

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MARCH 18, 2018

FIFTH 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 *O Lamb of God, Pure and Spotless* (v. 1&2) J.S. Bach

A Thought as You Prepare for Worship

Uncle Screwtape: "A chastity or honesty or mercy which yields to danger will be chaste or honest or merciful only on conditions. Pilate was merciful till it became risky."

— C.S. Lewis, *The Screwtape Letters*

INTROIT *O Wondrous Love* from *St. John's Passion* J.S. Bach

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Adapted from Psalm 130

Lift up your voice and call out to God.

We cry out, believing that God hears us.

Come together and wait for God.

We come together, trusting that God is still speaking.

Surely God's presence is here with us now.

We wait in hope, for God's steadfast love lifts our hearts.

Come, worship the Lord.

We celebrate the power of God that restores us.

We will worship the Lord!

Today's cover art includes: a photo of the Tiberius Denarius (a coin, sometimes called the "tribute penny" in use at the time of Jesus' trial) and a still from the film "Jesus of Nazareth" depicting a scene that appears in today's text.

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

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

Today's acknowledgment of our need of grace is substantially modified from a Good Friday prayer originally drafted by the Rev. Thom Shuman.

*HYMN

Fairest Lord Jesus

Purple, No. 630

*OPENING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

ACKNOWLEDGING OUR NEED OF GRACE

God of gracing love, we remember today all that Jesus endured for us at the hands of powerful men overcome by fear that power might be lost. Save us then, wise and wounded Christ—from the cowardice that would deny you when it is hard to be true to you; from an inconsistency that blows hot and cold in its devotion; from a fair-weather discipleship that when things are difficult or dangerous, makes us ashamed to show whose we are and whom we serve. Grant us only a measure of your own bravery, and grace enough to move beyond our weaknesses into your resilient compassion. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF RESTORATION

In our love for others, we catch a glimpse of Christ's love for us. In our forgiving of others, we learn once more how deeply God has forgiven us. Friends, this is the good news offered to us!

We are God's children, called to be different, called to act differently, called to live as new people. Thanks be to God. We are forgiven. Amen.

*RESPONSE

Jesus Loves Me

Purple, No. 188, verse 1

*SHARING THE PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

CHILDREN'S ANTHEM

With Me Everywhere

Mark Burrows

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

HYMN OF PREPARATION

Stay with Me

Purple, No. 204, twice

This week in Sunday School Northminster's youngest will learn about Jesus' blessing of the children from Mark 10:13-16.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lord of dawn, you give us light to see this day as the gift it is. Grant us wisdom to see and hear your message for us today, that we might learn your will, and seek it not only in this hour but in response to every dawn you give us. Amen.

ANTHEM *Sometimes I Feel like a Motherless Child* J. Klimek

SERMON READING John 19:1-16a NT, p. 113
This is the word of the Lord. ***Thanks be to God.***

SERMON *Where Are You From?*

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN *God of Grace and God of Glory* Purple, No. 307

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

OUR WORSHIPFUL WORK TOGETHER

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

Call to Offering

Offertory *Kyrie from Requiem* W.A. Mozart

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

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

Fearless One, you have granted us opportunity and privilege beyond all we could have hoped for. We pray our hearts and labors reflect both gratitude and grace. Take this, the fruits of your gifts and our labors, and use all in the transformation of your people and your world. In Jesus' name, Amen.

As we continue our journey through Good Friday these last weeks of Lent in the Narrative Lectionary, and with the questions that appear in the text, today we consider Pilate's odd question about from whence Jesus has come. This invites us to ask ourselves from whence we have come today—from home, from the worries of the week, from a loved one's sickbed. From wherever you have come this day, know you are welcomed here.

The poet who composed the text for our closing hymn, Frances R. Havergal, was a devout rector's daughter who sought to have a positive "personal, spiritual influence upon others." She called this a "consecration hymn" for one's life.

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

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN *Take My Life* Purple, No. 697

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

*RESPONSE *Amen*

POSTLUDE *O Lamb of God, Pure and Spotless* (v. 3) J.S. Bach

The Chancel Flowers today are given to the Glory of God by April D. Newton with love, peace, and grace in memory of her beloved mother, Shirley S. Newton.

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

Preaching—Rev. Michael D. Kirby

Liturgist—Rev. Jessica C. Gregory

A Time with the Children—Kelly Brest van Kempen

Musicians—Paul Vander Weele, Kate Lee, the Cherub Choir

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

Ushers—Linda Beckstedt, Lee Knohl, Molly McDowell, Ethan Sparrow

Acolytes—Nate & Theo Janes-Smith

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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