

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MARCH 11, 2018

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

NO GREATER LOVE...



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

Song 13

Percy Whitlock

A Thought as You Prepare for Worship
*We've splashed our rules all over the sanctuary walls...
so many rules we don't have time for dancing...
our graffiti defiling the house of God. God's graffiti is different:
God writes LOVE upon our hearts. Some night, let's sneak in the
sanctuary and paint over the rules and write God's graffiti all over the
walls... LOVE LOVE LOVE LOVE*

— Ann Weems, *Kneeling in Jerusalem*

Today's cover art is a detail from the large format work "Quod Est Veritas? Christ and Pilate," painted in 1890 by Nikolai Nikolaevich Ge. This work was banned from at least one Orthodox exhibition for not being sufficiently reverent. His greatest unfinished work, "The Crucifixion," disappeared after his death.

INTROIT *Theme from the 9th Symphony* Ludwig van Beethoven
Youth Bells

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 confessional prayer acknowledging our need of grace is modified from one prepared by the Order of St. Columba, an intentional protestant community in Great Britain.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

This is the day that you have made, Lord.

Help us to rejoice in it and be glad!

Remind us of the privileges we enjoy as your people:

To come to you in these moments,

To pray and sing and listen,

To renew our fainting spirits,

To rest in all your promises.

Open our eyes to see you, Lord, in this place, in this life.

***HYMN** *O Lord My God (How Great Thou Art)* Purple, No. 625

***OPENING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

ACKNOWLEDGING OUR NEED OF GRACE

Lord of steadfast love, we have betrayed you each time we have kept our distance from the anguish of the oppressed and the persecuted.

May the old in us pass away and all things become new.

Lord of peace, we have mocked you each time we have pretended we do not know how radically you call us to live.

May the old in us pass away and all things become new.

All merciful One, God of infinite grace and compassion, though we have strayed, you have never abandoned us.

In this season of repentance, we come confessing our sins and reaching out for the healing power of your forgiveness. Through Christ our Lord, give us renewed and truthful hearts that will follow you in all of our days. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF RESTORATION

Take comfort in the assurance that even those things that are hidden from memory, or are too deep for our words, are not beyond God's forgiving love.

God, who knows us completely, bestows pardon and peace through Christ. Thanks be to God!

***RESPONSE** *There is a Balm in Gilead* Purple, No. 792
(Refrain Only)

***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 *Lord, Prepare Me* Purple, No. 701
 (*Sanctuary*)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

*Lord of light, shine upon us. God of love, fill our hearts
with your wisdom and truth. Use this time and use us to
accomplish your good will, in this hour and in every
moment we are given. Amen*

ANTHEM *O Sacred Head Now Wounded* arr. A. Sherman
 Adult Bells

SERMON READING John 18:28-40 NT, pp. 112-113
 This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON *What is Truth?*

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN *In an Age of Twisted Values* Purple, No. 345

STATEMENT OF FAITH Purple, pp. 37-38
 Brief Statement of Faith, Section 3

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

RESPONSE *Shepherd Me, O God* Purple, No. 473
 (Three Times)

OUR WORSHIPFUL WORK TOGETHER

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

Call to Offering

Offertory *In Endless Song* A. Martin

*Response *Doxology* Purple, No. 607

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

***God of truth and grace, you have enriched our lives
with so much, your grace in Christ, your beauty in
creation, your generosity in our plenty. We offer
these funds and the service of our lives as evidence
that your work transforming the world is alive in
us. In Jesus' name, Amen.***

This week in Sunday School Northminster's youngest will be learning about Jesus with the loaves and fishes, feeding the 5000.

Today's sermon hymn was written in 1995 by then 33-year-old British hymn writer and IT specialist Martin Leckebusch. The frequent references to "nation" in the text are not intended to foster an exclusively Christian national identity but instead express a longing for all people and nations, including our own, to act in a way that would mirror and thus honor God's loving care for all humanity.

Today's version of the Doxology uses the contemporary setting which follows the Trinitarian formula, "Praise God....Praise Christ....Praise Holy Spirit..."

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN *Open My Eyes, That I May See* Purple, No. 451

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

*CHORAL RESPONSE *Lead On* H. T. Smart

POSTLUDE *Deo Gracias* David Johnson

*The Chancel Flowers today are given to the Glory of God
by Jane Hawley in celebration of her daughters,
Alison Hawley and Libby Morgan.*

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

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

Preaching—Rev. Michael D. Kirby

Liturgist—Rev. Jessica C. Gregory

A Time with the Children—Miss Meredith

Musicians—Dr. Christopher Owen, Paul Vander Weele, Kate Lee, Youth Bells,
the Adult Bell Choir and the Chancel Choir

Soloists—Johanna Mofitt, soprano; Jackie King, alto; Steve Uliana, tenor; Doug Balkin, bass

Ushers—Greg Boyer, Tom Buess, Leslie Noble

Acolytes—Shane Macris & Alec Yancey-Carroll

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*

Claudinetta 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*

Gretchen Wooldridge—*Moderator of the
Board of Deacons*

Members—*Ministers*

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