

SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FEBRUARY 18, 2018

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

NO GREATER LOVE...



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

Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song James Biery

A Prayer as You Prepare for Worship
*"Early and late, fill me with the spirit of peace,
so that I may find calm in the storms of the world
and quiet in the noise of this and every day,
to be renewed for the service*

to which you have called me. Amen."—Rev. R. Chapman

INTROIT

Take Us as We Are, O God A. Fedak

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We come, trusting in God's mercy and love, longing to know and to learn more about God's ways.

We come, to be guided in the ways of God's truth, to experience the joy of God's salvation.

Today's cover art is "Lazarus" by Vincent Van Gogh, painted in 1890 while he was at the Saint Remy Asylum.

Rev. Raymond Chapman is Professor Emeritus of English Literature at the University of London and an Anglican priest.

*An * indicates places where you are invited to rise in body or in Spirit as you feel led and are able. You are invited to join in speaking or singing the texts which are in **bold italics**.*

We come, at the beginning of our Lenten journey, aware of God's steadfast love helping us to overcome life's trials and temptations, which can descend on us at any time.

Lead us, O God, to do what is right in your eyes and teach us to follow the humble way of Christ, your beloved Son, our crucified and risen Lord. Amen.

*HYMN *Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above* Purple, No. 645

OPENING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

*SHARING THE PEACE

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

Today the Sunday School children, after music time and a short lesson, will gather in the chapel for a worship service led by the junior high youth.

This morning we are celebrating the baptism of Zola Belle Dalton Derrick, daughter of Mary and Tom and little sister to Lela and Ada. Zola was born on May 24, 2017 and we are thrilled to welcome her into Christ's church.

Because the children of the congregation now play a role in making promises on behalf of the newly baptized and to symbolize that God reaches out to claim us in love and grace before we can respond, we place the baptism early in the service, not as a response, but claiming the promise made in Christ before any action on our part.

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. 17

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

BAPTISM

BLESSING, ANOINTING & PRESENTATION OF LIGHT

WELCOME OF THE NEWLY BAPTIZED

Zola Belle 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 Borne Cry* Purple, No. 488

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Loving God, there is great mystery in your Word and great truth. By your Spirit, welcome us into this library of your love. May the light of your truth shine on us today, dispelling the shadows and revealing the path you would have us follow. Amen.

SERMON READING John 11:1-44 NT, pp. 104-105

SERMON *No Greater Love: How Can It Be?*

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

OUR WORSHIPFUL WORK TOGETHER

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

Call to Offering

Offertory *God So Loved the World* A. Bruckner

*Response *There Is a Balm in Gilead* Purple, No. 792

Refrain only, twice

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

Living God, as we embark once more on this voyage through Lent, we give thanks for the assurance of your presence with us in Jesus Christ, our Savior, Redeemer and Friend. We offer these gifts and our lives with the prayer that they will be used to proclaim the story of his sacrificial love in word and deed. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Our theme for Lent 2018 is "No Greater Love," taken from the 15th chapter of John where, in the midst of a sermon, Jesus says, "There is no greater love than this—to lay down one's life for one's friends." From now until Easter, we will be delving into the questions that are raised by so great a love. Today's question is a variation on "how," but in coming weeks we will ask many more, taking for our guide Jesus' actions and statements during his fateful visit to Jerusalem that leads to a cross and, ultimately, to an empty tomb.

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

HYMN *I Will Come to You* Purple, No. 177

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

*CHORAL BENEDICTION *The Lord Bless You and Keep You* P. Lutkin

POSTLUDE *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded* Johannes Brahms

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 by Elaine Wall and Family in loving memory of her husband, Jim.

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

Preaching—Rev. Michael D. Kirby

Liturgist—Rev. Jessica C. Gregory

A Time with the Children—Joan LePontois

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

Soloists—Johanna Mofitt, soprano; Jackie King, alto; Steve Uliana, tenor; Doug Balkin, bass

Ushers—Ben Buettell, Lee Knohl, Molly McDowell, Ethan Sparrow

Acolytes—Daniel & Henry Fennell

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*

Lisa Martinez—*Sunday Nursery Supervisor*

Carey Garrison—*Director of Mom's Morning Out*

Claudinetta Voltaire—*Mom's Morning Out Assistant/
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*

Gretchen Wooldridge—*Moderator of the
Board of Deacons*

Members—*Ministers*

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