

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MARCH 10, 2019

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

BOUND FOR THE KINGDOM



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 / Elevation

Jean Langlais

A Thought as You Prepare for Worship

Uncle Screwtape: *"Let him say that he feels hatred not on his own behalf but on that of the women and children and that a Christian is told to forgive his own, not other people's enemies. In other words let him consider himself sufficiently identified with the women and children to feel hatred on their behalf, but not sufficiently identified to regard their enemies as his own and therefore proper objects of forgiveness."*— **C.S. Lewis, *The Screwtape Letters***

INTROIT

Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive

Herklots

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Adapted from Psalm 25

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.

Please join in on the liturgy 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.*

Rosamond E. Herklots (1905-1987) wrote the text to both the Introit and the Choral Benediction. An English Catholic hymn writer, she said the words for these verses largely came to her while trying to remove the roots of weeds from her nephew's garden in 1966.

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.

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

*HYMN

Purple, No. 645

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

*OPENING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

ACKNOWLEDGING OUR NEED OF GRACE

Gracious God, as we begin our Lenten journey, ...and temptation that the journey might hold for us.

We confess that we are sometimes tempted to wish for miracles which would make life easier rather than more stressful.

We admire the difficult and risky journey that Jesus took, challenging systems which put conditions on God's love.

We confess that we want our journeys of faith to be devout, but not too daring; comfortable, but not too threatening.

We cherish the faithfulness and humility of Jesus,

yet we confess our fear of walking Jesus' way of obedience and grace—the way of the cross.

A time of silence for personal confession and reflection

Forgive us our sins and fill us with the joy and peace of your salvation.

Strengthen us during this Lenten season to follow you wherever you choose to take us. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF RESTORATION

Hear the good news: "For Christ also suffered for sins once for all." And so let us declare what we have been promised:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

*RESPONSE

Purple, No. 792, refrain

There is a Balm in Gilead

*SHARING THE PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

This week in Sunday School Northminster's youngest will be in Children's Chapel following the Time with Children.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

HYMN OF PREPARATION Purple, No. 204, twice
Stay With Me

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lord of dawn, you give us light to see this day as the gift it is. Grant us wisdom to see and hear your Word for us today, that we might learn your will, and seek it not only in this hour but in response to every dawn you give us. Amen

ANTHEM *God Be in My Head* F. Pesci

SERMON READING Matthew 18:15-35 NT, p. 20
This is the word of the Lord. ***Thanks be to God.***

SERMON *Let It Go? Yeah, Right*

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN Purple, No. 445
God, How Can We Forgive

STATEMENT OF FAITH
A Brief Statement of Faith, Part 2 Purple, p. 37

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

RESPONSE *In God Alone* Purple, No. 814, twice

OUR WORSHIPFUL WORK TOGETHER

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

Call to Offering

Offertory *Prayer of St Francis* J. Rutter

*Response *Live in Charity* Purple, No. 205, twice

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

Fearless One, you have granted us opportunity and privilege beyond all we could have hoped for.

May our hearts and labors reflect both gratitude and grace.

Take the fruits of your gifts and our labors, and use all in the transformation of your world.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

This first Sunday in Lent (not "of Lent" because technically Sundays aren't a part of Lent), we begin with one of Jesus' most troubling parables, The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant. Listen for how hyperbole and exaggeration are used as teaching tools here.

"Live in Charity" is one of the simple contemporary chants created by the late Jacques Berthier for the ecumenical Taize community in France. In that community, it is sung in many different languages, and Latin, so that there is at least one language where all can sing together, regardless of nationality.

Pastor Michael wrote our closing hymn on his hymn writing retreat in the last week of 2018. This is the first time it has been sung.

If you depart during the Postlude, please try not to disturb those who remain.

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN *In Love Christ Came for Life* See Insert

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

*RESPONSE *Lord, Cleanse the Depths*

POSTLUDE *Kirken* Gilbert Martin

*The Chancel Flowers are given to the Glory of God by
Leslie & Paul Lehner in memory of their parents,
Robert & Marie Henkel and Paul & Lillian Lehner.*

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

Preaching—Rev. Michael D. Kirby

Liturgist— Rev. Ann Ohlrogge Johnson

A Time with the Children—Mary Rosic

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, Tom Buess, Andy Eloff, Leslie Noble

Acolytes—Alice & Claire Smith

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*

Claudinetta Voltaire—*My Morning Out Assistant
& 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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