

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

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Now Thank We All Our God from *Cantata No. 79* Johann Sebastian Bach

Let All Together Praise Our God Nikolaus Vetter

Improvisation on “Give Thanks to God” *Tune: Morning Song*

*Doxology (*sung*). The Hymnal, 609

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures high and low.

Alleluia, alleluia! Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one.

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

*Call to Worship

Leader: *Come to God with joy in your heart.*

People: We come to praise God with thanksgiving.

Leader: *Bless the holy name of God, the One who has made us.*

People: We come into God’s presence, singing songs of wonder and hope.

Leader: *God is good! God’s faithfulness never ends.*

People: We are God’s people. Alleluia!

*Hymn 367 “Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

O God, you are all around us and within us. We thank you for your abiding and steadfast presence. You call us to freshness and newness each day. Deliver us from ruts and stagnant waters. You call us to the wholeness we are created to be. Deliver us from burdened spirits and dashed dreams. You call us to warmth and growth. Deliver us from hard hearts and cold hands. You call us to the refreshment and peace of a cool, bubbling spring. Deliver us from boiling, destructive anger. You call us to wonder and amazement. Deliver us from negativity. You offer us a solid foundation. Deliver us from unstable faith. Forgive us and make us new. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Stand as you are able.

Declaration of Pardon

Leader: *Friends, believe the good news:*

People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

Concerns of the Church

Anthem # “To God Be the Glory” Scottish tune; arr. George Bayley

To God, be the glory, all glory in the highest and peace to his people who dwell here below.

Our heavenly Father, our Lord, and our sovereign, to you, almighty, our praises bestow.

We worship and adore you, we bow before you with grateful thanksgiving, our song let us raise.

All glory and honor and glad adoration to God in the highest hosanna and praise.

Lord Jesus, the only begotten of the Father, we praise and we bless you, the Son and the lamb.

The sin of the world you have taken upon you, have mercy upon us, the great I am.

For holy, you meet us, yet lowly you greet us, the Lord in the highest, the holy one.

All glory to the Father, the Son, and the Spirit, from ages everlasting, the three in one.

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter (*sung*) # “Your Faithfulness, O Lord, Is Sure” (Psalm 145) The Hymnal, 42

*Acclamation (*sung*) The Hymnal, 583



Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est!

Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Scripture Lesson # Ephesians 4:4–6, 14–16 New Testament, page 187

Sermon # “Transformative Tables” Victoria G. Curtiss and Kent M. Organ

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 36 “For the Fruit of All Creation”

*Litany of Thanksgiving

Leader: *Give thanks to the Lord, who is good.*

People: **God’s love is everlasting.**

Leader: *Come, let us praise God joyfully.*

People: **Let us come to God with thanksgiving.**

Leader: *For the good world; for things great and small, beautiful and awesome;
for seen and unseen splendors:*

People: **thank you, God.**

Leader: *For human life; for talking and moving and thinking together;
for common hopes and hardships shared from birth until our dying:*

People: **thank you, God.**

Leader: *For work to do and strength to work; for the comradeship of labor;
for exchanges of good humor and encouragement:*

People: **thank you, God.**

Leader: *For marriage; for the mystery and joy of flesh made one; for mutual forgiveness
and burdens shared; for memories cherished in love:*

People: **thank you, God.**

Leader: *For family; for living together and eating together;
for family amusements and family pleasures:*

People: **thank you, God.**

Leader: *For children; for their energy and curiosity;
for their brave play and startling frankness; for their sudden sympathies:*

People: **thank you, God.**

Leader: *For the young; for their high hopes; for their irreverence toward worn-out values;
for their search for freedom; for their solemn vows:*

People: **thank you, God.**

Leader: *For growing up and growing old; for wisdom deepened by experience;
for rest in leisure; and for time made precious by its passing:*

People: thank you, God.

Leader: *For your help in times of doubt and sorrow; for healing our diseases;
for preserving us in temptation and danger:*

People: thank you, God.

Leader: *For our nation, throughout seasons of rising and falling;
for leaders who seek and abide by your wisdom;
for your light and truth that corrects our ways:*

People: thank you, God.

Leader: *For the church into which we have been called;
for the good news we receive by Word and Sacrament;
for our life together in the Lord:*

People: we praise you, God.

Leader: *For your Holy Spirit, who guides our steps and brings us gifts of faith and love;
who prays in us and prompts our grateful worship:*

People: we praise you, God.

Leader: *Above all, O God, for your Son Jesus Christ,
who lived and died and lives again for our salvation;
for our hope in him and for the joy of serving him:*

People: we thank and praise you, eternal God, for all your goodness to us.

Leader: *Give thanks to the Lord, who is good.*

People: God's love is everlasting.

Prayers of the People

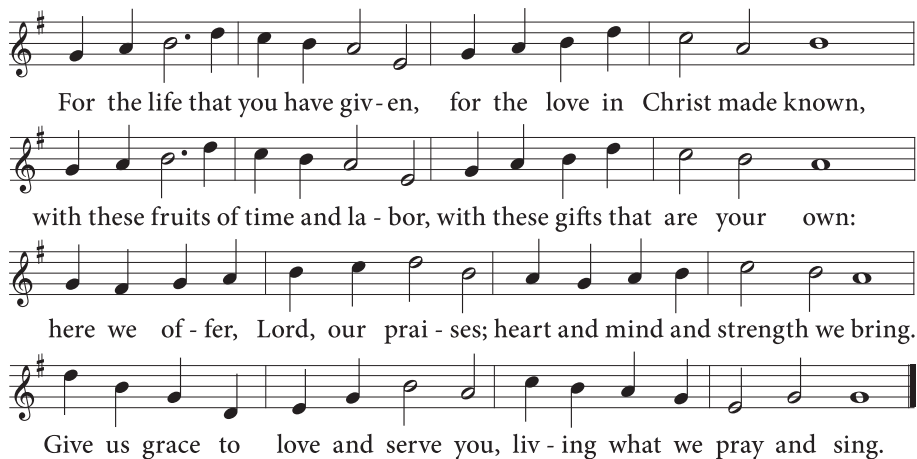
The Lord's Prayer (*unison*) The Hymnal, page 35

Prayer Response :: "Amen" Philip Stopford

Offering

Offertory Anthem :: "The Old Hundredth Psalm Tune" Ralph Vaughan Williams

*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*)

O God, through the offering of these gifts may we become more open and grateful people: open-minded in hearing your Word and wisdom; open-hearted in healing the world; open-handed in heeding your call for gratitude and generosity; open-eyed in reverence and awe for you and the gift of love. With thanksgiving for countless blessings, we dedicate a portion of our resources and the whole of ourselves to your glory. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 37 “Let All Things Now Living”

*Benediction and Response

Postlude ♯ Choral Improvisation on “Now Thank We All Our God” Sigfrid Karg-Elert

Worship Leaders

Victoria G. Curtiss, Kent M. Organ

The Music Today

Members of the Morning Choir

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

Worship Notes

FOURTH CHURCH WELCOMES guest preacher Kent Organ, Presbyterian pastor and husband of Victoria Curtiss.

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.

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US FOR ADVENT WORSHIP beginning Sunday, December 1. We gather for worship each Sunday morning at 8:00 a.m. (Communion), 9:30 a.m., and 11:00 a.m. and again in the afternoon at 4:00 p.m. for our weekly Jazz Communion service.

Our annual Festival of Advent Lessons and Music will be Sunday, December 8 at 6:30 p.m. We will also offer a service in the style of Taizé on Monday, December 31 (New Year’s Eve) at 7:30 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel. Information about those services and the many Advent concerts and events at Fourth Church can be found at www.fourthchurch.org/advent-christmas

THE ANNUAL FAIR TRADE GIFT BAZAAR will be held Saturday, December 7 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Sunday, December 8 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Anderson Hall, the Gignilliat Commons, and Borwell Dining Room.

THE COVER IMAGE portrays a bundle of wheat—a symbol of abundance—as depicted in the chancel needlepoint work created by Morgan Simmons.

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.

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

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