

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MARCH 26, 2017

4TH SUNDAY IN LENT

WALKING IN HIS WAYS



GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

WELCOME

As the welcome pads are passed down your aisle, please help us to celebrate your worshipping with us today by signing the register.

PRELUDE

O Man, Bewail Thy Grievous Fall

J. S. Bach

A Thought as You Prepare for Worship

"It is human nature to find some reason why people are the way they are, so that we can get on with the business of being the way we are without too much drag on our consciences."

—Barbara Brown Taylor

INTROIT

Lord, Have Mercy upon Us

C. Pardini

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Adapted from Psalm 91

Our trust—

is in you, O God, and in you alone.

We rejoice—

that Your love for us is stronger than our fear.

Let us worship God—

who is our refuge and strength and the source of our peace.

*HYMN

O God of Every Nation

Purple, No. 756

Today's cover art is a photo of the Rich Man and Lazarus frieze at the Abbaye St. Pierre de Moissa in Moissac, Tarn-et-Garonne, France.

Please join in on the liturgy printed in **bold italics**. An asterisk * indicates that you are invited to stand in body or in Spirit as you feel led and are able.

Today's version of the Lord's Prayer can be found in the Purple Hymnal on page 35 and uses "debts" and "debtors."

Our Grace and Restoration sequence this morning is adapted from Prayers of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand, published in "A Common Prayer" from 1990.

This week in Sunday School Northminster's youngest will hear about the "other" Lazarus in the New Testament, Jesus' friend who dies and is revived by Jesus, based on John 11:1-45.

*OPENING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

ACKNOWLEDGING OUR NEED OF GRACE

M. Leunig, alt

**God help us to change.
To change ourselves and to change our world.
To know the need for it.
To deal with the pain of it.
To feel the joy of it.
To undertake the journey
without understanding the destination.
To see one another—the pain we cause,
the joy we can bring;
To participate with humility and hope in your art of
gentle revolution.
Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF RESTORATION

Love is born with a shadowed and troubled face
When hope, once-dead, is touched by grace.
And in the most unlikely place
Love is born anew:
Love is always born.
In Jesus Christ, Love Reborn, we are forgiven. Amen.

*RESPONSE *Change My Heart, O God* Purple, No. 695

*SHARING THE PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

HYMN OF PREPARATION

Purple, No. 701

Lord, Prepare Me (Sanctuary)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Help us be vulnerable to the movement of Your Spirit, O
God, so that as the word is read and proclaimed we
may hear both the challenge and invitation of your
message for us and joyfully respond with conviction,
compassion and hope. Amen.**

ANTHEM

Poor Man Lazrus

Hairston

SERMON READING Luke 16:19-31 NT, pp. 79-80
This is the word of the Lord. ***Thanks be to God.***

SERMON *Gates and Chasms*

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

LENTEN LITANY *Belhar Confession, liturgical version*

We believe that God has revealed the Divine self as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people;

that God, in a world full of injustice and enmity, is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor and the wronged;

That God calls the church to follow Christ in this;

For God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry, God frees the prisoner and restores sight to the blind, God supports the downtrodden, protects the stranger, helps orphans and widows, and blocks the path of the ungodly;

We believe that God wishes to teach the church to do what is good and to seek the right;...that the church as the possession of God must stand where the Lord stands, namely against injustice and with the wronged;

That in following Christ the church must witness against those powerful and privileged who selfishly seek their own interests and thus control and harm others.

*HYMN Verses 1, 2, 5 & 6, Purple, No. 343
Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

RESPONSE *Rain Down* Purple, No. 48

OUR WORSHIPFUL WORK TOGETHER

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

Call to Offering

Offertory Recordare from Mozart's *Requiem*

*Response *Live in Charity* Purple, No. 205

Our Lenten Litany is a portion of Section 4 of the Belhar Confession, originally drafted in Afrikaans in 1986 by the Synod of the Dutch Reformed Mission Church of South Africa. It was made a part of the Presbyterian Church USA constitution in 2016.

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

Gracious God, accept these gifts which we offer in grateful response to the riches of your immeasurable love. Strengthen us with your Spirit to witness to that love in all we do and say, Amen.

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN *Come! Live in the Light!* Purple, No. 749

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

*RESPONSE *God Be with You till We Meet Again* W. Tomer

POSTLUDE *Jesus, Priceless Treasure* J. S. Bach

The Chancel Flowers today are given to the Glory of God by the Philbrick Family in memory of Claude and Sue Lindsey, and in honor of Chan and Marie Philbrick.

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

Preaching—Rev. Michael D. Kirby

Liturgist—Jackie Eddy

A Time with the Children—Kelly Brest van Kempen

Musicians—Paul Vander Weele, Choral Soloists

Johanna Moffitt, soprano; Jackie King, alto;

Dennis Kalup, tenor; Steve Uliana, bass

Ushers—Tom Abendroth, Linda Beckstedt, Bruce Eddy, Scott Kellogg

Acolytes—Henry & Ashlyn Rogowski

Our Northminster Family at Work

PROGRAM AND WORSHIP STAFF

Rev. Michael D. Kirby—*Senior Pastor & Head of Staff*

Rev. Jessica Gregory—*Associate Pastor*

Rev. Ann Ohlrogge Johnson—*Parish Associate*

Dr. Christopher Owen—*Director of Music*

Paul Vander Weele—*Organist*

Kate Lee—*Director of Youth Music*

Margaret Parcell—*Director of Northminster Nursery School*

Meredith Rogowski—*Director of Children's Ministry*

Alex DeMarco—*Director of Youth Ministry*

Gina DiBenedetto—*Director of Mom's Morning Out*

Ami Bauman—*Coordinator of Mom's Morning Out*

Lisa Martinez—*Sunday Nursery Supervisor*

ClaudINETTE Voltaire—*Sunday Nursery Assistant*

ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT STAFF

Sharyn Wilson Woods—*Parish Administrator*

Mike Jin—*Financial Secretary*

Davit Hovakimyan—*Facilities Manager*

Alex Villegas—*Sunday Sexton*

CONGREGATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Greg Boyer—*Clerk of Session*

Tom Buess—*Moderator, Deacon Board*

Members of NPC—*Ministers*

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If you leave during the Postlude, please show respect for those who remain in their seats to listen. Thanks!