

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

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Prelude, Fugue, and Variation. César Franck

Introit

“Come and Fill Our Hearts” Jacques Berthier

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You alone, O Lord, are holy.

Come and fill our hearts with your peace, alleluia.

*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: *We gather together to celebrate the joy in our lives.*

People: **God’s love fills our hearts to overflowing with laughter.**

Leader: *We gather, in God’s presence, to find comfort and hope for our pain.*

People: **God’s grace wipes away our tears and knits us together as one people.**

Leader: *We gather together, in God’s presence, to worship God in faith and truth.*

People: **Alleluia! Amen!**

*Prayer of Praise

*Hymn 711 “Lord of All Good”

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

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Everlasting God, we must confess how we have not lived as your people.
We serve many masters—work, wealth, power, addictions—yet find no hope in them.
We hear the cries of those outcast or cry those cries ourselves
but refuse to open our hearts in response.
We ignore those who expose their hopes and dreams to us.

Forgive us, Compassion’s Heart, and heal us of our brokenness.
Make us well, so that by our healing
we might be the hope and love others need in their lives,
even as Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, brought these gifts to us,
calling us to be faithful with the grace, peace, and joy entrusted to us. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

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

Concerns of the Church

Anthem :: “Sicut cervus” Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina
*As a deer longs for flowing streams, so longs my soul for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God,
for the living God. When shall I come and behold the face of God? My tears have been
my food day and night, while people say to me continually, “Where is your God?”*

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter Psalm 71:1–9

Leader: *In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame.*
People: In your righteousness, deliver me and set me free;
incline your ear to me and save me.
Leader: *Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe; you are my crag and my stronghold.*
People: Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked,
from the clutches of the evildoer and the oppressor.

Leader: *For you are my hope, O Lord, God, my confidence since I was young.*

People: I have been sustained by you ever since I was born;
from my mother's womb you have been my strength;
my praise shall be always of you.

Leader: *I have become a portent to many; but you are my refuge and my strength.*

People: Let my mouth be full of your praise and your glory all the day long.

Leader: *Do not cast me off in my old age; forsake me not when my strength fails.*

*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 :: Luke 16:1–13 New Testament, page 74

Sermon Shannon J. Kershner

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 698 “Take, O Take Me as I Am” (*sung three times*)

*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.

Minute for Discipleship

Prayers of the People

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

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 :: "Amen" Orlando Gibbons

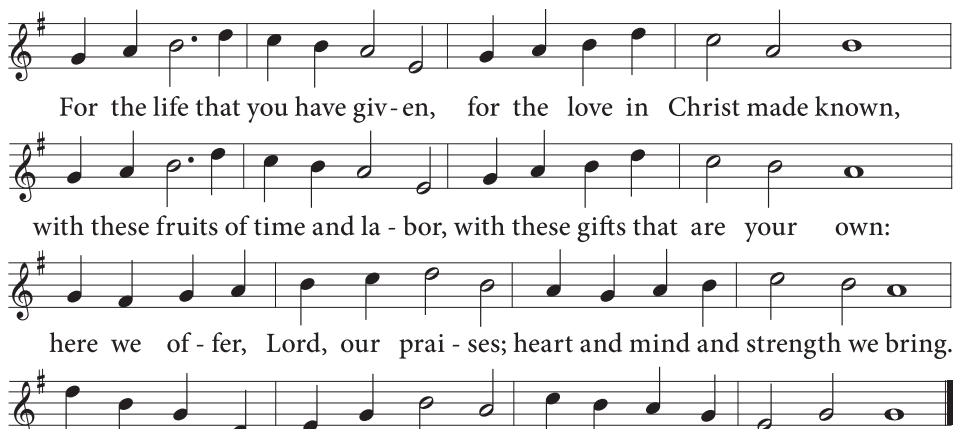
Offering

*Offertory Anthem :: "Caritas et Amor" Z. Randall Stroope

Where charity and love are, God is there.

Christ's love has gathered us into one, alleluia, joy that is immense.

*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*)

Generous God, source of love and trust,

you feed us with your love and equip us to share in your purpose.

Receive these offerings from our labor and our lives

and continue to expand our hearts,

until we live with the boldness and joy of Easter morning;

for we pray in the name of your Son, Jesus, and by the power of your Spirit. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 716 “God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending”

*Benediction and Response

Worshippers who wish to do so are invited to sing along with the choir during the Benediction responses.

*Postlude :: Toccata from *Suite Gothique* Léon Boëllmann

Worship in the Reformed Tradition

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 thanks-giving 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

9:30 Judith L. Watt, Pamela Block, Joseph L. Morrow, Shannon J. Kershner

11:00 Judith L. Watt, Brian Satre, Joseph L. Morrow, Shannon J. Kershner

The Music Today

Morning 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 Robert Sinclair on behalf of the Officer Nominating Committee.

NEXT SUNDAY WE WILL BEGIN A SIX-WEEK SERMON SERIES, "Remembering Our Past, Inspiring Our Future." Each week we will explore defining moments in the story of Fourth Presbyterian Church that continue to influence our ongoing commitment to participate in God's redemptive work.

THE BULLETIN COVER photo depicts the Fourth Church steeple on a foggy night, with the Palmolive building in the background (other photos of the steeple in fog were posted this week at www.instagram.com/fourthchurch). The cover quote is from Huston Smith's book *Why Religion Matters: The Fate of the Human Spirit in an Age of Disbelief*.

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 and Prayer of Confession are adapted from the writing of Thom Shuman.

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

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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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