

SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MAY 8, 2016

SEVENTH 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

Preludio 'Sine Nomino'

Herbert

Howells

*A Thought as You Prepare for Worship
Jesus Christ, the love that gives love,
You are brighter than the highest star;
You are deeper than the deepest sea;
You cherish us as your own family;...
You welcome us as your dearest friend.
Let all the world worship you. Amen.
Hildegard, 12th Century*

Today' s service is designated as a "Service of Word and Sacrament" because we will be celebrating the baptism of Neveena Lal, daughter of Anuj and Ann (Kellogg) Lal. Neveena was born on November 17, 2015. We joyfully welcome Neveena into Christ' s church and our Northminster family!

English composer, Herbert Howells composed Preludio 'Sine Nomine' in 1940; not in reference to the hymn tune used in "For All the Saints," but literally "Prelude without a Name."

Please join in speaking all the words 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.

This week in Sunday School, Northminster's youngest will be learning about the encounter of the apostle Philip with an Ethiopian man. At the prompting of a divine messenger, Philip explained the scriptures the curious man, a stranger and an outcast in the religious community, was reading. The story is from Acts 8:26-40.

At Northminster, Baptisms are now celebrated immediately before the proclamation of the Word to remind us that before any action we might take to seek God's grace and blessing, it has already been given to us.

INTROIT *God's Son Has Made Me Free* Edvard Grieg

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We come to re-weave the unraveling fabric of community,
To re-connect once more with the larger human family,
To find once more that place of calm,
To remind ourselves that we belong,
And to remember who and whose we are. We come –
To center ourselves in the love of God,
to open ourselves to the peace of God,
to remember ourselves in the image of God.
And to celebrate the life we share together in Christ.

*HYMN *Arise Your Light Is Come* Purple, No. 744

OPENING PRAYER AND

THE LORD'S PRAYER (using "debts" and "debtors")

*SHARING THE PEACE

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

PROCLAIMING THE WORD,
CLAIMING THE PROMISE

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

PRESENTATION

Words of scripture: Galatians 3:27-29

NT, p. 189

Presentation of the candidate for baptism

QUESTIONS TO FAMILY, CONGREGATION & CHILDREN

RENUNCIATIONS OF EVIL

Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world?

I do.

Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Lord and Savior, trusting in his grace and love?

I do.

Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his Word and showing

his love?

I will, with God's help.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH –
THE APOSTLES' CREED

Purple, p. 35

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

BAPTISM

BLESSING, ANOINTING &
PRESENTATION OF LIGHT

WELCOME OF THE NEWLY BAPTIZED

Neveena has been received.... Let us welcome the newly baptized.

With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you into Christ's church to share with us in his ministry, for we are all one in Christ.

HYMN *I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry* Purple, No. 488

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.

FIRST READING *John 17: 20-26* NT, pp. 111-112

SECOND READING *Acts 16:16-34* NT, p. 136

SERMON *Love Unbound*

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

SHARING OUR LIFE AND MINISTRY

RECOGNITION OF NICK RALSTON

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

Call to Offering

The Apostles' Creed is used by almost every creedal Christian community other than the Orthodox Tradition. It is one of only two creeds shared by Presbyterians, Lutherans and Roman Catholics. The other is the Nicene Creed.

"Love Unbound" comes from theologian Gabriele Dietrich's essay, "The World as the Body of God," where she writes: "Love unbound frees us for love as a way of life...expressed in the image of God as a friend."

