

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

APRIL 29, 2018

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



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

Alleluia

Aaron David Miller

A Thought as You Prepare for Worship

"[H]ad God not taken the initiative to help us, we would have remained forever agnostic, asking – just like Pontius Pilate at the trial of Jesus – 'What is truth?' but never staying for an answer, never daring to hope that we would receive one. We would be those who worship, for it is part of human nature to worship someone or something, but all our altars would be like the one the apostle Paul found in Athens, dedicated 'To an unknown god'." —Rev. John Stott, Anglican Priest

INTROIT

Praise Ye the Lord

J. Cleveland

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!

Pulpit side: Worship the Lord with gladness!

Font side: Come into God's presence with singing!

Today's cover art is a photo of the Areopagus in Athens, where the events from today's text take place. Today, it is a popular tourist destination. Very little evidence remains of the small temple that once stood there that Paul references in the text.

*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.*

The rose in the chancel this morning celebrates the birth, on April 12th, of Owen George Hayes. Owen's parents, Brad and Jennifer, and his older siblings, Luke and Emma, are thrilled to have him join the family! We give God thanks for the miracle of new life!

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

This week in Sunday School Northminster's preschool through third grade will be looking at Peter from the Book of Acts and fourth and fifth grade will be discussing grace.

Know this! The Lord is God.

Pulpit: Know this! We belong to the Lord who made us.

Font: *Know this! We are God's people, and the sheep of God's pasture.*

So, enter God's gates with thanksgiving.

Pulpit: Come into the holy courts with praise.

Font: *Give thanks to God and bless God's holy name.*

For the Lord is good.

**All: *God's steadfast love endures forever;
God's faithfulness is for all generations.
Let us worship God!***

*HYMN *When Morning Gilds the Skies* Purple, No. 667

*OPENING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

*SHARING THE PEACE

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

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

LIBRARY REDEDICATION

Words of Gratitude

Litany and Prayer of Praise and Dedication

For the authors and publishers who create stories and studies that help shape our faith,

We praise you, O God.

For the ability to acquire knowledge and seek understanding of scripture, theology, spirituality, ethics, discipleship and all aspects of life as your beloved,

We praise you, O God.

For the children who will discover the joy of reading stories that uplift and illuminate your love for them and the world,

We praise you, O God.

For the volunteers who have spent countless hours culling and purchasing new books and organizing them in ways that will make the use of the library easy for all,

We praise you, O God and we rededicate our library to you and your church. May we continue to grow together in faith and understanding to your glory and our enrichment. Amen.

HYMN OF PREPARATION Purple, No. 842, Theme 1, twice
The Lord Is My Light

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Word and words, O God, from the many, may we hear the One. Challenge and Blessing, O God, from the cacophony, may we hear your voice of compassion, hope and peace. Amen.

ANTHEM Prayer L. Pfautsch

SERMON READING Acts 17:16-31 NT, pp. 137-138
This is the word of the Lord. ***Thanks be to God.***

SERMON *How Can I Keep from Singing?*

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

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

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

RESPONSE *I Love to Tell the Story* Purple, No. 462, verse 3

OUR WORSHIPFUL WORK TOGETHER

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

Call to Offering

Offertory *The Strife Is O'er* D. Cashmore

*Response *Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!* Purple, No. 591

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

We rejoice in all our blessings and in the fruits of our labors, O God, and delight in sharing them with others. May all experience what we have begun to realize as we place our hope in you. Take, bless, and use all that we offer today, even our very lives. In Jesus' name, Amen.

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN Purple, No. 641
When in Our Music God Is Glorified

Given the simplicity of the melody of today's sermon hymn, many think it is of Quaker or Shaker origin, but it was actually composed by American Baptist minister Robert Wadsworth Lowry. The text was from a longer poem published in the New York Observer in 1868, attributed only to "Pauline T."

Our closing hymn was written by the late British hymnist and Methodist pastor Fred Pratt Green. His hymns largely reflect a progressive Christian social conscience. Queen Elizabeth II chose one for her Jubilee celebration in 1977. Green died in 2000 at the age of 97. He was granted the rank of Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (CBE) by the Queen shortly before his death.

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

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

***CHORAL RESPONSE** *Amen* P. Harling

POSTLUDE *Llanfair* David Briggs

*The Chancel Flowers today are given to the Glory of God by
Betty Mack in loving memory of her son Bill,
her two brothers and her parents.*

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 and the Chancel Choir

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

Ushers—Steve Davies, Stephanie Mitchell, Al Williams

Acolytes—Daniel & Henry Fennell

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*

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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