

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

AUGUST 20, 2017 ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST STUMP THE PASTOR



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

Discovering vocation does not mean scrambling toward some prize just beyond my reach but accepting the treasure of true self I already possess. Vocation does not come from a voice out there calling me to be something I am not. It comes from a voice in here calling me to be the person I was born to be, to fulfill the original selfhood given me at birth by God.

—Thomas Merton

PRELUDE

Andante

Gerald Finzi

*CALL TO WORSHIP

To the fisherman, Jesus said:

“Follow me and I will make you fish for people.”

To the tax collector, Jesus said:

“Follow me.”

To the rich man, Jesus said:

“Go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.”

*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**.*

At the last supper, Jesus said:

“Follow me.”

To you and to me and to all of us, Jesus says:

Follow me!

*HYMN *God, You Spin the Whirling Planets*

Purple, No. 23

*OPENING PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

ACKNOWLEDGING OUR NEED OF GRACE

***Lord our God, we your people come to you this day
fully aware that we need your presence and your help
in our lives, yet aware as well that we often fail to stop
and to turn to you for that help.***

***We get caught up in troubles and the turmoil of daily
living – we become busy with the goals that we have
set for ourselves and those that come to us from our
work and our families and our friends.***

***We strive to be loving; we seek joy and peace; we
desire to be gentle and patient and kind, to show
goodness, and to have self-control – and yet these
things all too often elude us.***

***Help us, Lord, to root ourselves more deeply in you; to
seek your will for our lives; to stop and to listen for
your voice when we are troubled; to fully rely on you
when we strive to do what is right; to remember you
and trust in you when we are assaulted; to meditate
on your goodness and your gracious will when we
begin each day – so that, like trees by a stream which
send down their roots to the water, we may produce
by your power the fruit of your Spirit. Amen.***

ASSURANCE OF RESTORATION

Christ comes not to condemn

***But so that all might know God’s saving love and be
transformed.***

Friends, let us hear and believe that Good News of the Gospel:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God.

*RESPONSE *Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!*

Purple, No. 591

*SHARING THE PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

*Today’s version of the
Lord’s Prayer can be
found in the Purple
Hymnal on page 35
and uses “debts” and
“debtors.”*

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 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.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING OT, pp. 446-447
Esther 3:1-6; 4:13-17

GOSPEL READING Matthew 4:18-22 NT, pp. 3-4
This is the word of the Lord. ***Thanks be to God.***

SERMON *Faithful Following*

In Sunday School today, Northminster's youngest will be learning about the courage of the Prophet Elijah and how nothing is impossible with God.

This morning's "Stump the Pastor" question comes from Jim Neal.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN *Jesus Calls Us* Purple, No. 720

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

RESPONSE *Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying* Purple, No. 469

OUR WORSHIPFUL WORK

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

Call to Offering

Offertory Martha Henrikson, violin; Maureen Ang, piano
Softly and Tenderly/He Leadeth Me
Savior/Like a Shepherd Lead Me

*Response *In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful* Purple, No. 654

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

Holy God, we rejoice in your goodness. There is no one like you! You restore us to right relationship with you and one another. You send your Spirit and abundant blessings into our lives. It is an honor to contribute to the wonders you are doing here and throughout your world. In gratitude, we return a portion of your bounty to us. May the Spirit of Christ use all to uplift people in our community and the world. Amen.

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN *I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me* Purple, No. 700

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE *Lift High the Cross* Andrew Moore

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

*The Chancel Flowers today are given to the Glory of God
and in thanksgiving from the family of Maryann Strain.*

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

Preaching—Rev. Jessica C. Gregory

Liturgist—Rev. Autum Lum

A Time with the Children—Chad Davidson

Musicians—Dr. Christopher Owen, Paul Vander Weele, Martha Henrikson, Maureen Ang

Ushers—Lee Knohl, Molly McDowell, Ethan Sparrow

Acolytes—Shane Macris & CJ Dominello

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*

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*

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

Lisa Martinez—*Sunday Nursery Supervisor*

Claudinette 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 of Deacons*

Members—*Ministers*

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