

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JULY 29, 2018 10TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST WHY GOD/JESUS? WHY CHURCH?



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 *Sicilienne (No. 5 in Bach's Memento)* Charles Marie Widor

Organ arrangement of the 'Siciliano' in Bach's Flute Sonata in Eb

A Thought as You Prepare for Worship

"In our own ways, we are all broken. Out of that brokenness, we hurt others. Forgiveness is the journey we take toward healing the broken parts. It is how we become whole again."

—Desmond Tutu

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Whispering God, the noise of the world is loud.

Open our ears to your still, small, voice.

God of revelation, the darkness of the world threatens.

Open our eyes to the light of your presence.

God of abundance, we cling tightly to so many things.

Open our hands in generosity and joy.

God of all people, we feel the fear of those who are "other."

Open our arms to the stranger and the enemy.

God of mystery, we want so desperately to understand you.

Open our minds to the depths of your truth.

Creating God, we long to know your presence.

Open our hearts to receive your love.

Let us worship with joy! Amen.

*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**.*

We typically use "debts" and "debtors" when reciting The Lord's Prayer.

Our Acknowledging our Need of Grace was written by Reverend Dr. Renee C. Jackson, Pastor at First United Congregational Church in Imlay, MI. Pastor Jackson received her Master of Divinity degree from Chicago Theological Seminary in Hyde Park.

*HYMN *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* Purple, No. 475

*OPENING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

ACKNOWLEDGING OUR NEED OF GRACE *Rev. R.C. Jackson, adapted*

God of Mercy and Grace, you come to us in Jesus of Nazareth to break down the dividing walls of hostility between us:

Yet we maintain walls that separate and isolate.

You give us the ministry of reconciliation:

Yet we nurse our wounds and withhold mercy and forgiveness.

You ask us to acknowledge and share our wealth:

Yet we refuse to recognize and relieve the poverty around us.

You bless our lives with boundless love:

***Yet we fail to witness to that love,
and so keep others from knowing you.***

Forgive our selfishness;

Help us receive your grace, we pray.

***Transform us by your Spirit and your Word
into that which pleases you, the image of Christ. 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, let us live as the forgiven and restored.

Alleluia! Amen.

*RESPONSE Purple No. 490, Verse 3

Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters

*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

Thy Word Is a Lamp unto My Feet

Purple No. 458

This week in Sunday School Northminster's youngest are learning about Jesus' return to Nazareth and Jesus' healings from Luke 4.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Author of life, author of all wisdom, open us this day to hear in ancient songs, new strains of your powerful love, new harmonies of hope and a melody of wisdom to guide our day, our week, our lives. Amen.

FIRST READING Ephesians 2:4-10 NT, p. 192

SERMON READING Ephesians 4:29-32 NT, p. 194
This is the word of the Lord. ***Thanks be to God.***

SERMON *Why God, Why Jesus, Why Church?:
Radical Forgiveness*

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*SERMON HYMN Purple, No. 444
Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive

STATEMENT OF FAITH *From 'A Brief Statement of Faith'*

***We trust in God the Holy Spirit,
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.
The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,
sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and
neighbor, and binds us together with all believers
in the one body of Christ, the Church.
The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,
engages us through the Word proclaimed,
claims us in the waters of baptism,
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,
and calls women and men to all ministries of the church.***

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

RESPONSE *Rain Down* Purple, No. 48

OUR WORSHIPFUL WORK TOGETHER

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

Call to Offering

Offertory Excerpt from *Regrets and Resolutions* Gary Schocker
Sherry Kujala, flute

*Response *Take, O Take Me as I Am* Purple No. 698

Today we conclude our month-long series: "Why God, Why Jesus, Why Church?" exploring how claiming God's grace and forgiving others is a transforming act in today's world. Next Sunday we begin a new series: "Why Scripture?"

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

Almighty God, you have given us talents for life and for serving you. We bring to you now the fruits of our labors. Bless what we give. Receive what we offer as a sign of our gratitude for all you give. Amen.

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

Purple, No. 435

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Mc Kee

Gilbert Martin

The Chancel Flowers today are given to the Glory of God by Maryann Strain and family to honor those we love and those who love us!

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

Preaching—Rev. Jessica C. Gregory

Liturgist—Michael Whitney

A Time with the Children—Joan LePontois

Musicians—Dr. Christopher Owen, Paul Vander Weele, Sherry Kujala

Ushers—Michael Beaudoin, Tom Buess, Ryan Gregory, Rosemary Nielsen

Acolytes—Calvin & Merritt Wooldridge

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*

Margaret Parcell—*Director of Northminster Nursery School*

Meredith Rogowski—*Director of Children and Family Ministries*

Alex DeMarco—*Director of Youth Ministry*

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

Lisa Martinez—*Sunday Nursery Supervisor*

Claudinetta Voltaire—*Mom's Morning Out Coordinator
& Sunday Nursery Assistant*

ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT STAFF

Sharyn Wilson Woods—*Parish Administrator*

Athina Sato—*Financial Secretary*

Alex Villegas—*Sunday Sexton*

CONGREGATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Greg Boyer—*Clerk of Session*

Gretchen Wooldridge—*Deacon Moderator*

Members of NPC—*Ministers*

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If you leave during the Postlude, please remember some remain in a prayerful state of worship until it concludes.