

WORSHIP SERVICE

Northampton Presbyterian Church

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 19, 2023

10:00 AM

PRELUDE

Adagietto

Georges Bizet

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Today's Christian Life Groups Lent Study: Meeting Jesus at the Table, Chapter 4.
- "Bible Study for Everyone," Tuesday (3/21) at 10:30 AM.
- Sharing Session: "The Work and Faith of J.R.R. Tolkien" (pt. 1) with Corinne Kauermann, Tuesday (3/21) at 2 PM.
- Session Meeting, Tuesday (3/21) at 7 PM.
- Women's Breakfast, Wednesday (3/22) at 9 AM.
- Women's "Digging Deeper" Study, Wednesday (3/22) at 4 PM.
- Food Insecurity Presentation, Thursday (3/23) at 1 PM.

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Creator God, you call us to hospitality; to give as generously to others as you have given to us.

MANY: For there are angels among us.

ONE: Loving God, you call us to give you glory in the compassion we show to one another.

MANY: To love without judgment, of ourselves or of others.

ONE: We gather as one Body, seeking to walk in the way you have set for us.

MANY: We gather as one Body, to worship the one who is Love.

HYMN

Morning Has Broken

BUNESSAN

Morning has broken like the first morning;

Blackbird has spoken like the first bird.

Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!

Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

**Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,
Like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
Sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.**

**Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning,
Born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation; praise every morning,
God's recreation of the new day!**

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We are always uncomfortable, Watching God, when you notice how we want to sit in the seats of honor. We can be so proper, so good, so well-off, that it is easy to imagine we are superior to those who cannot afford to reciprocate. We are so busy completing our 'To Do' list each day, that we forget to do good when we have the chance. Forgive us, Welcoming God. Fill our emptiness with your grace and humility that we would spend our lives alongside Jesus, our Lord and Savior, throwing a party for the poor, the damaged, the prisoner, the lost, the oppressed.

(We pause for a moment of silent, personal confession.)

RESPONSIVE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ONE: This is the good news: after what God has done for us, what can anyone or any thing do to us? We are new people, graced by our loving God.

MANY: Forgiven, embraced, welcomed by our God, we will offer open hearts and serving hands to everyone we meet. Thanks be to God. Amen.

HYMN

Glory Be to the Father

GLORIA PATRI

**Glory be to the Father
And to the Son,
And to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning,
Is now, and ever shall be,
World without end.
Amen, amen.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Proverbs 25:6-7

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Luke 14:7-14

[Click to view "Wonder" sermon intro video](#)

SERMON

The Gift of Wonder

Rev. Judith A. Dwyer

HYMN

Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart

MORECAMBE

**Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;
Wean it from earth; through all its pulses move;
Stoop to my weakness, mighty as thou art,
And make me love thee as I ought to love.**

**I ask no dream, no prophet ecstasies,
No sudden rending of the veil of clay,
No angel visitant, no opening skies;
But take the dimness of my soul away.**

**Hast thou not bid us love thee, God and King;
All, all thine own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind?
I see thy cross; there teach my heart to cling.
O let me seek thee, and O let me find!**

**Teach me to feel that thou art always nigh.
Teach me the struggles of the soul to bear,
To check the rising doubt, the rebel sigh.
Teach me the patience of unanswered prayer.**

**Teach me to love thee as thine angels love,
One holy passion filling all my frame;
The baptism of the heaven-descended Dove,
My heart an altar, and thy love the flame.**

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

(Scan the QR Code to give online →)

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Who Is He?



Don Besig

DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

HYMN

God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me

GREEN TYLER

God, be the love to search and keep me;

God, be the prayer to move my voice;

God, be the strength to now uphold me:

O Christ, surround me;

O Christ, surround me.

**Bind to myself the Name of Holy,
Great cloud of witnesses enfold;
Prophets, apostles, angels witness:
O Christ, surround me;
O Christ, surround me.**

**Brightness of sun and glow of moonlight,
Flashing of lightning, strength of wind,
Depth of the sea to soil of planet:
O Christ, surround me,
O Christ, surround me.**

**Walking behind to hem my journey,
Going ahead to light my way,
And from beneath, above, and all ways:
O Christ, surround me;
O Christ, surround me.**

**Christ in the eyes of all who see me,
Christ in the ears who hear my voice,
Christ in the hearts of all who know me:
O Christ, surround me;
O Christ, surround me.**

RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION

ONE: It's time to go.

MANY: Time to re-engage with the secular world.

ONE: Time to put the faith into deeds.

MANY: Time to practice uncalculating love.

ONE: Time to meet the Christ who waits for you.

MANY: Time to share his boundless hope.

ONE: You can do all things through Christ who strengthens you. With the blessing of God, in your mind and heart, let each morning be a joy to you, each path be a joy to you, each neighbor be a joy to you. Now and always.

MANY: Amen!

POSTLUDE

What Wondrous Love Is This

arr. Karrin Ford

WORSHIP NOTES:

The **Call to Worship** is written Eliza Buchakjian-Tweedy, Pastor at First Church Congregational, Rochester, NH. She blogs at <http://sermonizing.wordpress.com>

The **Prayer for Illumination** is adapted from a prayer of St. Patrick in *Ancient Christian Devotional*, edited by Thomas Oden and Cindy Crosby. Posted on the **Sojourners** website.
<http://www.sojo.net/blogs/2010/03/17/prayer-day-prayer-st-patrick>

The **Prayer of Confession** is written by Thom Shuman, and posted on Lectionary Liturgies.
<http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.ca>

The **Pastoral Prayer** is written by John van de Laar, and posted on Sacredise.com. <http://sacredise.com>

The **Benediction** is written by Bruce Prewer, and posted on Bruce Prewer's Home Page.
<http://www.bruceprewer.com/DocC/C51sun22.htm>

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