bearing the Word into the World

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\*Hymn 163 . . . . . "Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice"

\*Benediction and Response

Postlude

Carillon . . . . . Louis Vierne

# Worship Leaders

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Shannon J. Kershner

# The Music Today

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The Chancel Choir; Carol Carpenter, soloist  
John W. W. Sherer, Organist and Director of Music  
Chelsie Coren, Organ Scholar

# Worship Notes

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FOURTH CHURCH OFFERS A VARIETY of worship opportunities on Sunday, including this 8:00 a.m. Communion service, worship at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m., and a jazz service with Communion at 4:00 p.m. Each Wednesday at 9:30 a.m., Morning Prayer is held in Buchanan Chapel as a time to remember in prayer members of the Fourth Church congregation and those in need. We also offer a monthly fourth-Friday prayer service in the style of Taizé, which meets this month on January 22 at 7:30 p.m.

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 quote is from Ted Loder’s prayer “In the Silence, Name Me,” in his book *Guerrillas of Grace: Prayers for the Battle*.

SOURCES AND CREDITS: The Prayer of Confession is reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion*, copyright © 2012. 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 Great Thanksgiving is adapted from a liturgy by Thom Shuman, <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com>.

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**Matt Helms** Associate Pastor  
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**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.*

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