

# SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

## NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JULY 15, 2018 8TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST WHY GOD/JESUS? WHY CHURCH?

**"I will bless you...and  
you will be a blessing....  
All the families of the  
earth will be blessed  
because of you."  
*Genesis 12:2-3***

### 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

Thomas J. Williams/arr. Larry Schackley  
*O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus (Ebenezer)*

#### A Thought as You Prepare for Worship

*"It's that wonderful, old-fashioned idea that others come first and you come second. This was the whole ethic by which I was brought up. Others matter more than you do, so 'don't fuss, dear; get on with it.'"*

—Audrey Hepburn

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

We are the hands of Christ.

***Christ, fill us with kindness.***

We are the feet of Christ.

***Christ, speed us with joy.***

*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**.*

We are the eyes of Christ.

***Christ, expand our vision.***

We are the arms of Christ.

***Christ, use our strength for your service.***

We are the lips of Christ.

***Christ, speak your love in our words.***

We are the ears of Christ.

***Christ, transform our hearing into responding.  
Let us worship God!***

\*HYMN

*We All Are One in Mission*

Purple, No. 733

*We typically use  
"debts" and "debtors"  
when reciting The  
Lord's Prayer.*

\*OPENING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

ACKNOWLEDGING OUR NEED OF GRACE

***Holy and strong One, forgive our weakness.***

***Holy and wise One, forgive our foolishness.***

***Holy and loving One, forgive our hardness.***

***Holy and generous One, forgive our selfishness.***

***Holy and faithful One, forgive our infidelity to you.***

***Holy and gentle One, forgive our toughness.***

***Forgive us, transform us, renew us, revive us. Amen.***

ASSURANCE OF RESTORATION

In Love, Christ came for us.

***In Surrender, Christ died for us.***

In Power, Christ was resurrected for us.

***In Hope, let us live as the forgiven and restored.***

***Alleluia! Amen.***

\*RESPONSE

Purple, No. 490, verse 3

*Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters*

\*SHARING THE PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you.

***And also with you.***

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

*This week in Sunday  
School Northminster's  
youngest will continue  
to celebrate Christmas  
in July by learning  
about Jesus' birth.*

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

HYMN OF PREPARATION

Purple, No. 306, verse 1

*Blest Be the Tie That Binds*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

***God our helper, by your Holy Spirit, open our minds, that as the Scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may be led into your truth and taught your will, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

FIRST READING

Luke 9:23-25

NT, p. 69

SERMON READING

Romans 12:1-8

NT, pp. 161-162

This is the word of the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

SERMON

*Why God, Why Jesus, Why Church?:  
There is No "I" in "Follow Me"*

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

\*SERMON HYMN

Purple, No. 320

*The Church of Christ in Every Age*

STATEMENT OF FAITH

Confession of 1967, Section 9-17

***God has created human beings for a personal relation with God's own self that we may respond to the love of the Creator. God has created humanity and given them a life which proceeds from birth to death in a succession of generations and in a wide complex of social relations. God has endowed humans with capacities to make the world serve their needs and to enjoy its good things. Life is a gift to be received with gratitude and a task to be pursued with courage. People are free to seek life within the purpose of God: to develop and protect the resources of nature for the common welfare, to work for justice and peace in society, and in other ways to use their creative powers for the fulfillment of human life.***

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

RESPONSE

*Blest Be the Tie That Binds*

Purple, No. 306, verse 2

OUR WORSHIPFUL WORK TOGETHER

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

Call to Offering

Offertory *Meditation from "Thais"*

Massenet/trans. Marsick

Martha Henrikson, violin; Maureen Ang, piano

\*Response

Purple, No. 717

*For the Life That You Have Given*

*Today we continue our month-long series: "Why God, Why Jesus, Why Church?" exploring the unique witness that Christians can bring to the current challenges and competing claims on our lives.*

*The Confession of 1967 arose out of challenges to traditional theology as a result of the Civil Rights and Women's Rights movements. It continued the move away from purely intellectual confessional standards to those centered in the lived experiences of modern Christians.*

\*Prayer of Thanksgiving

***Blessed are you, God of all creation; through your goodness we have these gifts to share. Accept and use our offerings for your glory and for the service of your coming commonwealth. Blessed are you, O God, now and forever. Amen.***

## BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*If you leave during the Postlude, please remember some remain in a prayerful state of worship until it concludes.*

\*HYMN *Take My Life*

Purple, No. 697, Verses 1, 2, 5 & 6

\*CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

*Psalm*

Van Zwert

*The Chancel Flowers today are given to the Glory of God by Bonnie and Paul Camenisch in loving memory of their 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, Maureen Ang, Martha Henrikson

*Ushers*—Ben Buettell, Lee Knohl, Stephanie Mitchell, Ethan Sparrow

*Acolytes*—Alec Carroll & Shane Macris

## 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*

Margaret Parcell—*Director of Northminster Nursery School*

Meredith Rogowski—*Director of Family & Children's Ministries*

Alex DeMarco—*Director of Youth Ministry*

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

Lisa Martinez—*Sunday Nursery Supervisor*

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

### ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT STAFF

Sharyn Wilson Woods—*Parish Administrator*

Athina Sato—*Financial Secretary*

Alex Villegas—*Sunday Sexton*

### CONGREGATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Greg Boyer—*Clerk of Session*

Gretchen Wooldridge—*Deacon Moderator*

Members of NPC—*Ministers*

***Northminster Presbyterian Church, 2515 Central Park Ave., Evanston IL 60201***

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