Gathering around the Word

Prelude

O Lamb of God ............................................. Johann Sebastian Bach
Adagio .................................................... Ludwig van Beethoven
O God, Thou Faithful God ........................................... Johannes Brahms

Introit

“The Lord Is Full of Compassion” (9:30) .......................... Iain Quinn
“Get on Board” (11:00) .......................... African American spiritual; arr. Earlene Rentz

*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.

*Litany for Lent

Leader: For forty days and nights the rain fell, and the waters covered the face of the earth.
People: Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.
Leader: For forty years the people wandered, seeking the land of God’s promise.
People: Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.
Leader: Moses spent forty days on the mountain, learning the commandments of God.
People: Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.
Leader: Elijah traveled forty days in the wilderness to hear the voice of God in the silence.
People: Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.
Leader: Jonah cried out to the people of Nineveh, “Repent, or in forty days you will perish.”
People: Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.
Leader: Jesus fasted and prayed for forty days and was tested by the devil.
People: Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.

*Stand as you are able. †Or “Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.”
*Invitation to Observe a Holy Lent


Litany of Confession

Leader: *O Lord our God, you call us to proclaim the gospel,*
        *but we remain silent in the presence of evil. God of Grace,*

People: forgive us.

Leader: *You call us to be reconciled to you and one another,*
        *but we are content to live in separation. God of Grace,*

People: forgive us.

Leader: *You call us to seek the good of all, but we fail to resist*
        *the powers of oppression. God of Grace,*

People: forgive us.

Leader: *You call us to fight pretensions and injustice, but we sit idly by,*
        *endangering the lives of people far and near. God of Grace,*

People: forgive us.

Leader: *Speak to us in the silence, O Lord,*
        *that we might summon the courage*
        *and strength to be reconciled to you and one another . . .*

(Please hold silence.)

Extinguishing the First Lenten Candle

Kyrie ......................................................... The Hymnal, 551
        Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.

*Declaration of Pardon

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

Sacrament of Baptism

Unison Prayer

      Holy God, remind us of the promises given in our own baptism and renew
our trust in you. Make us strong to obey your will and to serve you with joy;
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
Concerns of the Church

Anthem
“Lord, for Thy Tender Mercy’s Sake” ......................... Richard Farrant

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter ................................................................. Psalm 91:1–2, 9–16

Leader: You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty—

People: you will say to the Lord, “My refuge and my stronghold,
my God in whom I put my trust.”

Leader: Because you have made the Lord your refuge,
and the Most High your habitation,

People: no evil will befall you, nor shall affliction come near your dwelling.

Leader: For God will give the angels charge over you, to guard you in all your ways.

People: Upon their hands they will bear you up,
lest you strike your foot against a stone.

Leader: You will tread upon the lion cub and viper;
you will trample down the lion and the serpent.

People: I will deliver those who cling to me;
I will uphold them, because they know my name.

Leader: They will call me, and I will answer them;
I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue and honor them.

People: With long life will I satisfy them and show them my salvation.

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.

†Or “to the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Ghost.”
Sending Forth: Hymn 748 .......................................................... “Go with Us, Lord”
Children depart for Sunday School with their teachers.

Scripture Lesson

Sermon ................................................................. Shannon J. Kershner

Responding to the Word

Silent Reflection
Throughout the season of Lent we are practicing silence as a way to grow closer to God and one another.

*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) .................................................... The Hymnal, page 35

Prayer Response
“Kyrie” ................................................................. Morgan Simmons

Offering

Offertory Anthem
“Adoramus te” ............................................................ Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina
We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee, who by thy holy cross hast redeemed the world.
Thou, who hast suffered death for us, O Lord, have mercy on us.
*Presentation of the Offering and Response

For the life that you have given, for the love in Christ made known,

with these fruits of time and labor, with these gifts that are your own:

here we offer, Lord, our praises; heart and mind and strength we bring.

Give us grace to love and serve you, living what we pray and sing.

*Prayer of Dedication (unison)

Loving God, as we journey through this holy season of Lent, give us strength and courage to make the changes that are needed in our lives. May the act of giving this offering help to pry open our hearts and our minds to your steadfast presence, and help us to put our trust in you. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 65 .......................... “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

*Benediction and Response

Postlude #: Allegro .......................... Ludwig van Beethoven

Being baptized at the 9:30 worship service:
Julia Christine Page, child of John and Andrea Page

Being baptized at the 11:00 worship service:
Eliana Marie DiGrino, child of Alexander and Lindsey DiGrino
Charlotte Anne Manny, child of Grant Manny and Katharine Lennox
Lane Huntley Enright, child of John and Sara Enright
Worship Leaders

Matt Helms, Thomas Becker (9:30), Miles Trost (11:00), Victoria G. Curtiss, Shannon J. Kershner

Extinguishing the Lenten Candle

The Picciola Family (9:30); the Skowlund Family (11:00)

The Music Today

Members of the Morning Choir; Children’s Choir (11:00)
John W. W. Sherer, Organist and Director of Music; Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist
Katy Sinclair, Associate Director of Music for Children and Youth; Hsing-Huei Huang, Pianist

Worship Notes

The Season of Lent calls Christians to embrace the faith journey by reflecting upon and deepening their relationship with God and by acting upon their Christian beliefs. During this season, we are invited to thoughtfully take up the gifts of faith—worship, study, prayer, and service—in preparation for Holy Week and Christ’s journey to the cross.

Each Sunday during Lent we are extinguishing a candle at the front of the Sanctuary. Just as we lit candles on the Advent wreath to symbolize the light coming into the world through the birth of Christ, so now our extinguishing of candles points to the Lenten progression from light to the shadows of Good Friday and the crucifixion.

The Lenten One Great Hour of Sharing Offering supports Chicago Lights Tutoring and Social Service Center; Fourth Church Meals and Shower Ministries; and the work of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Hunger, and Self-Development of People Programs. To make a gift, use the envelopes in the pew racks or write “Lenten Offering” on the memo line of a check made payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church. Gifts can also be made online at www.fourthchurch.org/give-online

Sources and Credits: The Call to Worship is from Psalm 128. 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.

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The Fourth Church logo (front cover) is based on the Great East Window in the Sanctuary.