

*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

- Aria . . . . . Noel Rawsthorne  
Cantilene . . . . . Malcolm Archer  
Forlana . . . . . Gerald Finzi

### Introit

- “Goodness Is Stronger Than Evil” . . . . . John L. Bell  
*Goodness is stronger than evil; love is stronger than hate;  
light is stronger than darkness; life is stronger than death.  
Victory is ours through God who loves us.*

- \*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: *Lord, you have searched me, and you know me;  
you know my sitting down and my rising up.*

People: **You discern my thoughts from afar,  
and you are acquainted with all my ways.**

Leader: *There is not a word that comes to my lips  
that is unknown to you, O Lord.*

People: **Knowledge like yours is too wonderful for me;  
therefore I give you thanks and praise.**

### \*Prayer of Praise

- \*Hymn 450 . . . . . “Be Thou My Vision”

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*\*Stand as you are able.*

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Almighty God, you call us to serve you. You call us to follow you faithfully. We have been so occupied with our own concerns, we have turned a deaf ear to your call or we haven't even listened for your voice. Show us your tender mercy. Forgive our self-preoccupation. Release us from captivity to selfish desires. Empower us by your Spirit, O God, that our words, thoughts, and intentions will glorify you. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

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

Concerns of the Church

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Listening for the Word

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Prayer for Illumination

Psalter (*responsively*)

Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18. . . . . Old Testament, page 545

Anthem

“Steal Away” . . . . . African American spiritual  
arr. Dale Adelman

*Steal away to Jesus, steal away home. I ain't got long to stay here.  
My Lord, he calls me by the thunder; the trumpet sounds within my soul.  
O, green trees bending, poor sinner stands trembling.*

Living Epistle

“Letter from Birmingham Jail” (*excerpt*) . . . . . Martin Luther King Jr.  
*Children age three through grade five are invited to come forward  
during the singing of the Gloria Patri.*

\*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.

Sending Forth

Hymn 748. . . . . “Go with Us, Lord”  
*Children depart for Sunday School with their teachers.*

Scripture Lesson

1 Samuel 3:1–18 . . . . . Old Testament, page 236

Minister: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon . . . . . Judith L. Watt

Responding to the Word

\*Hymn 834 . . . . . “Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

\*Affirmation of Faith (*unison*) . . . . . 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.

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

“In Thee, O Lord” . . . . . Stephen Sturk

*In thee, O Lord, do I put my trust; let me never be confounded.*

Offering

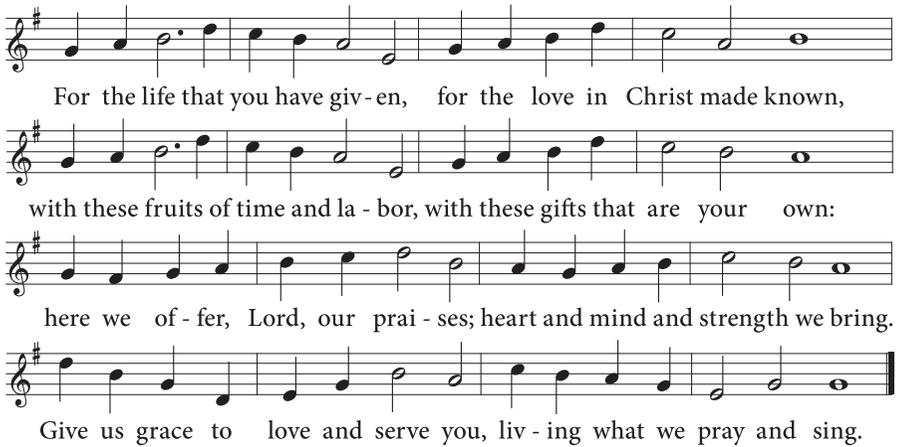
Offertory Anthem

“I’m Gonna Sing ’til the Spirit Moves in My Heart”

African American spiritual; arr. Moses Hogan

*I’m gonna sing ’til the Spirit moves in my heart. O my Jesus, ’til he comes. It was grace that brought me, it was grace that taught me, it was grace that kept me, and it’s grace that will lead me home. Hallelu. I’m gonna pray ’til the Spirit moves in my heart. Can’t you feel the Spirit moving? I’m gonna shout ’til the Spirit moves in my heart.*

## \*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.

## \*Litany of Dedication and Commitment

*Leader: A child once dreamed the Voice was calling his name . . . "Samuel";  
Fishermen once heard the Voice when a young man bid them follow;  
And still the Voice beckons today . . . can you hear?*

**People: Here I am. Send me.**

*Leader: Moses protested vehemently as the Voice spoke at the burning bush;  
Mary stood amazed as the Voice proclaimed impending birth;  
And still the Voice beckons today . . . can you hear?*

**People: Here I am. Send me.**

*Leader: Rosa Parks followed the Voice to the front of the bus;  
Martin Luther King Jr. heard the Voice as the bullet shattered;  
And still the Voice beckons today . . . can you hear?*

**People: Here I am. Send me.**

*Leader: The Voice beckons from humble places . . .  
in the tears of hungry children,  
in the cries of the frail and frightened elderly,  
in the pleas of those whose dreams have been too long deferred;  
And still the Voice beckons today . . . can you hear?*

**People: Here I am. Send me.**

*Leader: A timid believer pauses to listen to the Voice;  
A struggling church hears the Voice and turns;  
And still the Voice beckons today . . . can you hear?*

**People: Here I am. Send me.**

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## Bearing the Word into the World

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\*Hymn 379 . . . . . “We Shall Overcome”

\*Benediction and Response

Postlude

Te Deum (We Praise Thee, O God) . . . . . Jean Langlais

**Celebrating  
the Life and Legacy  
of  
Martin Luther King Jr.**

*Eighty-nine years ago tomorrow, on January 15, 1929, Martin Luther King Jr. was born in Atlanta. Only thirty-five years later, this pastor and civil rights leader received the Nobel Peace Prize. On this weekend when we join churches and communities across the nation in honoring the life and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr., we read here again the words he wrote from the Birmingham Jail in April 1963, excerpted from his letter, which was first printed in the Christian Century.*

“We will have to repent in this generation not merely for the hateful words and actions of the bad people but for the appalling silence of the good people. Human progress never rolls in on the wheels of inevitability; it comes through the tireless effort of men and women willing to be coworkers with God, and without the hard work, time itself becomes an ally of the forces of stagnation. We must use time creatively, in the knowledge that the time is always ripe to do right. . . .

“If today’s church does not recapture the sacrificial spirit of the early church, it will lose its authenticity, forfeit the loyalty of millions, and be dismissed as an irrelevant social club with no meaning for the twentieth century. . . . Is organized religion too inextricably bound to the status quo to save our nation and the world? Perhaps I must turn my faith to the inner spiritual church, the church within the church, as the true *ekklesia* and the hope of the world. But again I am thankful to God that some noble souls from the ranks of organized religion have broken loose from the paralyzing chains of conformity and joined us as active partners in the struggle for freedom. . . .

“They have acted in the faith that right defeated is stronger than evil triumphant. Their witness has been the spiritual salt that has preserved the true meaning of the gospel in these troubled times. They have carved a tunnel of hope through the dark mountain of disappointment.”

## Worship Leaders

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9:30 Matt Helms, Juli Crabtree, Victoria G. Curtiss, Judith L. Watt

11:00 Matt Helms, Cornell Wilson, Victoria G. Curtiss, Judith L. Watt

## The Music Today

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The Morning Choir

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

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

## Worship Notes

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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 Friday, January 26 at 7:30 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel.

THE BULLETIN COVER photo depicts one of the four-sided medallions—evoking a globe and symbolizing the world—suspended from the Sanctuary chandeliers. The cover quote is from Peter Gomes' book *The Good Book: Reading the Bible with Mind and Heart*.

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SOURCES AND CREDITS: The Call to Worship is adapted from *Call to Worship: Year B, Liturgy, Music, Preaching and the Arts, 2002*. 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. The Litany of Dedication and Commitment is by Katherine Hawker ([www.liturgyoutside.net](http://www.liturgyoutside.net))

**Shannon J. Kershner** Pastor

**Lucy Forster-Smith** Senior Associate Pastor

Associate Pastors

**Victoria G. Curtiss** Mission

**Matt Helms** Children and Family Ministry

**Nanette Sawyer** Discipleship and Small Group Ministry

**Rocky Supinger** Youth Ministry

**Judith L. Watt** Pastoral Care

**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**

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