

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 17, 2017

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



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

Deck Thyself, My Soul, with Gladness

J.S. Bach

A Thought as You Prepare for Worship

"There was one who was great by virtue of his power, and one who was great by virtue of his hope, and one who was great by virtue of his love, but Abraham was the greatest of all, great by that power whose strength is powerlessness, great by that wisdom which is foolishness, great by that hope whose form is madness...."

—Soren Kierkegaard

INTROIT

We Are One in Christ Jesus

P. Blycker

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We look around the world, across our nation and in our own community, and ask, "How long, O God, must suffering go on?"

It sometimes seems that it has no end.

Today's cover art is a detail from "Le Sacrifice d'Isaac" by Marc Chagall, originally painted in 1966. © Musée National, all rights reserved.

Today's rose is for Frances Jane (Frannie) Drozd, born to Alex and Jessie on August 2. Alex grew up at Northminster. Frannie is Virginia Kerr's first grandchild!

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

Without you, shadows and despair, or the fallacy of self-sufficiency, fill our thoughts and crowd you out.

Hear our cries, O God, as you have in the past.

Dispel the stormy horizons of our fear with the assurance of your presence.

Strengthen us with the knowledge that we are never abandoned by you, that we can put our trust in your steadfast love.

For you, O God, deliver us to light, to hope, to life.

In our worship, we will lift our voices to you in songs of hope and praise.

*HYMN

Arise, Your Light Is Come!

Purple, No. 744

*OPENING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

ACKNOWLEDGING OUR NEED OF GRACE AND ASSURANCE

Gracious God, over and over again you invite us to risk becoming the people you know we can become if we but trust your love and Jesus' grace working within us. When we withhold that trust and turn inward, becoming blind to others' pain, leaving them abandoned—merciful God, forgive us.

When our actions fail to measure up to the demands of the gospel, and we use our gifts to further only our own ambitions rather than building others up—merciful God, forgive us.

A moment for silent reflection

When our unwillingness to share your love in word and deed contributes to the ease with which many people are drawn into worshipping the gods of culture; when we call Christ Lord, and then deny that lordship with our actions—merciful God, forgive us.

God of grace and mercy, help us to empty ourselves of habits which are destructive to ourselves and others, so that we can be filled with the loving, self-offering life of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

*RESPONSE *How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord* Vs. 1, Purple, No. 432

*SHARING THE PEACE

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

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

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

HYMN OF PREPARATION Vs. 1, Purple, No. 451
Open My Eyes, That I May See

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

***Giver of life and love, this we pray:
For stillness to hear the song of your Spirit;
For vision to see the shape of your dreaming;
For wisdom to touch the depths of your creating;
For courage to take the paths our souls have always
known. Amen.***

ANTHEM *Listen to the Lambs* N. Dett

SERMON READING Genesis 21:1-3; 22:1-14 OT, pp. 16-18
This is the word of the Lord. ***Thanks be to God.***

SERMON *Hearing Voices*

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN *My Life Flows On* Purple, No. 821

STATEMENT OF FAITH Apostles' Creed Purple, p. 17
Ecumenical Version

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

RESPONSE Vs. 1, Purple, No. 817
We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight

OUR WORSHIPFUL WORK TOGETHER

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

Call to Offering

Offertory *Your Only Son* T. Paris
Jackie King, Soloist

*Response *Take, O Take Me as I Am* Purple, No. 698

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

***God of grace and truth, you welcome us into your
presence and provide refreshment and renewal for
our lives. Receive and bless these gifts and our lives
which we offer in gratitude and trust. May our hands
be always open to welcome and care for all in Jesus'
name. Amen***

This week in Sunday School, Northminster's youngest will learn about a story earlier in the Abraham and Sarah narrative, a visit from heavenly messengers who have wonderful and surprising news for Sarah. She laughs, and eventually her son will be called "laughter"—Isaac.

The refrain and stanzas of the beloved hymn traditionally called "How Can I Keep from Singing" first appeared in a Presbyterian weekly newspaper on August 27, 1868, attributed to "Pauline T." The original poem is much longer. To this day, no one is certain who the author was.

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN *O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go* Purple, No. 833

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

*CHORAL RESPONSE *We Share One God* P. Blycker

POSTLUDE *Allegro (from Concerto 1)* John Ernst/J.S. Bach

*The Chancel Flowers today are given to the Glory of God
by Tom and Ann Ohlrogge Johnson in gratitude for fifty years of marriage.*

*If you depart during
the postlude, please
be aware that some
remain in worshipful
contemplation until it
is complete.*

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

Preaching—Rev. Michael D. Kirby

Liturgist—Rev. Jessica C. Gregory

A Time with the Children—Pastor Jessica

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

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

Curtis Bannister, tenor; Steve Uliana, bass

Ushers—Lee Knohl., Molly McDowell, Ethan Sparrow

Acolytes—Calvin & Merritt Wooldridge

Our Northminster Family at Work

PROGRAM AND WORSHIP STAFF

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

Rev. Jessica C. 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*

Lisa Martinez—*Sunday Nursery Supervisor*

Carey Garrison—*Director of Mom's Morning Out*

Claudienne Voltaire—*Mom's Morning Out Assistant &
Sunday Nursery Assistant*

ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT STAFF

Sharyn Wilson Woods—*Parish Administrator*

Athina Sato—*Financial Secretary*

Davit Hovakimyan—*Facilities Manager*

Alex Villegas—*Sunday Sexton*

CONGREGATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Greg Boyer—*Clerk of Session*

Tom Buess—*Moderator of Deacons*

Members—*Ministers*

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