

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

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Prelude and Fugue in E Major Vincent Lübeck
Festive Flutes Everett Titcomb
Choral Joseph Jongen

Introit :: “How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds” Alexander Reinagle
arr. Theodore Hoelty-Nickel

*How sweet the name of Jesus sounds in a believer’s ear!
It soothes all sorrows, heals all wounds, and drives away all fear.*

*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: *The world belongs to God;*

People: **the earth and all its people.**

Leader: *It is good to live in community,*

People: **to share our joys and our fears.**

Leader: *Love and faith come together;*

People: **justice and peace join hands.**

Leader: *We are glad to be in God’s house,*

People: **to listen, sing, and pray.**

*Prayer of Praise

*Hymn 366 “Love Divine, All Love’s Excelling”

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

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

In the light of your love, O God, we acknowledge the many things on our minds, and the concerns we carry with us into worship today. We confess that we can easily get caught in the grip of busyness and worry; that anxiety can assert its reign over us. We confess we can allow cynicism to lock us up and to keep us from engaging with each other. And so we turn to you yet again. Forgive us when we forget whose we are. Enable us to be open to the healing and humor and hope of this day and this coming week. Set us free to live fully as your beloved people, working alongside you for your transformation of this world. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

Leader: *Friends, believe the good news:*

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Concerns of the Church

Anthem :: “Steal Away” African American spiritual; arr. Michael Richardson

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter Psalm 77:1–2, 11–20

Leader: *I will cry aloud to God; I will cry aloud, and God will hear me.*

People: In the day of my trouble I sought the Lord; my hand was stretched out by night and did not tire; I refused to be comforted.

Leader: *I will remember the works of the Lord, and call to mind your wonders of old.*

People: I will meditate on all your acts and ponder your mighty deeds.

Leader: *Your way, O God, is holy; who is so great a god as our God?*

People: You are the God who works wonders and have declared your power among the peoples.

Leader: *By your strength you have redeemed your people, the descendants of Jacob and Joseph.*

People: The waters saw you, O God; the waters saw you and trembled; the very depths were shaken.

Leader: *The clouds poured out water; the skies thundered;
your lightning bolts flashed to and fro;*

People: *the sound of your thunder was in the whirlwind;
your lightning lit up the world; the earth trembled and shook.*

Leader: *Your way was in the sea, and your paths in the great waters,
yet your footsteps were not seen.*

People: *You led your people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron.*

*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.

Scripture Lesson # John 16:12–15 New Testament, page 104

Sermon Nanette Sawyer and Shannon J. Kershner

“What do Presbyterians Believe about Homosexuality?”

Part of the “Big Questions” sermon series

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 14 “For the Beauty of the Earth”

*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.

Commissioning of Stephen Ministers (11:00)

Minute for Discipleship

[†]Or “to the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Ghost.”

Prayers of the People

The Lord’s Prayer (*unison*) The Hymnal, page 35

Prayer Response :: “Amen” Anonymous

Offering

Offertory Anthem :: “Joshua” African American spiritual; arr. Robert Sells

*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*)

In gratitude for this time of worship, this place, those around us, Christ among us, we give ourselves to you, our God. Take us out to live as changed people because we have met the risen Christ and cannot stay the same. Ask much of us; expect much from us; enable much by us; encourage many through us. May we live to your glory both as inhabitants of the earth and citizens of the commonwealth of heaven. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 819 “Be Still, My Soul”

*Benediction and Response

Postlude :: Toccata in G Major Théodore Dubois

Stephen Ministry

Through one-to-one relationships that are confidential, Stephen Ministers extend the pastoral care of Fourth Church clergy staff by providing regular weekly or biweekly spiritual support for those who are facing one or more of life's many challenges or transitions.

Each Stephen Minister has completed fifty hours of intensive training and committed to two years of service. They also participate in peer supervision twice per month throughout their service. While they are not counselors or therapists, problem-solvers, casual visitors, or errand runners, they are individuals willing to care, support, listen, and pray.

New Stephen Ministers being commissioned at the 11:00 service

Blake Anderson, Jean Anderson, Kathleen Cleary, John Clum, David Derks, Sam Psimoulis, Evadne Stephens

Already serving as Stephen Ministers

Joy Anderson, Becky Binks, Martha Brown, Robert Crouch, Rebecca Dixon, Cary Donham, Sam Evans, Marsha Heizer, Jean Joslyn, Dawn Kulich, Bob Montgomery, Julie Montgomery, Colleen Mraz, Melanie Pierce

Stephen Ministry Leaders

Paula Addington, Cathy Flaa, Jeannine Forrest, Carroll Smith, Barbara Timberlake, Roger Wilson, Judy Watt (*staff support*)

Stephen Ministry is for those who are experiencing loneliness; hospitalization; terminal illness; loss of spouse, child, close family member, or friend; unemployment; childbirth; separation or divorce; retirement changes; or being homebound.

If you or someone you know might benefit from a Stephen Ministry relationship, please call the Stephen Ministry voicemail number—312.573.3365—where you can leave a confidential message.

Worship Leaders

9:30 Joseph L. Morrow, Kathi Rodak, Judith L. Watt, Shannon J. Kershner, Nanette Sawyer

11:00 Joseph L. Morrow, Kashane Taylor, Judith L. Watt, Shannon J. Kershner, Nanette Sawyer

The Music Today

Men's Choir

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

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

Worship Notes

TODAY'S MINUTE FOR DISCIPLESHIP is presented by Marc Miller on behalf of our "Widen the Welcome" group and our participation in the Chicago Coalition of Welcoming Churches.

OUR "BIG QUESTIONS" SERMON SERIES, which continues today, invites us to explore the questions, topics, and biblical stories that members and friends have told us they would like to hear addressed from the pulpit. Today's question is "What do Presbyterians believe about homosexuality?" Next week we will consider the question "Is Satan for real?"

THE BULLETIN COVER photo depicts a peony in the Michigan Avenue courtyard, framed by a Loggia window in the background. The cover quote is from a reflection by James Schaap in the book *God for Us*.

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

John Buchanan Pastor Emeritus

SOURCES AND CREDITS: The Call to Worship, Prayer of Confession, and Prayer of Dedication are adapted from *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 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.

This worship bulletin is printed on acid-free paper. All bulletins and inserts left in the baskets by the doors are recycled.

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

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