

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

Gathering around the Word

Prelude :: I Want Jesus to Walk with Me. . . . African American spiritual; arr. Calvin Taylor

Introit :: “Modimo re book wena” Traditional Sotho church hymn

Lord, we thank you; all things are created by you.

*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.

*Invocation

*Invitation to Observe a Holy Lent

*Hymn 440 “Jesus, Lover of My Soul”

Litany of Confession

Leader: *O Lord our God, you call us to proclaim the gospel,
but we remain silent in the presence of evil. God of grace,*

People: **forgive us.**

Leader: *You call us to be reconciled to you and one another,
but we are content to live in separation. God of grace,*

People: **forgive us.**

Leader: *You call us to seek the good of all,
but we fail to resist the powers of oppression. God of grace,*

People: **forgive us.**

Leader: *You call us to fight pretensions and injustice, but we sit idly by,
endangering the lives of people far and near. God of grace,*

People: **forgive us.**

Leader: *Speak to us in the silence, O Lord, that we might summon the courage
and strength to be reconciled to you and one another . . . (Please hold silence.)*

Extinguishing the First Lenten Candle

*Stand as you are able.

Kyrie The Hymnal, 551

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.

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 ♯ “Drop, Drop, Slow Tears” Roland E. Martin

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter Psalm 32



*Acclamation (*sung*) The Hymnal, 583



Lenten Sermon Series: Questions Jesus Asked

“I Am He” Victoria G. Curtiss

Responding to the Word

Silent Reflection

Throughout the season of Lent we are practicing silence as a way to grow closer to God and one another.

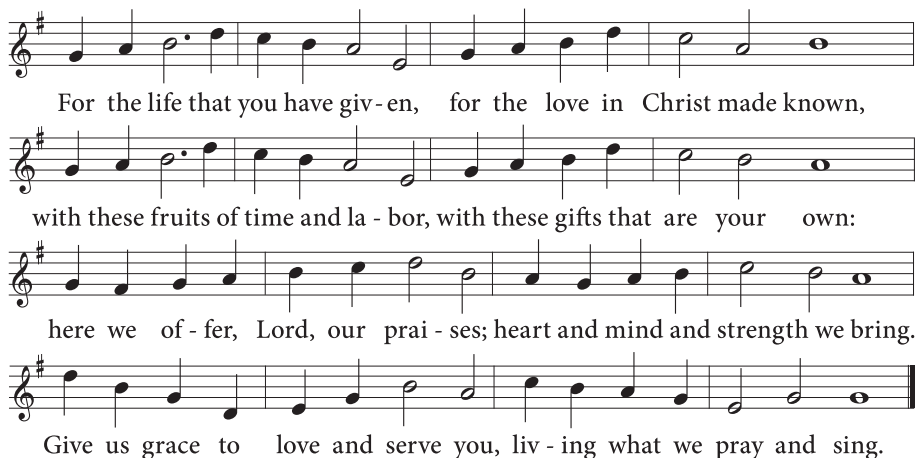
*Affirmation of Faith (*unison*). from *A Brief Statement of Faith* (PCUSA)

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:
preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives,
teaching by word and deed and blessing the children,
healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted,
eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.
Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified,
suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world.
God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life,
breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

Offering

Offertory Voluntary :: Andante Tranquillo from *Sonata No. 3* Felix Mendelssohn

*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, 572

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.

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

Memorial Acclamation (*sung*) The Hymnal, 573

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

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

The Communion

Communion Anthem :: "Lord, for Thy Tender Mercy's Sake" Richard Farrant

Lord, for thy tender mercy's sake, lay not our sins to our charge,

but forgive that is past and give us grace to amend our sinful lives;

to decline from sin and incline to virtue,

that we may walk in a perfect heart before thee now and evermore.

Prayer after Communion (*unison*)

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 818 “By Gracious Powers”

*Benediction and Response

Postlude ♫ Toccata in E Minor Johann Pachelbel

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 Lord’s Supper is the sign and seal of eating and drinking in communion with the crucified and risen Lord. In this act, we remember that during his earthly ministry, Jesus shared meals with his followers and sat at dinner tables as a sign of acceptance of the sinner and the outcast.

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.

Worship Leaders

Rocky Supinger, Margaret Laing, Victoria G. Curtiss

The Music Today

Chancel Choir

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

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

Laura Bottei, Organ Scholar

Worship Notes

EACH SUNDAY DURING LENT we are extinguishing a candle at the front of the Sanctuary. Just as we lit candles on the Advent wreath to symbolize the light coming into the world through the birth of Christ, so now our extinguishing of candles points to the Lenten progression from light to the shadows of Good Friday and the crucifixion.

THE LENTEN ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING SUPPORTS Chicago Lights Tutoring and Social Service Center; Fourth Church Meals and Shower Ministries; and the work of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Hunger, and Self-Development of People Programs. To make a One Great Hour of Sharing gift, use the envelopes in the pew racks or write “Lenten Offering” on the memo line of a check made payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church. Gifts can also be made online at www.fourthchurch.org/give-online

THE SEASON OF LENT calls Christians to embrace the faith journey by reflecting upon and deepening their relationship with God and by acting upon their Christian beliefs. During this season, we are invited to thoughtfully take up the gifts of faith—worship, study, prayer, and service—in preparation for Holy Week and Christ’s journey to the cross.

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

David Handley Interim Minister for Pastoral Care

Joseph L. Morrow Minister for Evangelism

Jeffrey Doane Parish Associate for Older Adults

Maggie Shreve Parish Associate for Jail Ministry

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 music for “Jesus Remember Me” is by Jacques Berthier © 1981 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc). 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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