

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Three Liturgical Improvisations George Oldroyd

1. My soul hath a desire and longing to enter the courts of the Lord.

Introit

“My Lord, What a Morning” African American spiritual
arr. R. Lee Gilliam

*My Lord, what a morning, when the stars begin to fall.
You'll hear the trumpet sound, to wake the nations underground;
looking to my God's right hand, when the stars begin to fall.
You'll hear the sinners mourn, to wake the nations underground;
looking to my God's right hand, when the stars begin to fall.*

*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 401 “Here in This Place”

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Welcoming God, we fall short of the ways you envision our work in this world.
You desire that we welcome the stranger,
celebrate the uniqueness of one another,
and invite each other into community.
Forgive us for our awkwardness in these things.
We don't want to mess up, and it is easier
to stay in our comfortable space with familiar people.
So please pour out on us your mercy, grace, and resilience.
Prod us into trying again and again to be
the kind of welcoming people you invite us to be.
May we embody your transformative love for the wholeness of this world.
Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

Leader: *Friends, believe the good news.*

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

Concerns of the Church

Anthem

“Derr Herr Segne Euch” from *Cantata 196*. Johann Sebastian Bach

May God smile on you more and more, you and all your children.

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter (*responsively*)

Psalms 100 Old Testament, page 522

*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

Genesis 18:1–15 Old Testament, page 13

Leader: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon Shannon J. Kershner

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 767 “Together We Serve”

*Affirmation of Faith. 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.

Offering

Offertory Voluntary

"Canzonetta" William Mathias

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

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

Sanctus (*sung*) The Hymnal, 572

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.

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

Memorial Acclamation (*sung*) The Hymnal, 573

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

“Jesu, Joy of All Desiring” from *Cantata 147* J. S. Bach

*Jesu, joy of all desiring, holy wisdom, love most bright;
drawn by thee, our souls aspiring, soar to uncreated light.
Word of God our flesh that fashioned with the fire of life impassioned.
Striving still to truth unknown, soaring, dying, round thy throne.*

Prayer after Communion (*unison*)

Today, O Lord,
we have tasted your goodness and breathed in your mercy.
We have been united with people all over your creation
and reminded of the great fellowship you have given us.
May these gifts of bread, cup, grace, and presence fuel us
to seek justice, do mercy, and walk humbly with you today
and in all our days to come. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 65 “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

*Benediction and Response

Postlude

Allegro from *Symphony in D* William Boyce

Worship Leaders

Rocky Supinger, Juli Crabtree, Shannon J. Kershner

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 BANNERS DISPLAYED IN THE SANCTUARY are based on seven statements attributed to Jesus Christ in the Gospel according to John in which Jesus declares “I am . . . the Resurrection and the Life; the Bread of Life; the Light of the World; the Gate; the Good Shepherd; the Way, the Truth, and the Life; and the Vine.” The banners were designed and created by Associate Pastor Victoria G. Curtiss.

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 large hanging sculpture in Buchanan Chapel as viewed from Chestnut Street.

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 from the *The Worship Sourcebook*. 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. All rights reserved.

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