

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

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Prelude Louis Vierne

Introit

“Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning” . . . African American spiritual
*Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, for the time is drawing nigh.
Sisters, don't grow weary; brothers, don't grow weary;
children, don't grow weary, for the time is drawing nigh.*

*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 612 “We Praise You, O God”

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Lord our God, in Jesus Christ you have taught us
that love is the fulfilling of the law.
We confess that we are more ready to fear than to love.
We are more ready to hide, more ready to attack,
more ready to wait it out. Forgive us.
Send your Holy Spirit upon us
to pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love,
that we may love you with our whole being,
and our neighbors as ourselves.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

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

*Exchange of Peace

Leader: *The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.*

People: **And also with you.**

We invite you to greet those around you, wishing them “peace” or “the peace of Christ.”

Concerns of the Church

Anthem

“Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding” Eric H. Thiman

*Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding; “Christ is nigh,” it seems to say,
“cast away the dreams of darkness, O ye children of the day!”
Wakened by the solemn warning, let the earth bound soul arise;
Christ, her sun, all ill dispelling, shines upon the morning skies.
Lo, the lamb so long expected, comes with pardon down from heaven;
let us haste, with tears of sorrow, one and all to be forgiven;
that when next he comes with glory, and the world is wrapped in fear,
with his mercy he may shield us, and with words of love draw near.
Christ, to thee be endless glory, from all on earth be praise,
who from heaven wilt come to save us, and redeem from sinful ways.
Honor, glory, might, and blessing to the Father and the Son,
with the everlasting Spirit, while eternal ages run. Amen.*

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter (*responsively*)

Psalms 78:1–7 Old Testament, page 508

*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

Matthew 25:1–13 New Testament, page 26

Minister: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon Rocky Supinger

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 362 “Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers”

*Affirmation of Faith Apostles’ Creed

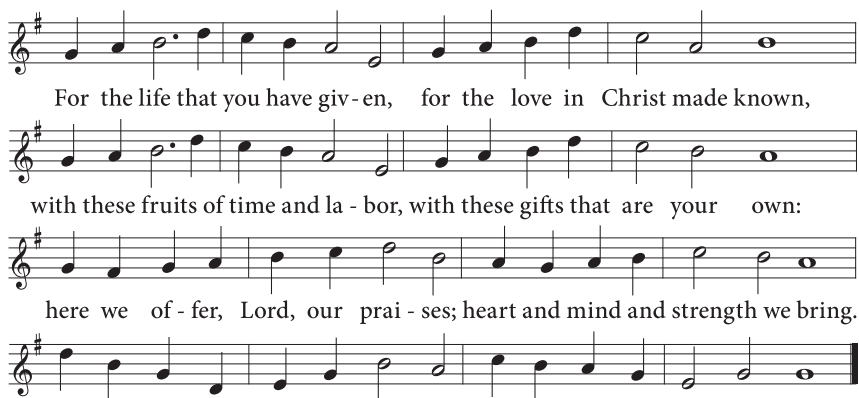
I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
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

“Impromptu” Louis Vierne

*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 truly right and our greatest joy . . .*

. . . forever singing 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, 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

“O Taste and See” Ralph Vaughan Williams
O taste and see how gracious the Lord is; blest is the one that trusteth in him.

Prayer after Communion (*unison*)

Loving God, you have given us a share in the one bread and the one cup
and made us one with Christ. Help us to bring your salvation and joy
to all the world. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 384 “Soon and Very Soon”

*Benediction and Response

Postlude

Praise God, Ye Christians, One and All Johann Sebastian Bach

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.

Worship Leaders

Judith L. Watt, Roberta Dawson, Rocky Supinger

The Music Today

The Chancel Choir; Carol Mycio, soloist
John W. W. Sherer, Organist and Director of Music
Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist
Grant Nill, Organ Scholar

Worship Notes

FOURTH CHURCH OFFERS A VARIETY of worship opportunities on Sundays, including 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. worship services 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 will also offer a service in the style of Taizé on Sunday, December 31 (New Year's Eve) at 7:30 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel.

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. All rights reserved.

Shannon J. Kershner Pastor	Nanette Sawyer Minister for Congregational Life
Victoria G. Curtiss Associate Pastor for Mission	Alex Wirth Minister for Evangelism
Matt Helms Associate Pastor for Children and Family Ministry	Jeffrey Doane Parish Associate for Older Adults
Rocky Supinger Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry	Abbi Heimach-Snipes Pastoral Resident
Judith L. Watt Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care	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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