

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

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name Tim Fields
The King of Love My Shepherd Is. Keith Lolander
Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty! Calvin Hampton
Come, Ye Thankful People, Come Douglas E. Wagner

Introit

"Come, My Light" Charles Callahan
Come, my light, and illumine my darkness.
Come, my life, and revive me from death.
Come, my King, sit upon the throne of my heart and reign there,
for thou alone art my King and my Lord. Amen.

*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: *Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.*
People: We worship the Lord with gladness.
Leader: *Come into God's presence with singing.*
People: We know that the Lord is God.
God made us, and we belong to God.
Leader: *Let us praise God together.*

*Prayer of Praise

*Hymn 263 "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!"

**Stand as you are able.*

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Merciful God, you taught us
that as we treat our neighbors, so we treat Jesus Christ.
Forgive us for mistreating our brothers and sisters, and thus also you.
When people hunger and thirst,
we too often do not work so they can obtain resources that sustain life.
With persons who are imprisoned or outcasts,
we seldom go out of our way to visit them.
When others are sick or alone,
we are not quick to keep vigil at their side.
We know you are in our midst and rely on our response.
Open our hearts and enlighten our eyes,
so we see your face in our neighbors
and show compassion. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

Minister: *Friends, believe the good news:*

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Concerns of the Church

Minute for Mission

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter (*sung*)

“Come, Worship God” (Psalm 95) The Hymnal, 386

Anthem

“One Thing More” Jane Marshall

*Thou who hast given so much to me, give one thing more: a grateful heart:
not thankful when it pleaseth me, as if thy blessings had spare days,
but such a heart whose pulse may be thy praise.*

First Lesson

Ephesians 1:15–23 New Testament, page 181

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 25:31–46. New Testament, page 27
Minister: *The Word of the Lord.*
People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“When Did We See You?” Victoria G. Curtiss

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 186 “Come Now, You Blessed, Eat at My Table”

*Affirmation of Faith (*unison*) from A Brief Statement of Faith

We trust in God the Holy Spirit,
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.
The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,
sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,
and binds us together with all believers
in the one body of Christ, the church.
The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,
engages us through the Word proclaimed,
claims us in the waters of baptism,
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,
and calls women and men to all ministries of the church.
In a broken and fearful world
the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.
In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth,
praying, “Come, Lord Jesus!”

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” Dale Wood

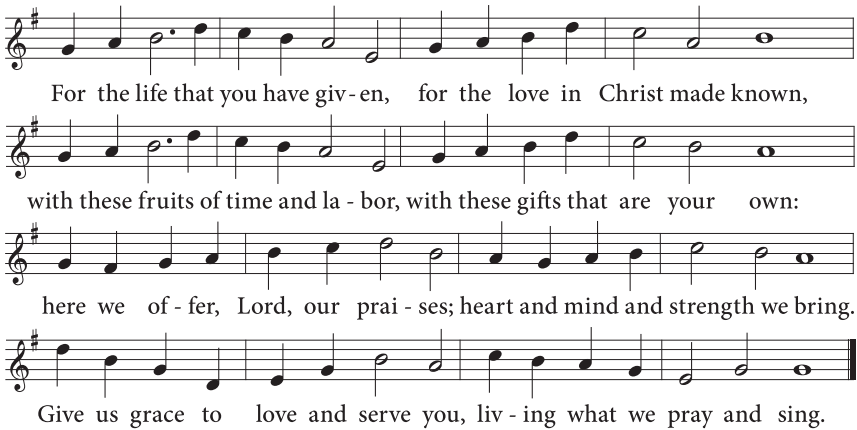
Offering

Offertory Anthem

“To Him Who Loves Us” Robin Dinda

*To him who loves us and freed us from sin by his blood,
who made for us a kingdom and made us priests of God,
to him be glory and dominion, forever and ever. Amen.*

*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

God of all mercies, we give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all people.
We bless you for all the blessings of this life,
but above all for your boundless love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ.
With truly thankful hearts we show forth your praise,
through these gifts we offer
and by giving of ourselves to your service.
May our gifts be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 766 “The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound”

*Benediction and Response

Postlude

Pageant Leo Sowerby

Worship Leaders

9:30 Alex Wirth, Suzie Shade, Matt Helms, Victoria G. Curtiss

11:00 Alex Wirth, Janet Reed, Matt Helms, Victoria G. Curtiss

The Music Today

The Morning Choir; the Handbell Choir
John W. W. Sherer, Organist and Director of Music
Grant Nill, Organ Scholar
Briana Belding-Peck, Director of the Handbell Choir

Worship Notes

TODAY WE OBSERVE REIGN OF CHRIST SUNDAY. This holy day celebrates Christ’s sovereignty over the church and all creation and marks the end of the church year. The liturgical color is white, in keeping with other joyous holy days honoring the Risen Christ.

TODAY’S MINUTE FOR MISSION is presented by Kathryn Burkhardt, as we highlight the many ways we can share God’s love this season through Advent and Christmas giving opportunities.

FOURTH CHURCH OFFERS A VARIETY of worship opportunities on Sundays, 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 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.

THE BULLETIN COVER image depicts flowers on a pillar in the south aisle illuminated by a stained-glass window.

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.

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

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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