

SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MAY 7, 2017

FOURTH 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 *We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight* James Biery

A Thought as You Prepare for Worship

*The church is to be Christ's body, broken 'into' the world for others; not detached from difference but present and involved; 'in touch' with the hurts and hopes of its community and constantly reminded of its own historic narrative...shaped by divine acceptance, inclusion and hope.—**Colin Battersby***

INTROIT

Be Not Afraid

Today's cover art is "Ethiopian Eunuch" by Chicago-born African-American artist Paul Goodnight, who now resides in Boston.

Colin Battersby is a Ph.D. candidate and instructor at the University of Religion, Whitley College, near Melbourne, Australia.

When you see an asterisk (*) you are invited to stand in body or in Spirit as you feel led and are able. Please join in speaking or singing all parts in **bold italics**.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us love one another, for love is from God.

God's steadfast love endures forever.

Let us reach out to those who have been rejected or ignored, for they are our brothers and sisters in Christ.

God's love calls us to recognize our family, to see Christ in each other.

Let us move beyond the margins and out of our comfort zone, into the world around us.

God's perfect love casts out all fear.

Come, let us worship our God, who is Love.

Come, let us worship in one spirit as the family of God.

*HYMN

In the Bulb There Is a Flower

Purple, No. 250

OPENING PRAYER

ACKNOWLEDGING OUR NEED OF GRACE

Holy One, we confess to You that we have fallen short. We don't always love one another, let alone strangers and enemies. We hold grudges, we judge others, and we refuse to let go of the past. We do not always see the needs around us, too focused on our own busy lives. Forgive us, O God, for not loving others as You have loved us. Guide us back to Your ways of love, peace, and reconciliation. In the name of Jesus the Christ, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God is love.

We love because God first loved us.

No one has ever seen God, but if we love one another, God lives in us, and God's love is perfected in us.

Let us go forth, sharing God's love and forgiveness. Amen.

*RESPONSE

Jesus Loves Me!

Purple, No. 188, v. 2

*SHARING THE PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

PREPARATION

Purple, No. 451, v. 2

Open My Eyes, That I May See

Today in Sunday School the children are learning about Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch as found in today's sermon text.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Creating and creative God, help us to hear your Word this day, open to the movement of your Spirit within us, this church and the world. As your Word is proclaimed, may we respond in faith and joy, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

SERMON READING

Acts 8: 26-39

NT, p. 127

SERMON

Get Up and Go

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

OUR WORSHIPFUL WORK TOGETHER

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

Call to Offering

Offertory

In Mercy Broken

Ruth E. Schram

*Response

Lord of All Good

Purple, No. 711, v. 1

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

In gratitude and thanksgiving, we bring our offerings and our very lives. Take and transform them so that all that we do, say, and are may further your coming reign of peace, justice, and love. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

*HYMN

One Bread, One Body

Purple No. 530

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Let us be thankful...the risen Lord Jesus with us:

We give thanks with joyful hearts.

Jesus, dispeller of doubts, source of our faith,

we praise you with wonder for caring for us so deeply.

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

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

RECEPTION OF THE ELEMENTS

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Because the themes in this sermon text go far beyond what can be covered in one sermon, today's post-worship conversation, "Christianity and Sexuality," and this Thursday's post-ToGather conversation on gender will both help us explore these issues more fully.

Today, as a sign that God comes to us where we are, in the midst of life, we receive communion in our seats. Remembering that we are each loved for our unique selves, when the bread comes, you are invited to eat it individually. (The bread is gluten free). Remembering too, that we are part of a larger community of believers, we hold the cup until all have received and drink together.

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN *O God of Every Nation* Purple, No. 756

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

*CHORAL BENEDICTION *Amen*

POSTLUDE *Jesus, Meine Zuversicht* Anton Leupold

*The Chancel Flowers are given to the Glory of God by the Regan family
in loving memory of Bob's mother, Teresa Marie Regan.*

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

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

Preaching—Rev. Michael D. Kirby

Liturgist—Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Hopp-Peters

A Time with the Children—Ted Wanberg

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

Choral Soloists—Johanna Moffitt, soprano; Jackie King, alto;

Dennis Kalup, tenor; Steve Uliana, bass

Ushers—Pat Drinkwine, Kent Geibel, Ryan Gregory, Dennis Trautvetter

Acolytes—Thomas & Ginevra Kellogg

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*

Claudnette 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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