

# SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

## NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

AUGUST 19, 2018

13TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WHY SCRIPTURE?



### 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

*Partita no. 3, 3rd Movement*

J.S. Bach

A Thought as You Prepare for Worship

*"We rise and fall and light from dying embers, remembrances that hope and love last longer. And love is love is love is love is love is love is love cannot be killed or swept aside."*

**—Lin-Manuel Miranda**

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

*Thom Schuman, adapted*

From the corners of worry and fear,  
from the shadows where we huddle with our doubts,

***God calls us to this place of sanctuary  
where we can draw from Love's deep wells.***

In every moment where we look for strength to continue,  
in every time wonder if faith is worth it,

***Jesus calls us to this time  
where we can welcome the peace given to us.***

In every person who embraces us with acceptance,  
in every touch that offers healing and hope,

***the Spirit calls us to see those around us  
as God's beloved, our sisters and brothers of grace.  
Let us worship with joy! Amen.***

*This morning's thought is taken from actor, composer and playwright Lin-Manuel Miranda's acceptance sonnet for Hamilton at the 2016 Tony Awards. In it, he responded to the shooting massacre that had happened earlier that morning in Orlando in which 50 people were killed.*

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

Our opening hymn, When Morning Gilds the Skies, was translated from an anonymous German text, "Beim fruhen Morgenlicht," thought to date from around 1800. The original hymn had fourteen stanzas!

This week in Sunday School Northminster's youngest are also learning about Jesus' greatest commandment as told in the Gospel of Matthew: to love God and to love your neighbor as yourself.

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

\*OPENING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

ACKNOWLEDGING OUR NEED OF GRACE

Gracious God, over and over again you invite us to risk becoming the people you know we can become if we but trust your love and Jesus' grace working within us. When we withhold that trust and turn inward, becoming blind to our neighbor's pain, hoarding your love and leaving them abandoned, merciful God, forgive us.

***When our actions fail to measure up to the demands of the gospel, and we use our gifts to further only our own ambition rather than building others up, merciful God, forgive us.***

*A moment for silent reflection*

When our unwillingness to share your love in word and deed contributes to the ease with which many people are drawn into worshipping the gods of culture; when we call Christ Lord, then deny that lordship with our actions, merciful God, forgive us.

***God of grace and mercy, help us to empty ourselves of habits which are destructive to ourselves and others, so that we can be filled with the loving, self-offering life of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. 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 *O Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters* Purple No. 490, Verse 3

\*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

*Spirit of the Living God*

Purple No. 288

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

***Word and words, O God. Out of the many, may we hear the One, the One who calls us, leads us, instructs us, and guides our living now and all our days. Amen.***

FIRST READING                      Matthew 12:1-8                      NT, p. 12

ANTHEM                              *The Lord's Prayer*                      Malotte

SERMON READING                  Matthew 22:34-40                  NT, p. 25  
This is the word of the Lord.                  ***Thanks be to God.***

SERMON                              *Why Scripture?:  
All Hang on a Double Hook*

*Today we continue our month-long series: "Why God, Why Jesus, Why Church?" exploring how claiming God's grace and forgiving others is a transforming act in today's world.*

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

\*SERMON HYMN    Purple, No. 316  
*Where Charity and Love Prevail*

STATEMENT OF FAITH                                      *From 'A Brief Statement of Faith'*

***We trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.  
The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,  
sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and  
neighbor, and binds us together with all believers  
in the one body of Christ, the Church.  
The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles  
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,  
engages us through the Word proclaimed,  
claims us in the waters of baptism,  
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,  
and calls women and men to all ministries of the church.***

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

RESPONSE                      *Shepherd Me, O God*                      Purple, No. 473 (3 times)

OUR WORSHIPFUL WORK TOGETHER

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

Call to Offering

Offertory                      *Seasons of Love*                      Jonathan Larson

\*Response                      *In the Lord I'll be Ever Thankful*                      Purple No. 654

\*Prayer of Thanksgiving

*Almighty God, you have given us talents for life and for serving you. We bring to you now the fruits of our labors. Bless what we give. Receive what we offer as a sign of our gratitude for all you give. Amen.*

## BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

\*HYMN            *Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love*            Purple, No. 203

\*CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE            *Ricercare on St. Anne*            Gordon Larson

*The Chancel Flowers today are given to the Glory of God by Julie Naumiak in memory of Margaret and Norman Carlson.*

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

### TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

*Preaching*—Rev. Jessica C. Gregory

*Liturgist*—Carol Wooldridge

*A Time with the Children*—Kimberly Gartner

*Musicians*—Dr. Christopher Owen, Paul Vander Weele

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

*Ushers*—Ben Buettell, Leslie Geibel, Lee Knohl, Ethan Sparrow

*Acolytes*—CJ Dominello & 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*

Margaret Parcell—*Director of Northminster Nursery School*

Meredith Rogowski—*Director of Children and Family 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  
847.869.9210 [www.northminpres.org](http://www.northminpres.org)***