

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

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

- Jesu, Friend of Sinners Edvard Grieg
arr. Donald R. Frederick
- Salvation Has Come to Us of Grace Johann Sebastian Bach
- Jesu, Word of God Incarnate Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
arr. Charles Schuchat
- Cantabile Joseph Clokey
- In the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit Orlando Gibbons
arr. C. Schuchat

Introit

- “Praise Ye the Lord” Donald Cashmore
Praise ye the Lord. Praise, O ye servants of the Lord, praise the name of the Lord.

*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: *God said, “Let there be light.”*

People: **And there was light.**

Leader: *Jesus said, “I am the light of the world.”*

People: **And the light shone in the darkness.**

Leader: *Jesus said, “You are the light of the world.”*

People: **And the light shall not be quenched.**

*Prayer of Praise

*Hymn 15 “All Creatures of Our God and King”
(*Verse 3 sung by low voices; verse 4 sung by high voices*)

**Stand as you are able.*

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Please do not weary of us, O God.
We once again open before you the shadowy places of our lives
and seek the healing of your light.
Forgive us when we corrode love, bruise those closest to us,
and turn cowardly at the summons of justice.
Forgive us, O God, when we slowly leak our lives of hope and joy
and fray the ties of community.
Forgive us, O God, when we forsake the peace the world cannot give
for the loneliness, anxiety, and emptiness it can.

Mercy us into humility and gratitude.
Restore our souls to singing, our hearts to loving,
and our hands to doing justice.
May we know in our blood and our bones that nothing can separate us
from your grace and love enfleshed in Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

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

Concerns of the Church

Minute for Discipleship

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter (*responsively*)

Psalm 112 Old Testament, page 532

Anthem

“Cantate Domino” Hans Leo Hassler
*O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord,
bless God’s name; tell of God’s salvaton from day to day. Declare God’s glory
among the nations, God’s marvelous works among all the peoples.*

First Lesson

Romans 3:21–25 New Testament, page 144
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

Isaiah 58:1–12 Old Testament, page 647

Minister: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“A Portrait of Grace—Sola Gratia” Shannon J. Kershner

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 610 “O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

*Affirmation of Faith (*unison*) from the Confession of 1967

We believe that the reconciling work of Jesus
was the supreme crisis in the life of humankind.

His cross and resurrection
become personal crisis and present hope
when the gospel is proclaimed and believed.

In this experience, the Spirit brings God’s forgiveness to us,
moves us to respond in faith, repentance, and obedience,
and initiates the new life in Christ.

We believe that the new life takes shape in a community
in which we know that God loves and accepts us
in spite of what we are.

We therefore accept ourselves and love others,
knowing that no one has any ground on which to stand,
except God’s grace.

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” Richard Warner

Offering

Offertory Anthem

“Ich Freue Mich im Herrn” Gottfried A. Homilius
I will rejoice in the Lord and my soul shall be joyful in God.

*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*)

Lord, you take delight in us and in all your creation.
 Receive what we offer as testimony to your goodness,
 and let these gifts lead to rejoicing in your church and all your world;
 in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 546 “Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing”

*Benediction and Response

Postlude

He Will Give His Angels Charge over Thee. Felix Mendelssohn
arr. D. R. Frederick

Worship in the Reformed Tradition

As the headings in our bulletin remind us each week, the center of our worship is **the Word**—by which we mean both Scripture and the Living Word of God, Jesus Christ. Our Scripture witnesses to God and God’s activity. When it is read and proclaimed, Jesus Christ the Living Word is present by the inward witness of the Holy Spirit. It is this Living Word that is the center of everything we do in worship.

That worship follows the pattern we see in Isaiah 6 (page 597 of the Old Testament): adoration, confession, absolution, thanksgiving, and service. Overwhelmed by God’s majesty and glory, we **gather together in praise** offered through song and prayer.

In the face of that great goodness of God, we also see how we fall short of being who we were created to be and so we join in a **prayer of confession**. We then proclaim the **forgiveness** that we know in Jesus Christ. We live our lives in this cycle of realizing where we fall short, being honest to God about that, and then recognizing that God always forgives us, even before the words are on our lips, and lets us start new.

As we listen for the Word of God, **Scripture** is read. The **sermon** is proclaimed. We respond to the Word with thanksgiving, joining in **song** and **affirming our faith**, using words from the Presbyterian Church (USA)’s *Book of Confessions*—whether it be the Apostles’ Creed, a Brief Statement of Faith, or one of the other professions of faith—or words taken directly from Scripture.

Following Jesus’ instruction to pray, in the **Prayers of the People** we bring human need before God in hope, trust, and thanksgiving for God’s faithfulness, concluding with the **Lord’s Prayer**. Our response of thanksgiving also includes the giving of our material goods, bringing to God the **offerings** of our work as symbols of our gratitude and our acknowledgment that everything we have comes from God. In prayer we **dedicate** these gifts and our lives to the work of the church and God’s mission.

God then **sends** us, like Isaiah, back out into the world in service. Our final **hymn** of grateful praise moves directly into a **charge and blessing** to take what we have heard, to take what we have learned, and to actively live it out in the world, looking for God’s work all around us.

Worship Leaders

9:30 Nanette Sawyer, Jeff Weber, Christiane Knapp-Andrews, Victoria G. Curtiss
Shannon J. Kershner

11:00 Nanette Sawyer, Kathryn Burkhardt, Marc Miller, Victoria G. Curtiss
Shannon J. Kershner

The Music Today

The Morning Choir; Tower Brass

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

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

Matthew Comerford, Artistic Director of Tower Brass

Worship Notes

TODAY'S MINUTE FOR DISCIPLESHIP is presented by Lesley Conzelman on behalf of "Called to Be a Church Alive," the 2018 Annual Appeal for Fourth Presbyterian Church and Chicago Lights.

AS WE MARK THE 500TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REFORMATION this autumn, we continue our seven-part "Always Reforming" sermon series. Each week we are also affirming our faith by using different creeds and statements of faith from the Reformed tradition. Today's affirmation is from the Confession of 1967.

TOWER BRASS, Fourth Church's brass ensemble, participates in worship services as well as special events and concerts throughout the year.

THE BULLETIN COVER image depicts a cabbage plant in the Walter Family Courtyard on Delaware Place. The cover quote is from Nadia Bolz-Weber's book *Pastrix: The Cranky, Beautiful Faith of a Sinner and Saint*.

SOURCES AND CREDITS: The Call to Worship is adapted from www.ministrymatters.com. 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 adapted from the poem "Restore our Souls to Singing," from *My Heart in My Mouth* by Ted Loder. 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 Prayer of Dedication is adapted from Nathan Williams (www.liturgylink.net)

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

Alex Wirth Minister for Evangelism

Jeffrey Doane Parish Associate for Older Adults

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.

THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO
Church office: 126 E. Chestnut Street, Chicago, IL 60611.2014
www.fourthchurch.org | www.facebook.com/fourthchurch
312.787.4570 | Voicemail 312.787.2729 | Fax: 312.787.4584