

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FEBRUARY 25, 2018

THE SECOND 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

Love Unknown

Francis Jackson

A Thought as You Prepare for Worship

*"Love has no awareness of merit or demerit; it has no scale...
Love loves; this is its nature."*

—Howard Thurman

INTROIT

After Supper He Washed Their Feet

J. Weaver

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We may come here for a glimpse of glory,

But Jesus asks us: Can you drink the cup that I drink?

The cup of Jesus' own life: struggle and joy, suffering and hope.

Fullness of life! We may come here to get closer to Jesus,

And Jesus asks us: Can you be baptized with my baptism?

Ghislaine Howard's "The Washing of the Feet" is part of the United Methodist Modern Art Collection. <http://www.methodist.org.uk>

*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**.*

This morning's Call to Worship references the two sacraments of our tradition: Communion and Baptism. We believe these acts to be sacramental because Scripture tells us of Jesus doing them. However, Jesus also washes his disciples' feet. It has been suggested that this too could be acknowledged and celebrated as sacrament since, according to Scripture, it is also an action of Jesus.

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

Baptized into the reign of God, where the Spirit breaks down barriers among all people and creates new relationships! Why are we here?

To drink the cup of fullness of life; to immerse ourselves in Jesus struggle for justice and hope; to learn how to serve so that the world may be healed. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN

Purple, No. 610

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

*OPENING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

ACKNOWLEDGING OUR NEED OF GRACE

Gracing God, for failing to renew ourselves through quiet withdrawal from a life of haste and confusion; for thinking that the journey you intend is always active and outward...

We acknowledge our need for your grace.

Empowering God, for leaving it up to you to do the healing and caring work you call us to do...

We acknowledge our need for your grace.

Companioning God, for ignoring others when we are alienated from them rather than engaging in the difficult and time-consuming process of reconciliation...

We acknowledge our need for your grace.

Loving God, for walking away from your invitation to be wholly ourselves before you...

We acknowledge our need for your grace, O God.

Resurrect our shattered faith into a stronger whole. Take the fragments that we are and, in your mercy, redeem them and make us complete in you. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF RESTORATION

Christ's justice and power come down to us in humble grace, born out even in the shame of a traitor's cross.

Christ comes not to condemn but so that all might know God's saving love and be transformed.

Friends, let us hear and believe the good news of the Gospel,
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God.

*RESPONSE Purple, No. 435 (verse one)
There's A Wideness in God's Mercy

*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 Blue, No. 2128
Come and Find the Quiet Center

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Almighty God, by your holy Word, you have called us together to be a church of love and service to the world. We know that we live in grace and hope. Keep us ever close to your Word, that it might be written upon our hearts and proclaimed in our living.

ANTHEM *Prayer of St. Francis* A. Pote

SERMON READING John 13:1-17 NT, pp. 107-108
This is the word of the Lord. ***Thanks be to God.***

SERMON *No Greater Love: What Does It Look Like?*

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*SERMON HYMN Purple, No. 727
Will You Let Me Be Your Servant

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

OUR WORSHIPFUL WORK

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

Call to Offering

Offertory *My Song Shall Be Always* F. Mendelssohn
Johanna Moffitt & Steve Uliana

*Response *We Lift our Voices* Purple, No. 710

This week in Sunday School, Northminster's preschoolers will be learning about the Lord's Supper and the elementary children will learn about when Jesus washes the disciples' feet.

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

God of grace and truth, in gratitude we present these fruits of our toil. Receive and bless all we offer in response to the blessings you bestow on our lives and our world. We dedicate ourselves anew to being living witnesses to the love and servant-hood of Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN *O Word of God Incarnate* Purple, No. 459

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

*RESPONSE *No End There Is!* J. Weaver

POSTLUDE *Kingsfold* Alfred Fedak

*The Chancel Flowers today are given to the Glory of God by
Gary and Susan Johnson in memory of our parents
Jack and Gisela Moore, and Tom and Marcia Johnson.*

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

Preaching—Rev. Jessica C. Gregory

Liturgist—Becky Wanberg

A Time with the Children—Mr. Alex

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—Tom Abendroth, Linda Beckstedt, Bruce Eddy, Scott Kellogg

Acolytes—CJ Dominello & Nathan Gregory

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*

***Northminster Presbyterian Church, 2515 Central Park Ave., Evanston IL 60201
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*If you leave during the
Postlude, please show
respect for those who
remain in their seats to
listen. Thank you.*