

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

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Choral No. 3 in A Minor César Franck
Méditation Maurice Duruflé

Introit

“Somebody’s Knocking at Your Door” African American spiritual
arr. Richard Proulx
*Somebody’s knocking at your door; O sinner, why don’t you answer?
Knocks like Jesus.*

*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: *We are not here because we have found God.*
People: We are here because God has found us.
Leader: *God has bound us together into one body and one people.*
People: Blessed be our God now and forever!

*Prayer of Praise

*Hymn 393 “O Day of Rest and Gladness”

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, we confess that we can be uncertain about following you. We confess that in a world that seems so broken, living as your faithful disciples can be exhausting. Some of what we have tried to do has disappointed those we love, failed to help our neighbors in need, or drained us of conviction and hope. Deliver us, O God, from all that is empty and vain. Set our feet upon solid rock. Open our ears to hear you. Drench us in your courage, and strengthen our determination to live your mercy and your love for all, not just for some. We pray in the name of the One who calls us forward, Jesus our Christ. Amen.

**Stand as you are able.*

Declaration of Pardon

Minister: *Friends, believe the good news:*
People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Concerns of the Church

Anthem

“The Lamb” John Tavener
*Little lamb, who made thee? Dost thou know who made thee?
Gave thee life and bid thee feed by the stream and o’er the mead;
gave thee clothing of delight, softest clothing, woolly, bright;
gave thee such a tender voice, making all the vales rejoice?
Little lamb, who made thee? Dost thou know who made thee?
Little lamb, I’ll tell thee: he is called by thy name, for he calls himself a lamb.
He is meek, and he is mild; he became a little child.
I, a child, and thou a lamb, we are called by his name.
Little lamb, God bless thee!*

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter (*responsively*)

Psalm 40 Old Testament, page 486

*Gloria Patri (*sung*). The Hymnal, 581

Glorify 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

John 1:29–42. New Testament, page 86

Leader: *The Word of the Lord.*
People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Shannon J. Kershner

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 418 “Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling”

*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.

Reception of New Members (11:00)

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” William Byrd

Offertory Anthem

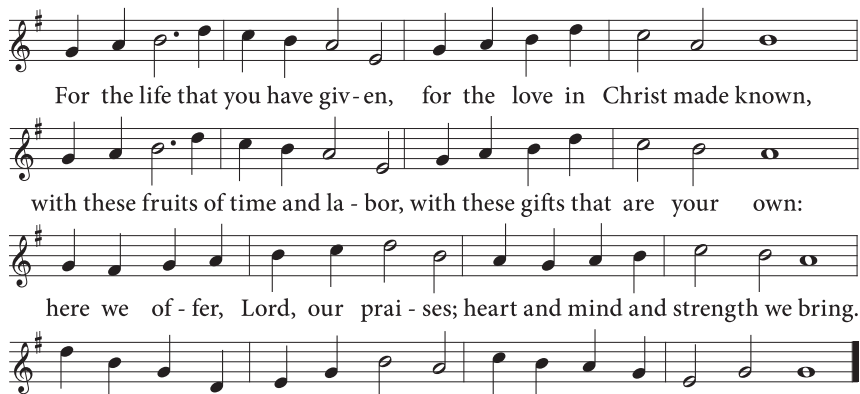
“Agnus Dei” Karl Jenkins

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world; grant us peace.

*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.

*Litany of Dedication

Leader: *A child once dreamed the Voice was calling his name: “Samuel”;
fishermen once heard the Voice when a young man bid them follow;
and still the Voice beckons today. Can you hear?*

People: **Here I am. Send me.**

Leader: *Moses protested vehemently as the Voice spoke at the burning bush;
Mary stood amazed as the Voice proclaimed impending birth;
and still the Voice beckons today. Can you hear?*

People: **Here I am. Send me.**

Leader: *Rosa Parks followed the Voice to the front of the bus;
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. heard the Voice as the bullet shattered;
and still the Voice beckons today. Can you hear?*

People: **Here I am. Send me.**

Leader: *The Voice beckons from humble places:
in the tears of hungry children;
in the cries of the frail and frightened elderly;
in the pleas of those whose dreams have been too long deferred;
and still the Voice beckons today. Can you hear?*

People: Here I am. Send me.

Leader: *A timid believer pauses to listen to the Voice;
a struggling church hears the Voice and turns;
and still the Voice beckons today. Can you hear?*

People: Here I am. Send me.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 829 “My Faith Looks Up to Thee”

*Benediction and Response

Postlude

Litanies Jehan Alain

Celebrating the Life and Legacy of Martin Luther King Jr.

“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. . . .

“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.”

—1963 Letter from the Birmingham Jail, first published in the *Christian Century*

Worship Leaders

Victoria G. Curtiss, Nanette Sawyer, Shannon J. Kershner

The Music Today

The Morning Choir

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

Worship Notes

FOURTH CHURCH OFFERS A VARIETY of worship opportunities on Sunday, including an 8:00 a.m. Communion service 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 will next be held on Friday, January 27 at 7:30 p.m., and on Tuesday mornings at 7:45 a.m. we gather for Sacred Pause in Stone Chapel, a time of meditative silence (twenty minutes) to begin the day.

THE BULLETIN COVER image depicts the effects of light streaming through the windows on the north (pulpit side) of the choir loft. The cover quote is from Martin Luther King Jr.'s sermon "Loving Your Enemies," published in his 1963 book *Strength to Love*.

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 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 Litany of Dedication is by Katherine Hawker (<http://liturgyoutside.net/MLK.pdf>).

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Rocky Supinger Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry

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Abbi Heimach-Snipes 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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