

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MAY 14, 2017

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.

A Thought as You Prepare for Worship

"They ran their heads very hard against wrong ideas, and persisted in trying to fit the circumstances to the ideas, instead of trying to extract ideas from the circumstances."

*—Charles Dickens, **Great Expectations***

Today's cover art, location unknown, depicts the Council of Jerusalem. Ironically, the window depicts men with European features as Jewish Christian leaders who were deciding if, among others, Europeans could join the church.

PRELUDE

Reflection

David Blackwell

INTROIT

Have Pity, Lord, on Me

S. Howard

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.

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

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

We have come here today...

Seeking wisdom to discern God's call in our lives.

Seeking wisdom to make healthy choices in the face of endless and confusing options.

Finding here the grace to redefine our relationships with our families and our friends as our lives change.

Finding here the grace to form new relationships with those we encounter as we go forth from this place.

Grateful for the courage to swim against the current of society as we seek to follow where Christ leads us.

Grateful for the courage to stand with Christ as we seek justice and peace in this world in our time.

As the seeking, finding, grateful children of God, we will worship and sing praises.

***HYMN**

Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!

Purple, No. 305

***OPENING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

ACKNOWLEDGING OUR NEED OF GRACE

O gracious One, forgive us when we fail to respond to your call with faith. Forgive us when we fail to sense your presence in our past, to acknowledge your grace in the present moment, and to trust you for our future. Through your Spirit we offer ourselves in discipleship. We stand together as your disciples. We seek a renewed and renewing faith. Remake us now by your Spirit, O God. Empower us now in that same Spirit, O Christ. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF RESTORATION

This is the good news:

God graces everyone with these gifts:

mercy, restoration, new life.

***We have been forgiven,
We have been made new people in Christ.
Thanks be to God. Amen.***

***RESPONSE**

Now Thank We All Our God

Purple, No. 643, v. 1

***Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done, in whom this world rejoices;
Who, from our mothers' arms, hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.***

*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 *Lord, Prepare Me* Purple, No. 701
(Sanctuary)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

O Wisdom Divine, just as you inspired the mothers of our faith, grant us your knowledge and discernment so that we can learn how to be clever in our compassion and courageous in our faith, in Christ's name. Amen.

ANTHEM *Amazing Grace* B. Hanson

SERMON READING Acts 15:1-18 NT, pp. 134-135
This is the word of the Lord. ***Thanks be to God.***

SERMON *What God Is Doing*

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

STATEMENT OF FAITH *Nicene Creed* Purple, p. 34

*HYMN *O God in Whom All Life Begins* Purple, No. 308

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

RESPONSE *Rain Down* Purple, No. 48

SHARING OUR LIFE AND MINISTRY

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

Call to Offering

Offertory *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need* Arr. M. Wilberg
Paul Vanderwerf, violin, Sherry Kujala, flute

*Response *Live in Charity* Purple, No. 205

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

Gracious God, accept these gifts which we offer in grateful response to the riches of your immeasurable love. Strengthen us with your Spirit to witness to that love in all we do and say, Amen.

This week instead of Sunday School, Northminster's youngest will have Children's Chapel led by the youth, with communion offered by the Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Hopp-Peters.

The Nicene Creed is the most ecumenical creed in the Christian world, considered an aid to worship and faith in Roman Catholic, Orthodox, Anglican, Lutheran and Protestant traditions. It was drafted at the Council of Nicaea in 325 C.E., the first ecumenical council of the "Christian" church. It is chosen for today because the Council of Jerusalem was the first council of the leaders of the Jewish Christ-followers who would eventually become the Christian church.

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN *Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us* Purple, No. 44

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

*RESPONSE *Go with Us, Lord*

POSTLUDE *Proclamation* David Blackwell

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

The Chancel Flowers are given to the Glory of God by the Fennell Family.

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

Preaching—Rev. Michael D. Kirby

Liturgist—Kelly Brest van Kempen

A Time with the Children—Kelly Brest van Kempen

Musicians—Dr. Christopher Owen, Paul Vander Weele,
Paul Vanderwerf, Sherry Kujala and the Chancel Choir

Choral Soloists—Johanna Moffitt, soprano; Jackie King, alto;
Dennis Kalup, tenor; Steve Uliana, bass

Ushers—Tom Buess & Leslie Noble

Acolytes—Chloe Ross & Claire Smith

Our Northminster Family at Work

PROGRAM AND WORSHIP STAFF

Rev. Michael D. Kirby—*Senior Pastor & Head of Staff*

Rev. Jessica 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's Ministry*

Alex DeMarco—*Director of Youth Ministry*

Gina DiBenedetto—*Director of Mom's Morning Out*

Ami Bauman—*Coordinator of Mom's Morning Out*

Lisa Martinez—*Sunday Nursery Supervisor*

Claudinetta Voltaire—*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*

Tom Buess—*Moderator, Deacon Board*

Members of NPC—*Ministers*

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