

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MARCH 25, 2018

PALM/PASSION SUNDAY

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

Hosanna Filio David

Jean Joulain

A Prayer as You Prepare for Worship

May we, who are sometimes swayed by the crowd's approval, and who often avoid conflict for fear of its cost to us, hold fast to the gospel of peace and justice and follow faithfully in your way of compassion and solidarity wherever it may lead us. Amen.

— **Kathy Galloway**

INTROIT

Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!

J. Dykes

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(Waving Palms)

Let us take branches of palms today;

***Let us sing Hosanna to the Son of God,
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord,
the King of Israel.***

Our cover art today is a cross beam inscribed like Jesus' as it is told in the Gospel of John: "Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, 'Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.' Many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek."

An asterisk indicates that you are invited to stand in body or in Spirit as you feel led and are able. Please join in speaking or singing all words printed in **bold italics**.*

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

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

This week our One Room Sunday Schoolhouse lesson for the children will focus on the briefest account of Holy Week from 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.

Blessed is Jesus Christ, who did not turn back for the fear of the cross. Let us praise the God who loves us enough to take on Jesus' sufferings for us. With courage and hope, let our journey of faith continue from the palms to the passion.

Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!

*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.***

ANTHEM *The Palms* J.B. Faure

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 folks 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

Loving God, there is great mystery in your Word and great truth. By your Spirit, welcome us into this library of your love. May the light of your truth shine on us today, dispelling the shadows and revealing the path that you would have us follow.

SERMON READING John 19:16b-22 NT, pp. 113-114
This is the word of the Lord. ***Thanks be to God.***

SERMON *Who Are We That You Would Die for Us?*

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN *Beneath the Cross of Jesus* Purple, No. 216

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

RESPONSE *In God Alone* Purple, No. 814, twice

OUR WORSHIPFUL WORK TOGETHER

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

Call to Offering

Offertory *It Is Not Death to Die* Malan, Bethune & Kauflin

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

Live in charity and steadfast love.

Live in charity; God will dwell with you.

*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.

This morning's sermon is the final in our 2018 Lenten theme "No Greater Love," taken from the 15th chapter of John, where, in the midst of a sermon, Jesus says, "There is no greater love than this—to lay down one's life for one's friends."

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, onto 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.

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

Please join us for Holy Week services – Thursday Soup Supper and Service of Hand-washing and Communion, Good Friday Seven Last Words Service, and celebration of the Resurrection on Easter Sunday.

*HYMN *What Wondrous Love Is This* Purple, No. 215

CHARGE AND BLESSING

*RESPONSE *In This Hour of Dying* J.S. Bach
From St. John's Passion

The Chancel Flowers today are given to the Glory of God by Terri Mascherin and Tom Abendroth in memory of Anthony Mascherin and Elizabeth Abendroth.

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

Preaching—Rev. Jessica C. Gregory

Liturgist—Rev. Michael D. Kirby

A Time with the Children—Joan LePontois

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

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

Steve Uliana, tenor; Doug Balkin, bass

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

Acolytes—Luke Hayes & Nathan Gregory

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 & Family Ministries*

Alex DeMarco—*Director of Youth Ministry*

Lisa Martinez—*Sunday Nursery Supervisor*

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

ClaudINETTE 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*

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