

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

APRIL 9, 2017

PALM/PASSION SUNDAY

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

Hosanna Filio David

Jean Joulain

A Thought as You Prepare for Worship
"Despair and hope. They travel the road to Jerusalem together, as together they travel every road we take - despair at what in our madness we are bringing down on our own heads, and hope in Him who travels the road with us and for us, and who is the only one of us all who is not mad."

Frederick Buechner, A Room Called Remember

Our cover art today is "Triumphal Entry" by liturgical artist He Qi. © He Qi, 2006, used by permission.

*Please join in speaking or singing all words 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.*

INTROIT

A Cheering, Chanting, Dizzy Crowd

P. Benoit

Our service is slightly restructured this week so that our children may participate in the processional.

Our call to worship is modified from a poem by Christine Sine, Christian peace activist, former physician, and spiritual director from Seattle.

We traditionally use the "debts" and "debtors" form of The Lord's Prayer.

This week our Sunday School lesson for the children will focus on the briefest account of Holy Week, Mark 11:1-11.

Our confession is modified from one written by Co-Moderator of the PC(USA), the Rev. Jan Edmiston, for the clergy group RevGalBlogPals.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Waving Palms

Let us enter the city with God today,
***Let us sing hosanna to our king,
To the son of God riding on a donkey.***

With shepherds and shunned women,
With the blind and the leper,
With the abandoned and oppressed,
***Let us shout for joy at Christ's coming
And follow the One who welcomes the sinner
and dines with the outcast.***

Let us touch and see as God draws near,
Riding in triumph towards the Cross.

*PROCESSIONAL *All Glory Laud and Honor* Purple, No. 196
Waving Palms on the Refrain

*OPENING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

*SHARING OF THE PEACE AND
THE CHILDREN DEPART FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL
The Peace of Christ be with you. ***And also with you.***

ACKNOWLEDGING OUR NEED OF GRACE

God of all times and places, we confess that we would rather join the crowds than stand alone. We prefer the popular point of view to a solitary witness for justice and truth. We like safety and security while shrinking from the risk of involvement. We'll sing "hosanna" when everyone else is doing so—but are hesitant when the hostile "Good Friday" forces may hear us. We believe Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. We know that means us, not just other folk involved in obvious evils everyone knows about. We ask you to be patient with us, to help us understand our own failings. Then pour out your forgiveness in such a way that we are forever transformed. In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF RESTORATION

Friends, let us rehearse the Good News that it might sustain us in the days to come...

***In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! All praise be to God!
Amen.***

*RESPONSE AND PREPARATION Purple, No. 451, verses 1 & 2
Open My Eyes That I May See

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

***Open our minds and hearts, O God, that we may hear your
Word, receive your call, and walk in your light. Amen.***

ANTHEM *Fanfare for Palm Sunday* Davis

SERMON READING Luke 19: 29-40 NT, p. 83
This is the word of the Lord. ***Thanks be to God.***

SERMON *Peace in Heaven*

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN *A Cheering, Chanting Dizzy Crowd* Purple, No. 200

OUR WORSHIPFUL WORK TOGETHER

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

Call to Offering

Offertory *Arise, My Soul, Arise* Dan Forrest

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

***Live in charity and steadfast love.
Live in charity; God will dwell with you.***

The arc of Holy Week — from the triumphal entry on Palm Sunday, to the creation of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, through Jesus' arrest and execution on Friday, through to the joys of Easter Sunday — is the holiest season of the year in the Christian tradition. It has been celebrated since the earliest days of the persecution of Christians, starting around 135 C.E., over 200 years before the first known celebration of Christmas.

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

Generous God, in the mystery of the coming week, we experience joy, awe, horror, confusion and wonder. They are the same feelings we encounter on the best and worst days of life. We are bold this day to give you thanks—for every day and for all that we have. Take this portion we return to your service and take our very lives, use all to do your will, to proclaim your love, to create your justice, to inspire your hope. In your name we pray, Amen.

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN *Ah, Holy Jesus* Purple, No. 218, verses 1-4 only

*THE PASSION Luke 23, *responsively* See insert

We depart in contemplation.

The Chancel Flowers are given to the Glory of God by Tom & Sue Swigert in thanksgiving for and celebration of Northminster Church.

Luke's version of the passion will end our service, please join in reading the ***bold/italics portions aloud.***

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

Preaching—Rev. Michael D. Kirby

Liturgist—Rev. Ann Ohlrogge Johnson

A Time with the Children—Joan LePontois

Musicians—Dr. Christopher Owen, Paul Vander Weele, the Chancel Choir

Soloists—Johanna Moffitt, soprano; Jackie King, alto;

Dennis Kalup, tenor; Steve Uliana, bass

Ushers—Tom Buess, Lee Knohl, John Morrison & Leslie Noble

Acolytes—Annabelle Brown & Valerie Larsen

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*

Claudiette Voltaire—*Sunday Nursery Assistant*

ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT STAFF

Sharyn Wilson Woods—*Parish Administrator*

Mike Jin—*Retiring Financial Secretary*

Athina Sato—*Starting 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*

***Northminster Presbyterian Church, 2515 Central Park Ave., Evanston IL 60201
847.869.9210 www.northminpres.org***