

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

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Prelude and Fugue in C Major Johann Sebastian Bach

Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness J. S. Bach

Introit

“Blessed Be God’s Glorious Name” George Thalben-Ball

*Blessed be God’s glorious name forever,
and let the whole earth be filled with God’s glory. Amen.*

*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

Leader: *There is silence,*
All: **and there is light.**
Leader: *There is music,*
All: **and there is grace.**
Leader: *There are people,*
All: **and there is life.**
Leader: *There is hope,*
All: **and there is God.**
Leader: *Let us worship well today.*

*Prayer of Praise

*Hymn 32 “I Sing the Mighty Power of God”

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Leader: *We have failed.*
All: **We have gloated.**
Leader: *We have hated.*
All: **We have ignored.**
Leader: *We have raged.*
All: **We have hoarded.**

**Stand as you are able.*

Leader: *We have judged.*

All: *We have turned away.*

Leader: *We are sorry.*

All: *We are exhausted.*

Leader: *We are done.*

All: *Fix us, heal us, break-and-remake us.*

Leader: *Hold us, comfort us, nurture us, revive us.*

All: *Resuscitate us; bring us back from brokenness and death.*

Leader: *We trust you are the last word on our lives, O God.*

All: *And we trust that word is Love. Amen.*

Declaration of Pardon

Minister: *Friends, believe this good news:*

People: *In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.*

Concerns of the Church

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson

Isaiah 62:1-5. Old Testament, page 651

Anthem

“He, Watching over Israel” from *Elijah* Felix Mendelssohn

He, watching over Israel, slumbers not, nor sleeps.

Shouldst thou walking in grief languish, he will quicken thee.

Psalter (*responsively*)

Psalms 36:5-10. Old Testament, page 482

*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

John 2:1-11 New Testament, page 87

Minister: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Sermon Shannon J. Kershner

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 611 “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

*Affirmation of Faith (*unison*) (John 1:1–5, 14, 16)

In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.

The Word was in the beginning with God.

All things came into being through him,
and without him not one thing came into being.

What has come into being in him was life,
and the life was the light of all people.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. . . .

And the Word became flesh and lived among us,
and we have seen his glory,

the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth. . . .

From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. 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

“Amen” Leo Sowerby

Offertory Anthem

“O Be Joyful” Philip Stopford

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 Dedication (*unison*)

At the wedding feast in Cana
 you gladdened the guests with divine generosity,
 filled to the brim and flowing over.
 We offer our gifts with grateful hearts.
 Bless them and our lives to your service,
 that they may reveal your glory,
 nurture faith,
 and live out your reign in this world. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 339 “Lift Every Voice and Sing”

*Benediction and Response

Postlude

Fanfare Jacques Nicolas Lemmens

Celebrating the Life and Legacy of Martin Luther King Jr.

Eighty-seven years ago this month, on January 15, 1929, Martin Luther King Jr. was born in Atlanta. Only thirty-five years later, this pastor and civil rights leader received the Nobel Peace Prize. On this weekend when we join churches and communities across the nation in honoring the life and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr., we read here again the words he wrote from the Birmingham Jail in April 1963, excerpted from his letter, which was first printed in the Christian Century.

“We will have to repent in this generation not merely for the hateful words and actions of the bad people but for the appalling silence of the good people. Human progress never rolls in on the wheels of inevitability; it comes through the tireless effort of men and women willing to be coworkers with God, and without the hard work, time itself becomes an ally of the forces of stagnation. We must use time creatively, in the knowledge that the time is always ripe to do right. . . .

“If today’s church does not recapture the sacrificial spirit of the early church, it will lose its authenticity, forfeit the loyalty of millions, and be dismissed as an irrelevant social club with no meaning for the twentieth century. . . . Is organized religion too inextricably bound to the status quo to save our nation and the world? Perhaps I must turn my faith to the inner spiritual church, the church within the church, as the true *ekklesia* and the hope of the world. But again I am thankful to God that some noble souls from the ranks of organized religion have broken loose from the paralyzing chains of conformity and joined us as active partners in the struggle for freedom. . . . They have acted in the faith that right defeated is stronger than evil triumphant. Their witness has been the spiritual salt that has preserved the true meaning of the gospel in these troubled times. They have carved a tunnel of hope through the dark mountain of disappointment.”

Worship Leaders

9:30: Judith L. Watt, Layton Williams, Shannon J. Kershner

11:00: Hardy H. Kim, Layton Williams, Shannon J. Kershner

The Music Today

The Morning Choir

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

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

Worship Notes

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 facade of Fourth Church at night after a late December snow.

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

Judith L. Watt Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care
Nanette Sawyer Minister for Congregational Life
Jeffrey Doane Parish Associate for Older Adults
Layton Williams Pastoral Resident
John Buchanan Pastor Emeritus

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