

*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

We Thank Thee, O God. . . . . Johann Sebastian Bach  
Now Thank We All Our God . . . . . J. S. Bach  
Thanksgiving . . . . . Richard Purvis

\*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.<sup>†</sup> Amen.

### \*Call to Worship

Leader: *Come to God with joy in your heart.*

People: We come to praise God with thanksgiving.

Leader: *Bless the holy name of God, the One who has made us.*

People: We come into God's presence,  
singing songs of wonder and hope.

Leader: *God is good! God's faithfulness never ends.*

People: We are God's people, seeking lives of praise and service.

\*Hymn 367 . . . . . "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"

### Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Steadfast God, in love you spread good gifts before us,  
more than we need or deserve. You feed, heal, teach, and save us.  
We confess that we always want more;  
that we never share as freely as you give.  
We resent what we lack and are jealous of neighbors.  
We misuse what you intend for joy.  
God, forgive our stubborn greed, our hoarding, our ingratitude.  
In mercy, help us to take such pleasure in your goodness  
that we will always be thanking you;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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\*Stand as you are able. <sup>†</sup>Or "Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost."

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 100 . . . . . Old Testament, page 522

Anthem

“O Be Joyful” . . . . . Charles Wood

*O be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands; serve the Lord with gladness, and come before his presence with a song. Be ye sure that the Lord he is God; it is he that hath made us and not we ourselves. We are his people and the sheep of his pasture. O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving and into his courts with praise. Be thankful unto him, and speak good of his name; for the Lord is gracious, his mercy is everlasting, and his truth endureth from generation to generation. 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.*

First Lesson

Genesis 28:10–19a . . . . . Old Testament, page 24

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

Second Lesson

Luke 24:1–3, 13–31a . . . . . New Testament, page 84

Sermon

“Awakening to the ‘Ah!’ of Things” . . . . . Victoria G. Curtiss  
and Kent M. Organ

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

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## Responding to the Word

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\*Hymn 36. . . . . “For the Fruit of All Creation”

### Litany of Thanksgiving

Leader: *Give thanks to the Lord, who is good.*

People: **God’s love is everlasting.**

Leader: *Come, let us praise God joyfully.*

People: **Let us come to God with thanksgiving.**

Leader: *For the good world; for things great and small,  
beautiful and awesome; for seen and unseen splendors:*

People: **thank you, God.**

Leader: *For human life; for talking and moving and thinking together;  
for common hopes and hardships shared from birth  
until our dying:*

People: **thank you, God.**

Leader: *For work to do and strength to work;  
for the comradeship of labor;  
for exchanges of good humor and encouragement:*

People: **thank you, God.**

Leader: *For marriage; for the mystery and joy of flesh made one;  
for mutual forgiveness and burdens shared;  
for memories cherished in love:*

People: **thank you, God.**

Leader: *For family; for living together and eating together;  
for family amusements and family pleasures:*

People: **thank you, God.**

Leader: *For children; for their energy and curiosity;  
for their brave play and startling frankness;  
for their sudden sympathies:*

People: **thank you, God.**

Leader: *For the young; for their high hopes;  
for their irreverence toward worn-out values;  
for their search for freedom; for their solemn vows:*

People: **thank you, God.**

Leader: *For growing up and growing old;  
for wisdom deepened by experience; for rest in leisure;  
and for time made precious by its passing:*

People: **thank you, God.**

**Leader:** *For your help in times of doubt and sorrow;  
 for healing our diseases;  
 for preserving us in temptation and danger:*  
**People:** **thank you, God.**  
**Leader:** *For our nation, throughout seasons of rising and falling;  
 for leaders who seek and abide by your wisdom;  
 for your light and truth that corrects our ways:*  
**People:** **thank you, God.**  
**Leader:** *For the church into which we have been called;  
 for the good news we receive by Word and Sacrament;  
 for our life together in the Lord:*  
**People:** **we praise you, God.**  
**Leader:** *For your Holy Spirit,  
 who guides our steps and brings us gifts of faith and love;  
 who prays in us and prompts our grateful worship:*  
**People:** **we praise you, God.**  
**Leader:** *Above all, O God, for your Son Jesus Christ,  
 who lived and died and lives again for our salvation;  
 for our hope in him and for the joy of serving him:*  
**People:** **we thank and praise you, eternal God,  
 for all your goodness to us.**  
**Leader:** *Give thanks to the Lord, who is good.*  
**People:** **God's love is everlasting.**

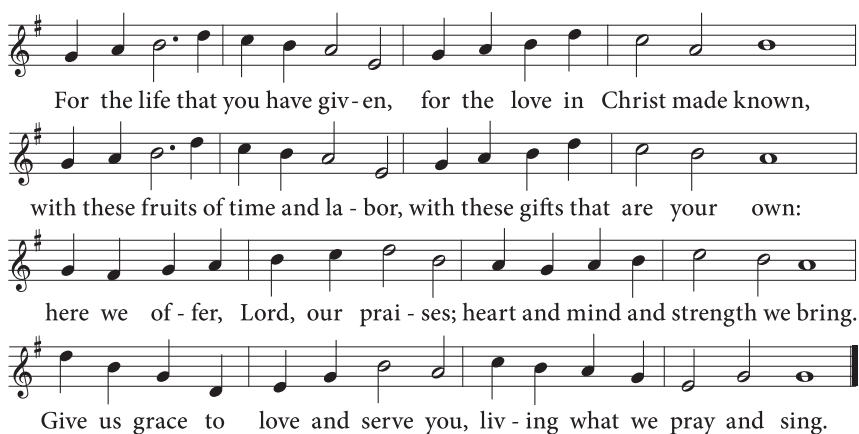
## Offering

### Offertory Anthem

“Harvest Song” . . . . . Austin C. Lovelace

*Sing to the Lord of harvest, sing songs of love and praise;  
 with joyful hearts and voices your alleluias raise!  
 By him the rolling seasons in fruitful order move;  
 sing to the Lord of harvest a joyous song of love.  
 By him the clouds drop fatness, the deserts bloom and spring,  
 the hills leap up in gladness, the valleys laugh and sing.  
 He filleth with his fullness all things with large increase;  
 he crowns the year with goodness, with plenty, and with peace.  
 Bring to his sacred altar the gifts his goodness gave,  
 the golden sheaves of harvest, the souls he died to save.  
 Your hearts lay down before him when at his feet you fall,  
 and with your lives adore him who gave his life for all.*

## \*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.

## Prayer of Dedication (*unison*)

Gracious God, by your providence  
we receive the things we need and more,  
gift upon gift. We thank you for the harvest of goodness  
you supply: for food and shelter,  
for loving words and gestures,  
for all our friendships.  
Above all, we praise you for your Son,  
who came to show mercy  
and who names us his friends.  
We offer you our lives and our gifts  
in gratitude and devotion.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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## Bearing the Word into the World

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\*Hymn 643 . . . . . “Now Thank We All Our God”

\*Benediction and Response

Postlude

Now Thank We All Our God . . . . . Sigfrid Karg-Elert

## Worship Leaders

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Victoria G. Curtiss, Kent M. Organ

## The Music Today

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Members of the Morning Choir

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

## News and Opportunities

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FOURTH CHURCH WELCOMES guest preacher Kent Organ, Presbyterian pastor and husband of Victoria Curtiss.

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US FOR ADVENT WORSHIP beginning Sunday, December 2. We gather for worship each Sunday morning at 8:00 a.m. (Communion), 9:30 a.m., and 11:00 a.m. and again in the afternoon at 4:00 p.m. for our weekly Jazz Communion service.

Our annual Festival of Advent Lessons and Music will be Sunday, December 9 at 6:30 p.m. We will also offer a service in the style of Taizé on Monday, December 31 (New Year's Eve) at 7:30 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel. Information about those services and the many Advent concerts and events at Fourth Church can be found at [www.fourthchurch.org/advent-christmas](http://www.fourthchurch.org/advent-christmas)

THE ANNUAL FAIR TRADE GIFT BAZAAR will be held Saturday, December 1 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Sunday, December 2 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Anderson Hall, the Gignilliat Commons, and Borwell Dining Room.

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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

**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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**THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO**

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