

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

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Carillon Leo Sowerby

Variations on “America” Charles Ives

Introit ☩ “O Bless the Lord, My Soul” Aaron Williams; arr. Theodore Hoelty-Nickel

*O bless the Lord, my soul. Let all within me join and aid my tongue
to bless God’s name whose favors are divine.*

*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: *Holy One, as first light brings the sun’s warm rays,
accept our sacrifice of praise.*

People: Before you, Lord, the proud shall never gain a place,
nor evil live to see your face.

Leader: *Your steadfast love shall welcome all
who seek your house and on you call.*

People: For you shall bless the righteousness,
as through this day your name we bless.

*Prayer of Praise

*Hymn 301 “Let Us Build a House”

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

Prayer of Confession *(unison)*

Forgive me, Captain of My Heart,
whenever I do not consent to your being in charge
or let you lead the daily dealings of my heart.
Too often I try to hold onto my own control
instead of surrendering to what I know is right.
Bend my strong independence so I move in directions of your wise choosing.
Help me recognize whenever I overly love things,
throw my weight around, use people, defame another's character, or oppress others.
Transform us so we accept the wisdom of your divine authority
throughout our lives. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

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

Concerns of the Church

Anthem :: "Go Down, Moses" African American spiritual; arr. Jerry Johnson
Go down, Moses, way down in Egypt land. Tell old Pharaoh to let my people go.
When Israel was in Egypt's land, oppressed so hard they could not stand,
"Thus spoke the Lord," bold Moses said, "I'll smite your firstborn dead."

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson Galatians 6:1–10

Leader: *My friends, if anyone is detected in a transgression,*
you who have received the Spirit should restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness.
Take care that you yourselves are not tempted.
People: Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.
Leader: *For if those who are nothing think they are something, they deceive themselves.*
People: All must test their own work;
then that work, rather than their neighbor's work,
will become a cause for pride.

Leader: *For all must carry their own loads.*

People: Those who are taught the word must share in all good things with their teacher.

Leader: *Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow.*

People: If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh;
but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit.

Leader: *So let us not grow weary in doing what is right,
for we will reap at harvest time if we do not give up.*

People: So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all,
and especially for those of the family of faith.

*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.

Second Lesson :: 1 Kings 21:1–11, 15–20. Old Testament, page 313

Sermon :: “Don’t Grow Weary” Victoria G. Curtiss

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 350 “Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning”

*Affirmation of Faith (*unison*). Romans 8:1, 28, 38, 39

We believe there is no condemnation
for those who are in Christ Jesus;
for we know that all things work together for good
for those who love God,
who are called according to God’s purpose.

We are convinced that neither death, nor life,
nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

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

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 :: "Search Me, O God" Eric DeLamarter

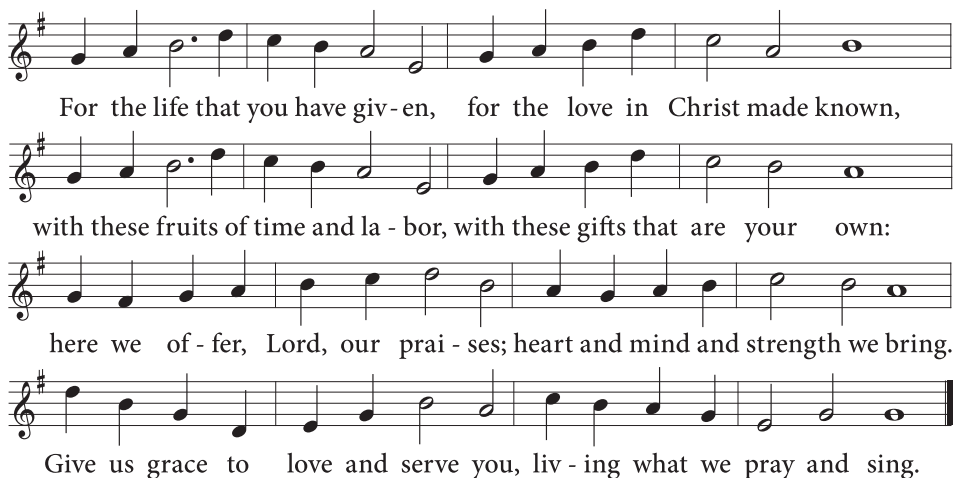
*Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my thought, and see if there
be any wicked way in me, and lead me into the life everlasting. Amen.*

Offering

Offertory Anthem :: "O Sing Jubilee to the Lord" Brad Holmes

*O sing jubilee to the Lord, every land, glory be to God. O serve him with gladness, as in his halls
we stand; sing praises to God out of Zion! He made us his own, he has given us breath, glory be
to God. The sheep of his pasture, we need not fear our death; sing praises to God out of Zion!
His mercy is ours, he is Lord over all, glory be to God. May all generations find power in his call;
sing praises to God out of Zion! O come one and all with thanksgiving and praise, glory be to
God. Give glory to him, and your brightest banners raise; sing praises to God out of Zion!*

*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*)

Loving God, you have created life to be most meaningful
when we give of our whole selves in love for you and others.
Thank you for the blessing of joy we receive
as we now give ourselves wholeheartedly to you.
May our offering delight you and spread hope and compassion. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

- *Hymn 338** “O Beautiful for Spacious Skies”
- *Benediction and Response**
- Postlude** ♪ American Hymn. Richard Keys Biggs

Worship Leaders

9:30 Lucy Forster-Smith, Marsha Heizer, Arlene Raine, Rocky Supinger, Victoria G. Curtiss

11:00 Lucy Forster-Smith, Deborah Kinzer, Rocky Supinger, Victoria G. Curtiss

The Music Today

Men's Choir; Daniel Henry, soloist

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

Worship Notes

THE FIRST ANTHEM THIS MORNING, "GO DOWN, MOSES," was arranged by Fourth Church member Jerry Johnson, a longtime member of the Morning Choir, Chancel Choir, and Choral Society. This arrangement uses many jazz influenced harmonies along with the familiar African American spiritual.

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. in Buchanan Chapel. This afternoon our Jazz at Four service will take place outdoors in our Michigan Avenue courtyard. 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.

THE BULLETIN COVER photo depicts the chancel in Buchanan Chapel before the hanging sculpture was installed, with shadows from the windows forming crosses on the limestone floor by the baptismal font. The cover quote is from David Brooks's book *The Second Mountain*.

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 is based on Psalm 5. 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.

THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO

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