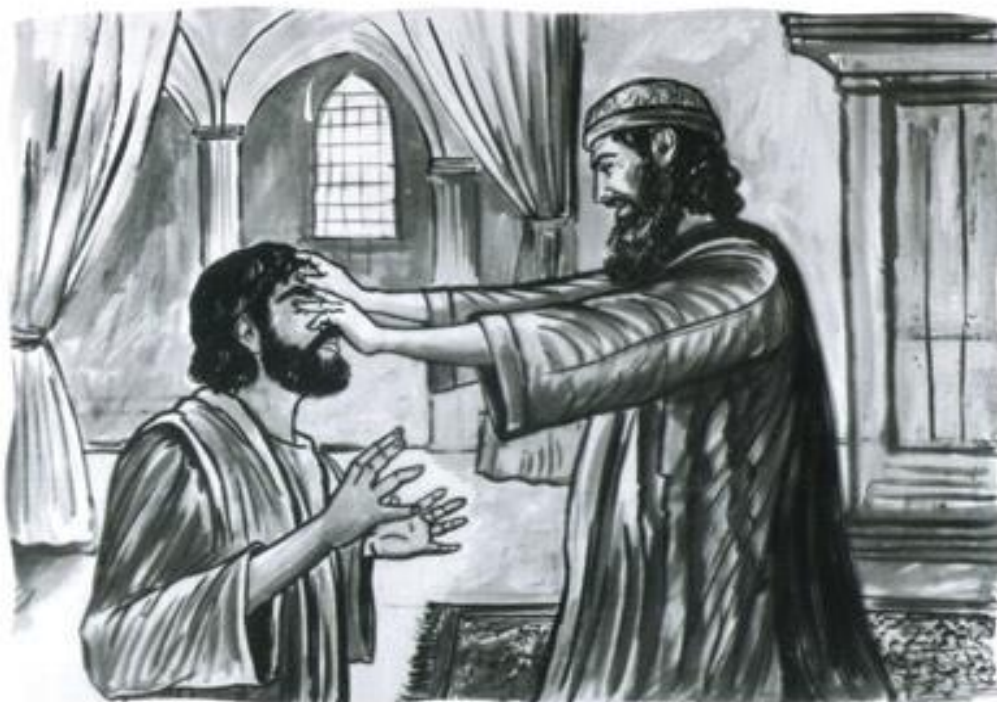


SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

APRIL 15, 2018

THIRD 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

Prelude for an Easter Morning

Gerald Near

A Thought as You Prepare for Worship

"I think He made one law of that kind in order that there might be obedience. In all these other matters what you call obeying Him is but doing what seems good in your own eyes also.

Is love content with that?"

—C.S. Lewis

INTROIT

Alleluia

*CALL TO WORSHIP

E. Buchakjian-Tweedy

What does the Lord require of you?

To do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.

*This morning's artwork depicts Ananias praying over Saul to restore his sight, which was part of Saul's divine conversion process. The sketch comes from Rev. David H. Jenkin's weblog. Rev. Jenkins is the minister of Brecon Presbyterian Church in Wales.
revdhj.wordpress.com*

*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 was crafted by Rev. Eliza Buchakjian-Tweedy, Pastor at First Congregational Church in Rochester, New Hampshire. She is the first woman to serve as Pastor at First Church in its 286 year history.

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

What does God command of us?

***To love God with all our heart,
and all our soul,
and all our mind,
and all our strength,
and to love our neighbor as ourselves.***

God does not call us to ease or to comfort.

***But to presence, and abundance,
and grace in our struggle.
Let us worship the God who believes in us,
trusts in us, and abides with us.
Let us worship the God who will ask much of us,
but will be beside us every step of the way. Amen.***

*OPENING HYMN

Purple, No. 240

Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks

*OPENING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

ACKNOWLEDGING OUR NEED OF GRACE

Mighty are you, but merciful too, creator God. For wonder and grace, for covenant and self-offering, you have crafted and called us. The truth? We forget. We forget we are defined not by work nor wisdom, but by your love. We forget that compassion is not a passive state of mind, but an active way of being. Help us to no longer take for granted the love offered us, by you or by anyone. Let the waters of our baptisms wash away our complacency, revealing our inborn grace, kindness and joy, so that we might offer our best selves to you and to your world, today and every day. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF RESTORATION

In Love, Christ came for us.

In Surrender, Christ died for us.

In Power, Christ was resurrected for us.

***In Hope, we will live as the forgiven and restored.
Alleluia! Amen.***

*RESPONSE

Change My Heart, O God

Purple, No. 695

*SHARING THE PEACE

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

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

CHILDREN'S ANTHEM *I Can Do All Things* Mark Burrows
Elementary Sunday School Choir

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

HYMN OF PREPARATION Verse 1, Purple, No. 286
Breathe on Me, Breath of God

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

***Breath of God, breathe into us—your holy presence,
your living love, your healing touch, your splendid
courage, your mighty strength, your perfect peace, your
caring concern, your divine grace, your boundless joy,
your Word. Wind of God, blow strong, blow fresh, blow
now. Amen.***

ANTHEM *Cantad al Señor* Arr. Susan Geschke
Adult Bell Choir

SERMON READING Acts 9:1-19a NT, pp. 127-128
This is the word of the Lord. ***Thanks be to God.***

SERMON The Way to Follow

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*SERMON HYMN Purple, No. 761
Called as Partners in Christ's Service

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

RESPONSE Verse 3, Purple, No. 286
Breathe on Me, Breath of God

OUR WORSHIPFUL WORK

A DEPARTURE BLESSING

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

Call to Offering

Offertory *Hymn of Promise* Arr. Natalie Sleeth

*Response Purple, No. 654

In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful

*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 in Sunday School Northminster's youngest will be learning about The Great Commission Jesus gives his disciples to "make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you..." (Matthew 28:19-20a)

Today's bell anthem is a Brazilian folk song that is translated "O Sing to the Lord."

This morning we offer our blessings and prayers to Karl and Joan de Jonge, beloved Northminster members who are moving to Michigan later this month. Since joining in 1999, Karl and Joan have been regular worshippers. A faithful member of the chancel choir, Joan has also served as organist on numerous occasions. We will miss Karl and Joan dearly and will keep them in our hearts as they begin their new adventure!

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

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

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

*RESPONSE *Alleluia*

POSTLUDE *Gelobt sei Gott* John Lewis

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 Nan Rowell in honor of "my granddaughter, Vivian, who continues to delight me in every way. Thank heaven for little girls."

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

Preaching—Rev. Jessica C. Gregory

Liturgists—Rev. Michael D. Kirby

A Time with the Children—Nan Shorey

Musicians—Dr. Christopher Owen, Paul Vander Weele, Kate Lee,

the Chancel Choir, the Adult Bell Choir, the Elementary Sunday School Choir

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

Ushers—Linda Beckstedt, Lee Knohl, Molly McDowell, Ethan Sparrow

Acolytes—Abby Perry & Anabelle Brown

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 Family and Children's Ministries*

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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