

*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

Choral No. 2 in B Minor . . . . . César Franck

### Introit

“Now That the Daylight Fills the Sky” . . . . . Plainsong

*Now that the daylight fills the sky, we lift our hearts to God on high,  
that he, in all we do or say, would keep us free from harm this day.  
To God the Father, heavenly light, to Christ, revealed in earthly night,  
to God the Holy Ghost we raise our equal and unceasing praise.*

\*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: *For the joy of human company,  
shared songs, and spoken prayers,*

**People: thanks be to God.**

Leader: *For a place that spans the ages  
and is a home to all who gather,*

**People: thanks be to God.**

Leader: *For the wonder of life,  
and the decision of God to come among us,*

**People: thanks be to God.**

### \*Prayer of Praise

\*Hymn 624 . . . . . “I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art”

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\*Stand as you are able. †Or “Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.”

## Litany of Confession

Leader: *Gracious God, in the beauty of the earth,  
in the silence of our hearts,*

People: **in the community of your church,  
in all works of grace and kindness,**

Leader: *your Spirit confirms the truth by which we live.  
Holy is your name.*

*If, knowing this, we have failed to love you, our maker,  
been hesitant to follow your Son,  
and been suspicious of the power of your Spirit,  
Lord, have mercy.*

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: *If we have desired comfort more than devotion,  
if we have satisfied our wants more than we have served your will,  
if we have worshiped a lesser god and gone for an easier gospel,  
Christ, have mercy.*

People: **Christ, have mercy.**

Leader: *If, in the face of your openness,  
we have limited our company to those like us,  
restricted our conversation to matters of no consequence,  
and in all this compromised our integrity or lost faith in our faith,  
Lord, have mercy.*

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: *Forgive us, O God.*

People: **Make us friends of your purpose and worthy companions  
of Jesus, our way, our truth, and our life. Amen.**

## Declaration of Pardon

Leader: *Friends, believe the good news:*

People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

## Concerns of the Church

### Anthem

“Salvation Is Created” . . . . . Pavel Tchesnokov  
*Salvation is created; salvation of the world is come. Alleluia.*

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## Listening for the Word

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### Prayer for Illumination

#### Psalter (*responsively*)

Psalm 15 . . . . . Old Testament, page 469

\*Gloria Patri (*sung*) . . . . . The Hymnal, 581

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:<sup>†</sup>  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen. Amen.

### Scripture Lesson

Mark 7:1–8, 14–15, 21–23 . . . . . New Testament, page 39

Leader: *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 630 . . . . . “Fairest Lord Jesus”

\*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.

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<sup>†</sup>Or “to the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Ghost.”

# Prayers of the People

## The Lord's Prayer

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” . . . . . Clarence Dickenson

## Offering

### Offertory Anthem

“O Praise the Lord, My Soul” . . . . . Mikail M. Ippolitov-Ivanov  
*O praise the Lord, O praise thou the Lord, my soul; forever praised be God, the Lord. Every power that within me dwells, praise thou his holy name. O praise the Lord, O praise thou the Lord, my soul; praise him and forget not all his benefits. It is he forgiveth every iniquity of thine; it is he who healeth all diseases of thine; it is he who even doth redeem thee from destruction and crowneth thy life with goodness and mercy and tenderness. O praise the Lord, O praise thou the Lord, my soul, every power that within me dwells, praise thou his holy name. Forever praised be God the Lord.*

### \*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)

Thank you, God, for the generosity that you pour out upon us,  
 which inspires us to be generous with what we have. We dedicate  
 these offerings and ourselves to shaping the beloved community  
 you intend; in the spirit of Christ. Amen.

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## Bearing the Word into the World

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\*Hymn 351 . . . . . “All Who Love and Serve Your City”

\*Benediction and Response

Postlude

Fantasia . . . . . Camille Saint Saëns  
II. Allegro di molto con fuoco

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### Worship in the Reformed Tradition

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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: 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

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9:30 Matt Helms, Alison Thomas, Joseph L. Morrow, Shannon J. Kershner

11:00 Matt Helms, Colleen Mraz, Joseph L. Morrow, Shannon J. Kershner

## The Music Today

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Men's Choir

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

## Worship Notes

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TODAY'S PRELUDE AND POSTLUDE were each composed by organists who worked in Paris at the same time. César Franck (1822–1890) had a copy of his *Choral in B Minor* beside him as he lay dying. Camille Saint-Saëns (1835–1921) wrote the *Fantasia* in 1857, making it one of his first compositions.

FOURTH CHURCH EXPRESSES ITS GRATITUDE to the Men's Choir for their musical leadership during morning worship this summer. The Morning Choir will resume singing during 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. worship next Sunday, September 9.

THE TEXTILE BANNERS AND PULPIT PARAMENT, "Unweavings," created by fiber artist Laurie Wohl, were commissioned by Fourth Church for use during the liturgical season of Ordinary Time, the longest season of the church year. Through their combination of scripture texts and images, these banners celebrate and elevate the perception of the sacred in the "ordinary" as we make our faith journey day to day. A brochure with more information about the banners is available in the literature racks and online at [www.fourthchurch.org/arts/liturgical.html](http://www.fourthchurch.org/arts/liturgical.html)

THE BULLETIN COVER IMAGE depicts flowers on the Delaware Place side of the Sanctuary. The cover quote is from William Placher's book *Jesus the Savior*.

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SOURCES AND CREDITS: The Call to Worship is adapted from "Ceilidh Communion," *Iona Abbey Worship Book*. Hymn tune names—as well as composers of the music and authors of the text—are listed in the hymnal with each hymn. The Litany of Confession is adapted from "Morning Liturgy C," *Iona Abbey Wee Worship Book*. 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  
**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

**Joseph L. Morrow** Minister for Evangelism

**Jeffrey Doane** Parish Associate for Older Adults

**Abbi Heimach-Snipes** Pastoral Resident

**Shawn Fiedler** Ministerial Associate for Worship

**John Buchanan** Pastor Emeritus

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