

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

AUGUST 12, 2018

12TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WHY THE BIBLE?



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

Two Hymn Preludes

Frank Ferko

A Thought as You Prepare for Worship

"We are children, perhaps, at the very moment when we know that it is as children that God loves us - not because we have deserved his love and not in spite of our undeserving; not because we try and not because we recognize the futility of our trying; but simply because God has chosen to love us."

--Frederick Buechner, "The Magnificent Defeat"

*CALL TO WORSHIP

O God, you called us by name,
and we respond with delight and gladness.

In joyful obedience, we come to worship God!

Rising out of the depths of despair, or on the wings of a week of contentment, we gratefully gather for worship.

In joyful hope, we come to worship our loving God.

God had given us a new song of praise!

In joyful trust, we come to worship God. Amen.

J. Stott, alt.

*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**.*

*HYMN

Purple, No. 331

God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand

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

*OPENING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

ACKNOWLEDGING OUR NEED OF GRACE

Wisdom's Heart: deep within, we know how we have failed to be your people. Our hardened hearts are too often closed to love—yours for us and ours for ourselves and others. Our quest for more and more blocks the fullness of your grace from transforming our lives; our trust in the powers of the world reveals our foolish nature.

Have mercy, God of every generation. Pour out the rich blessing of forgiveness on our preoccupied souls. Fill us with your grace; so nourish us that we might be agents of your gentleness. Shape us as your people, and restore us to faithful living, as we seek to follow our savior and friend, Jesus Christ, in service to everyone we meet. Amen.

Brother Roger of the Taize community in France describes the contemplative life as "nothing more than one's whole person being seized by the reality of God's love."

ASSURANCE OF RESTORATION

Grounded in faith, rooted in love, pruned by grace, fed by hope,
we offer ourselves in service to others, recognizing the limitless grace which is ours to share in Christ. Thanks be to God. Amen.

*RESPONSE

Purple, No. 366, verse 1

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

*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 learning about Jesus' healing of a paralytic from Mark 2:1-12.

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

HYMN OF PREPARATION

Purple, No. 366, verse 2

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of wisdom and truth, by your Holy Spirit, open our hearts to your transforming word. In our hearing and responding, may we be led into your truth and taught your will, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING

Romans 8:31-39

NT, p. 158-159

ANTHEM *I Sing the Mighty Power of God* arr. J. Lin
Nancy Kim Phillips, flute

SERMON READING Ephesians 3:16-19 NT, p. 193
This is the word of the Lord. ***Thanks be to God.***

SERMON *Why the Bible?: A Love That Will Not Let Us Go*

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*SERMON HYMN Purple, No. 703
Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me

STATEMENT OF FAITH

In mystery and mastery, God, the being that is Love itself, created the universe and called it good. Acting in love, God also created humanity in God's own image, as both creature and divine partner in the stewardship of creation. All were created to be in loving relationship—with the Divine and with one another. So deep is God's love for each of us and all of us that, when we failed to honor our divine createdness in how we lived, God revealed the divine self in the person of Jesus Christ. He taught us how to live, how to care for one another, how to be both beloved and servant. In his crucifixion and resurrection, scripture reveals to us both God's sacrificial love and gracing power. Growing in faith, rooted in love, we seek to live in the hope of that grace and as beacons of that love now and all our days.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

RESPONSE Purple, No. 366, verse 3
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

OUR WORSHIPFUL WORK TOGETHER

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

Call to Offering

Offertory *Pastoral Symphony from Messiah* G. F. Handel
Ellie Peterson & Nancy Kim Phillips, flutes

*Response Purple, No. 333, Verse 1
How Our Hearts with Joy Abound

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

God of grace, strengthen us, we pray, to be proclaimers of your love by all we do and say. May these gifts and our lives, which we offer in response to your love and your mercy, be used in fruitful ways to proclaim your love and power to all the world. Amen.

Today we continue our month-long series: "Why Scripture?" or "Why the Bible?" exploring what it is about this library of God's sojourn with humanity that is dependable and worthy of our time and study.

Today's statement of faith was written by Pastor Michael to be a contemporary summary of our Gospel hope.

The word "love" appears in the New Revised Standard Edition of the Bible 711 times if you count plurals and past tenses. By contrast, the present, plurals, gerunds, and past tenses of "win" and "triumph" together appear only 69 times.

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us* Purple, No. 187

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE *Jerusalem* C. Hubert Parry

The Chancel Flowers today are given to the Glory of God by Frank Baldwin and Barbara Ellson in celebration of the marriage of their son Charles Baldwin and Sarah Williams today in Lafayette, Colorado.

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

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

Preaching—Rev. Michael D. Kirby

Liturgist—Nicholas Antonoglu

A Time with the Children—Meredith Rogowski

Musicians—Dr. Christopher Owen, Paul Vander Weele,

Ellie Peterson, Nancy Kim Phillips

Ushers—Greg Boyer, Tom Buess, Andy Eloff, Molly McDowell

Acolytes—Abby Perry & Maddie Sitz

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*

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