

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

Gathering around the Word

Prelude ♫ Solemn Melody Walford Davies

Introit ♫ “Give Thanks to God” Matthew Lundquist

Give thanks to God, enthroned on high, whose mercy faileth never.

*Doxology (*sung*) The Hymnal, 606

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Call to Worship

Leader: *God gave us the Lord Jesus Christ,*

People: **the beloved one who was rejected,**

Leader: *the Savior who appeared defeated.*

People: **The mystery of his reign illumines our lives;**

Leader: *in Christ’s death and resurrection we know the victory that crowns the ages.*

People: **Christ’s sacrifice and triumph make known
the love that unites heaven and earth.**

*Hymn 263 “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name!”

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Righteous God, you have crowned Jesus Christ as Lord of all.

We confess that we have not bowed before him
and are slow to acknowledge his rule.

We give allegiance to the powers of this world
and fail to be governed by justice and love.

In your mercy, forgive us.

Raise us to proclaim him as ruler of all,

that we may be loyal ambassadors,

obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

**Stand as you are able.*

Declaration of Pardon

Leader: *Friends, believe the good news:*

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

*Exchange of Peace

Leader: *The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.*

People: And also with you.

We invite you to greet those around you, wishing them “peace” or “the peace of Christ.”

Concerns of the Church

Anthem :: “The Peace of Christ” James Biery

*May peace from Christ come dwell in you; may love from God envelop you
and bind you close in harmony, true meekness, and humility.*

For you are called God’s chosen ones, God’s holy and beloved ones.

Be clothed anew in loveliness, compassion, patience, gentleness;

the peace of Christ which dwells in you will perfectly be seen through you.

So let your hearts and voices ring; let grateful songs to God take wing.

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Canticle Luke 1:68–79



Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a-lone, O Lord, are ho-ly.



Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Al-le-lu - ia!

*Acclamation (*sung*) The Hymnal, 583



Scripture Lesson :: Colossians 1:11–20 New Testament, page 188

Sermon :: “The Universal Christ” Victoria G. Curtiss

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 273 “He Is King of Kings”

*Litany for the Reign of Christ

Leader: *Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice!*

People: **Christ will reign forever and ever.**

Leader: *The Lord is robed in majesty and girded in strength.*

People: **Christ will reign forever and ever.**

Leader: *God has established the world, and God’s realm will never be shaken.*

People: **Christ will reign forever and ever.**

Leader: *God will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with equity.*

People: **Christ will reign forever and ever.**

Leader: *The realm of this world has become the realm of God.*

People: **Christ will reign forever and ever.**

Minute for Mission

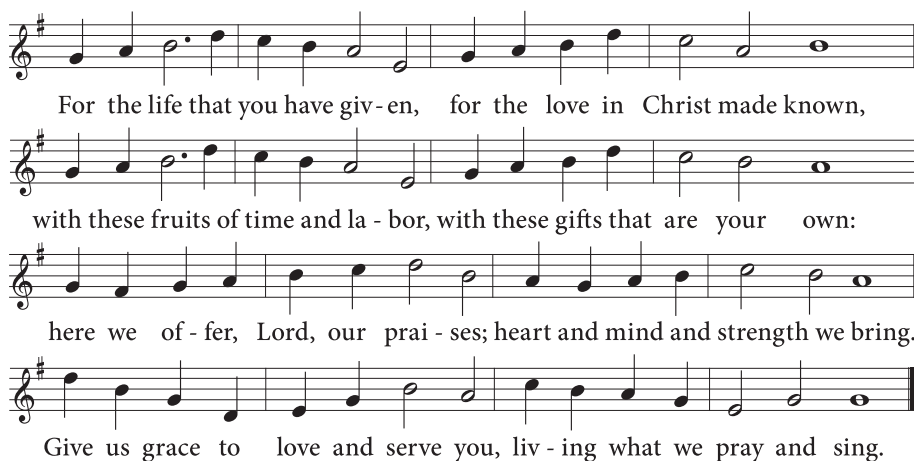
Offering

Offertory Solo :: “Agnus Dei” Laura Perkett

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

*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.

Sealing the Word

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation

Great Thanksgiving

Leader: *The Lord be with you.*

People: *And also with you.*

Leader: *Lift up your hearts.*

People: *We lift them up to the Lord.*

Leader: *Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.*

People: *It is right to give our thanks and praise.*

Prayer

Leader: *It is truly right and our greatest joy . . . forever singing to the glory of your name:*

Sanctus (*sung*) The Hymnal, 552

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

Leader: . . . *Great is the mystery of faith:*

Memorial Acclamation (*sung*) The Hymnal, 553

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

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

The Communion

Communion Anthem :: "One Thing More" Jane Marshall

Thou who hast given so much to me, give one thing more: a grateful heart.

Not thankful when it pleaseth me, as if thy blessings had spare days,

but such a heart whose pulse may be thy praise.

Prayer after Communion (*unison*)

Jesus Christ, our sovereign and savior,

you pour out your power for the powerless and your salvation for the lost.

Remember us in your new creation,

that we may live in peace with you in the presence of the Holy One,

to whom be all honor and glory. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 265 "Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun"

*Benediction and Response

Postlude :: Praise God, Ye Christians, One and All. Johann Sebastian Bach

Worship Leaders

Judith L. Watt, Roberta Dawson, Victoria G. Curtiss

The Music Today

Chancel Choir; Carol Carpenter, flutist; Laura Perkett, soloist

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

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

Laura Bottei, Organ Scholar

Worship Notes

TODAY'S MINUTE FOR MISSION highlights Christmas giving opportunities.

THE "LIGHT UP A LIFE" OFFERING being received today provides opportunity to support congregational programs, mission, and community outreach, including Chicago Lights programs. "Light Up a Life" gifts can be made using the special offering envelopes found in the pew racks.

THIS MORNING, COMMUNION IS SERVED BY INTINCTION. The congregation comes forward by the center aisle to receive the bread, which they then dip into the chalice of grape juice. (Gluten-free bread is available in a small tumbler in each basket of bread.) Worshipers return to their pews by the side aisles.

The invitation to the Lord's Supper is not just for Presbyterians or "members of the church." Even one who doubts or whose trust is wavering may receive the bread and grape juice (in place of wine) in order to be assured of God's love and grace in Jesus Christ.

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: 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.

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