

*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

Concerto in F Major . . . . . George Frideric Handel  
Allegro–Andante–Adagio–Allegro

### Introit

“Love Is Little” . . . . . Shaker melody  
arr. Kevin Siegfried

*Love is little, love is low, love will make my spirit grow.  
Grow in peace, grow in light, love will do the thing that’s right.*

\*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: *Siblings in Christ, we are to learn how to love one another,*

People: *for when we love one another, we fulfill God’s commandments.*

Leader: *Love does no wrong to a neighbor.*

People: *Love is the fulfilling of the law.*

Leader: *Come, let us worship the God of Love.*

### \*Prayer of Praise

\*Hymn 386 . . . . . “Come, Worship God”

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*\*Stand as you are able.*

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Holy God, we confess to you the limits of our faith.  
We have too often sought to make you into our image,  
to confine you to the bounds of our minds.  
We have become complacent, trusting our own understandings.  
We have sought harmony and security, even at the expense of others.  
We have been slow to act, afraid to challenge the barriers in our world.  
Forgive us, O God.  
Trouble us, so that in the challenging of our faith  
we may know your grace. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

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

Concerns of the Church

Minute for Discipleship

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Listening for the Word

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Prayer for Illumination

Psalter (*responsively*)

Psalm 133 . . . . . Old Testament, page 543

Anthem

“All Who Are Thirsty, Come to the Spring” . . . . . G. F. Handel  
arr. Walter Ehret

*All who are thirsty, come to the spring which shall never run dry.*  
*Drink of the spring of eternal life; come to the spring, the word of God.*  
*Drink deep of the spring of eternal life, which is the living word of God.*

First Lesson

Isaiah 56:1, 6–8 . . . . . Old Testament, page 645

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

Matthew 15:21–28 . . . . . New Testament, page 16

Minister: *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 649 . . . . . “Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”

\*Affirmation of Faith (*unison*) . . . . . from the Confession of Belhar

We believe in the triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—  
who gathers, protects, and cares for the church through Word and  
Spirit. This, God has done since the beginning of the world  
and will do to the end.

We believe in one holy, universal Christian church,  
the communion of saints called from the entire human family.  
We believe that Christ’s work of reconciliation  
is made manifest in the church as the community of believers  
who have been reconciled with God and with one another;  
that unity is, therefore, both a gift and an obligation  
for the church of Jesus Christ;  
that through the working of God’s Spirit it is a binding force,  
yet simultaneously a reality which must be earnestly pursued and sought:  
one which the people of God must continually be built up to attain;  
that this unity must become visible so that the world may believe  
that separation, enmity, and hatred between people and groups is sin,  
which Christ has already conquered,  
and accordingly that anything which threatens this unity  
may have no place in the church and must be resisted.

Jesus is Lord. To the one and only God—  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—  
be the honor and the glory for ever and ever.

## 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

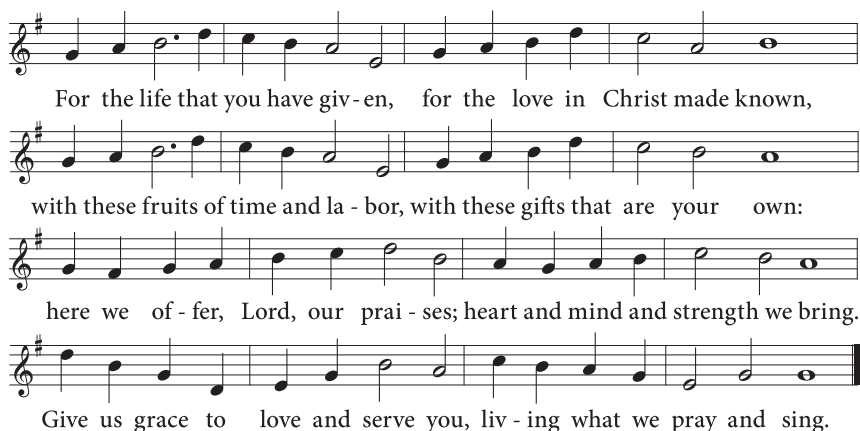
"Breathe on Me, Breath of God" . . . . . Robert Jackson  
arr. Norman J. Clayton

*Breathe on me, breath of God, fill me with life anew,  
that I may love what thou dost love and do what thou wouldst do.*

### Offertory Anthem

"The Lord God Is a Light" . . . . . Maurice Greene  
*The Lord God is a light and defense. The Lord will give grace and worship,  
and no good thing shall he withhold from them that live a godly life.*

### \*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*)

Jesus our brother and Savior,  
we pray for you to keep leading us in the ways of your love.  
May the giving of these gifts help pry us open  
to include rather than exclude,  
to break down walls rather than build them up,  
and to welcome all your people instead of turning any away.  
May these gifts be used for your blessing of all creation. Amen.

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Bearing the Word into the World

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\*Hymn 761 . . . . . “Called as Partners in Christ’s Service”

\*Benediction and Response

Postlude

Toccato in Seven . . . . . John Rutter

# Worship Leaders

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- 9:30 Rocky Supinger, Eddie Kenning, Arelne Faulk, Nanette Sawyer  
Shannon J. Kershner
- 11:00 Rocky Supinger, Marsha Heizer, Ed Miller, Nanette Sawyer,  
Shannon J. Kershner

# The Music Today

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- Women’s Choir
- John W. W. Sherer, Organist and Director of Music

# Worship Notes

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THE FOURTH CHURCH WOMEN’S CHOIR is singing in worship through September 3. The Chancel and Morning Choirs will return on September 10.

TODAY’S MINUTE FOR DISCIPLESHIP is presented by Larry Nicholson on behalf of the Fourth Church Sunday School program.

THE CONFESSION OF BELHAR, from which this morning’s Affirmation of Faith is drawn, was written in 1982 as a protest against the white Dutch Reformed Church in South Africa using the Bible and the Confessions to justify the harsh and unjust system of Apartheid. In 2016, this confession was adopted by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church USA and added to the PCUSA’s Book of Confessions.

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. In the literature racks is a brochure explaining them, with accompanying prayers.

THE BULLETIN COVER image depicts a flower in the Michigan Avenue courtyard after a summer rain.

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.

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**Shannon J. Kershner** Pastor  
**Victoria G. Curtiss** Associate Pastor for Mission  
**Matt Helms** Associate Pastor  
for Children and Family Ministry  
**Rocky Supinger** Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry

**Judith L. Watt** Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care  
**Nanette Sawyer** Minister for Congregational Life  
**Jeffrey Doane** Parish Associate for Older Adults  
**Abbi Heimach-Snipes** Pastoral Resident  
**John Buchanan** Pastor Emeritus

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**THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO**  
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