

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FEBRUARY 17, 2019

7TH SUNDAY IN EPIPHANY



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

Trio Sonata IV, Movement 1

J. S. Bach

A Thought as You Prepare for Worship

"[T]he four Evangelists agree in ascribing to Jesus evasive and equivocal answers to plain questions, not only those of the high priest and Pilate; and quite generally the Jesus of the New Testament avoids straightforward statements, preferring parables."

—Philosopher/Poet Walter Kaufman (1921-1980)

CHORAL INTROIT

What is the World Like?

Tice/Morris

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Who is the source of our life?

God, who journeys with us in love.

Who is the sower of grace and truth?

Christ, who journeys with us in hope.

Who is our strength and our peace?

Adonai, who journeys with us in joy.

Who will we worship?

We will worship our Triune God, who we have called by many names throughout time, but who has always been with us, as Creator, Redeemer, and Friend.

Today's text is Matthew's introduction to Jesus using parables as his principle teaching method. This is a foretaste of Lent 2019 when the bulk of the Matthew parables will serve as the preaching texts.

*Please join in speaking or singing all words printed in **bold italics**.*

An asterisk* indicates that you are invited to stand in body or in Spirit as you feel led and are able.

We traditionally use the "debts" and "debtors" form of The Lord's Prayer.

Today's Confession Sequence is modified from one prepared by the late renowned Australian clergywoman, Moira Laidlaw.

Today in Sunday School, Northminster's children will be learning about Jesus blessing the children from the Gospel of Mark.

*HYMN *All Things Bright and Beautiful*

Purple, No. 20

*OPENING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

ACKNOWLEDGING OUR NEED OF GRACE

Merciful God, you plant each of us like seeds in the same field and together we are nourished and nurtured by the warmth of your love. We are blessed by the knowledge that you want us to grow towards what you call us to be.

When we deprive others of that same opportunity,
forgive us.

When we want to uproot those whom we believe do not belong in our part of the field,

forgive us.

When we label others as good or bad rather than accept them for who they are,

forgive us.

When we are reluctant to acknowledge that we ourselves are a mixture of weeds and wheat,

forgive us. We pray that you will help us to reach out to the uprooted and rejected,

the lonely and the outcast,

and to develop and grow the good in ourselves, in others and in the world. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen

ASSURANCE OF RESTORATION

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.

The old life has gone; a new life has begun.

Know that we are forgiven and live in hope.

Freed, restored, and called to lives of gracing love, let us live as the children of God, the followers of Christ. Amen.

*RESPONSE

Purple, No. 306, verse 1

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

*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

Purple, No. 451, verse 1

Open My Eyes, That I May See

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Spirit of life and light, in the murky rhetoric of parable, may the mystery call us to humility and hope. Help us place our lives alongside Christ's teachings and there find new understanding and conviction for the road ahead. Amen.

SERMON READING Matthew 13:24-43 NT, pp. 14-15

This is the word of the Lord. ***Thanks be to God.***

SERMON *The Parabolic Life*

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN *God of the Fertile Fields* Purple, No. 714

STATEMENT OF FAITH

***We worship and adore God,
source, essence, and aim of all things, spirit that enlivens all beings.
We follow the way of Jesus, who discovered God in himself
and shared a way for others to find God's image in themselves.
He was born through love, lived, suffered and died for love,
But proved once and for all love never dies.
We submit ourselves to the leadings of the love that is God,
that we may be compassionate to all beings,
that we may live and serve in community with others,
that we may ask for and offer forgiveness,
that we may praise and enjoy God forever. Amen!***

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

RESPONSE *Blest Be the Tie That Binds* Purple, No. 306, verse 5

OUR WORSHIPFUL WORK TOGETHER

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

Call to Offering

Offertory *How Lovely is Thy Dwelling Place* J. Brahms

*Response *Doxology* Purple, No. 607

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

Gracious God, accept these gifts which we offer in grateful response to the riches of your immeasurable love. Strengthen us to witness to that love in all we do and say, so that others may come to know you and experience your grace. Amen.

The text of today's sermon hymn is by Georgia Harkness (1891-1974), one of the first women theologians in the Methodist tradition. She was a professor at Garrett Seminary from 1939 to 1950.

Today's statement of faith is modified from one found in theologian Jim Burklo's *Birdlike and Barnless: Meditations, Prayers and Songs for Progressive Christians.*

Today's offertory is a part of Brahms' larger work, "Ein Deutsches Requiem."

The revised version of the Doxology found at # 607 uses a Trinitarian formula, singing first of God, then Christ, then the Holy Spirit.

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

All are invited to remain in prayer during the Postlude. If you choose to depart, please do so in reverence.

*HYMN Purple, No. 295, Verses 2-4 only
Go to the World!

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

*CLOSING RESPONSE *These Are the Stories* Sally Ann Morris

POSTLUDE *Concerto I, Movement 1* Bach/Ernst

*The Chancel Flowers today are given to the Glory of God by
Bob and Rita Bailey in honor of Marilyn Woodman.*

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

Preaching—Rev. Michael D. Kirby

Liturgist—Rev. Jessica Gregory

A Time with the Children—Miss Meredith

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

Solotists—Johanna Moffitt, soprano; Jackie King, alto;

Steve Uliana, tenor; Doug Balkin, bass

Ushers—Greg Boyer, Ben Buettell, Lee Knohl, Ethan Sparrow

Acolytes—Annabelle and Jasper 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*

Margaret Parcell—*Director of Northminster Nursery School*

Meredith Rogowski—*Director of Children and Family Ministries*

Dr. Sarah Bartolome—*Director of Youth Music*

Rev. Autum Lum—*Interim Director of Youth Ministries*

Carey Garrison—*Director of My Morning Out*

Lisa Martinez—*Sunday Nursery Supervisor*

Claudiette Voltaire—*My Morning Out Coordinator
& Sunday Nursery Assistant*

ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT STAFF

Mark Larsen—*Interim Facilities Manager*

Athina Sato—*Financial Secretary*

Alex Villegas—*Sunday Sexton*

CONGREGATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Greg Boyer—*Clerk of Session*

Bob Wooldridge—*Deacon Moderator*

Members of NPC—*Ministers*

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