

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Festive Flutes Everett Titcomb

Introit

“God, Be Merciful” Eric DeLamarter
God, be merciful unto us and show us the light of his countenance, that thy way may be known upon earth, thy saving health among all nations. 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: *Before we got up this morning to come to church,*
People: God was waiting to welcome us with grace.
Leader: *When we are unsure what to do next,*
People: we come to listen to God, who teaches what we need to know.
Leader: *When we are surrounded by cruelty and injustice,*
People: God works through us as instruments of peace and love.
Leader: *When our fears cripple our souls,*
People: God delivers us with steadfast love.
Leader: *Let us worship God.*

*Hymn 488 “I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry”

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

We confess, loving God, that too often we let our fears stop us from serving you. Instead of relying on you for guidance and strength, we let our inadequacies paralyze us. We allow our doubts to prevail over faith and hope in you. Uncertainty prevents our taking the next faithful step. Forgive us. Remind us that you call us by name. Free us in your joy. Take us by the hand and lead us wherever you are calling us to go. In Jesus’ name. 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 71:1–6. Old Testament, page 503

Anthem

“There Is a Balm in Gilead” African American spiritual
arr. Larry L. Fleming

*There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole;
there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.
Sometimes I feel discouraged and think my work’s in vain,
but then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again.
If you cannot sing like angels, if you cannot preach like Paul,
you can tell the love of Jesus and say, “He died for all!”*

First Lesson

Luke 13:10–17. New Testament, page 71

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

Jeremiah 1:4–10 Old Testament, page 656

Minister: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Lead Me Out” Victoria G. Curtiss

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 691 “Lord, When I Came into This Life”

*Affirmation of Faith (*unison*). from A Brief Statement of Faith (USA)

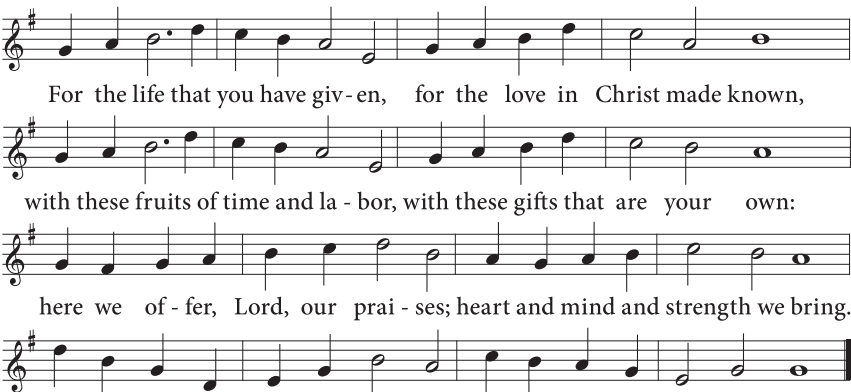
We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth, praying, “Come, Lord Jesus!” Amen.

Offering

Offertory Voluntary

“How Fair and How Pleasant Art Thou” Marcel Dupré

*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: *Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe . . .
... forever singing 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 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.

The Communion

Communion Anthem

“The Lord My Pasture Shall Prepare” Geoffrey Shaw

*The Lord my pasture shall prepare and feed me with a shepherd’s care;
his presence shall my wants supply and guard me with a watchful eye;
my noonday walks he shall attend and all my midnight hours defend.
When in the sultry glebe I faint, or on the thirsty mountain pant,
to fertile vales and dewy meads my weary wandering steps he leads,
where peaceful rivers soft and slow amid the verdant landscape flow.
Though in a bare and rugged way through devious lonely wilds I stray,
thy bounty shall my pains beguile; the barren wilderness shall smile
with sudden greens and herbage crowned, and streams shall murmur all around.
Though in the paths of death I tread, with gloomy horrors overspread,
my steadfast heart shall fear no ill, for thou, O Lord, art with me still;
thy friendly crook shall give me aid and guide me through the dreadful shade.*

Prayer after Communion (unison)

O God,
you have so greatly loved us,
long sought us,
and mercifully redeemed us.
Give us grace,
that in everything we may yield ourselves,
our wills, and our works,
a continual thank-offering to you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 726 “Will You Come and Follow Me”

*Benediction and Response

Postlude

Fugue in D Major Johann Pachelbel

Worship Leaders

Victoria G. Curtiss

The Music Today

Men of the Morning Choir

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

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

Worship Notes

THE MEN’S CHOIR is providing musical leadership during worship through September 4. The Men’s Choir consists of men from the three adult choirs at Fourth Church: the Chancel Choir, Morning Choir, and Choral Society.

THIS MORNING, COMMUNION IS SERVED BY INTINCTION. The congregation comes forward by the center aisle to receive the bread, which they then dip into the chalice of grape juice. (Gluten-free bread is available in a small tumbler in each basket of bread.) Worshipers return to their pews by the side aisles.

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 are invited to partake of the Lord’s Supper. Even one who doubts or whose trust is wavering may receive the bread and grape juice (in place of wine) in order to be assured of God’s love and grace in Jesus Christ.

THE BULLETIN COVER IMAGE depicts the Great East Window. The stone tracery of this window (facing Michigan Avenue) was designed to evoke the Tree of Jesse, a depiction in art of the ancestors of Christ (Isaiah 11:1) and the original use of the “family tree” as a schematic representation of a genealogy.

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 Prayer of Confession is written by Martha Spong, www.liturgylink.net. 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.

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Victoria G. Curtiss Associate Pastor for Mission

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Rocky Supinger Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry

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John Buchanan Pastor Emeritus

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