

WORSHIP SERVICE

Northampton Presbyterian Church

Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 21, 2024

10:00 AM

PRELUDE

Love Lifted Me

arr. Ham

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The My Wishes Workshop ACP has been postponed. Christian Life Groups will be meeting today following the worship service.
- Bible Study for Everyone, Tuesday (4/23) at 11 AM.
- Session Meeting - Zoom, Tuesday (4/23) at 7 PM.
- Women's Breakfast at Manny's, Wednesday (4/24) at 9 AM.

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Sing praises to God, all you faithful ones!

MANY: God hears us in our fear and our sorrow.

ONE: Where there was no way,

MANY: God leads us in a new way.

ONE: Where there was no mercy,

MANY: God surprises us with fresh mercy.

ONE: Where there was weeping,

MANY: God invites us to step into a new dance.

HYMN

I Danced in the Morning

LORD OF THE DANCE

**I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
And I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
And I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth.
At Bethlehem I had my birth.**

**Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.**

**I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,
But they would not dance and they wouldn't follow me.
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John.
They came with me and the dance went on.**

**Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.**

I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame.

The holy people said it was a shame.

They whipped and they stripped and they hung me high,

And left me there on a cross to die.

**Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.**

I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black.

It's hard to dance with the devil on your back.

They buried my body and they thought I'd gone,

But I am the dance and I still go on.

**Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.**

They cut me down and I leapt up high.

I am the life that will never, never die.

I'll live in you if you'll live in me,

I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

**Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.**

RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION

ONE: You break in, O God, on the road.

MANY: You break in, O God, exactly the way we do not believe.

ONE: You break in, O God, and change everything. Why are your stories never mundane?

MANY: Why can you not just leave us alone and go and transform somewhere else that is not as certain and sure of you?

ONE: You just disrupt us and cause anxiety.

MANY: We are not people of change.

ONE: You break in, O God with a call.

MANY: You break in, O God with an invitation.

ONE: You break in, O God with the truth. Why do you wait for us to respond and never give up?

MANY: Why do you speak into our souls the truth of how we live?

ONE: Why do you keep goading us, provoking us, disturbing us with the truth? You break in, O God, with a new realm.

MANY: You break in, O God, with a new world.

ONE: You break in, O God, with your intent for the future. You always are a challenge to us and we dream of that realm of yours we speak of so often.

MANY: But what disturbs us most is how you want to get there through us, your partners and companions, with space enough for everyone

ONE: Even those who persecute you by doing nothing. God, break in again and call us to be your workers.

MANY: God, break in again and use the gifts we are to build you realm.

ONE: God, break in again and change our world once more.

MANY: So be it. Amen.

We pause for a moment of silent, personal confession.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ONE: O God, you have turned our mourning into joyful dancing. You have taken away our torn garments and clothed us with joy. So we will not be silent, but will sing praises to You.

**MANY: God, you are our God, and we will give you thanks forever.
Alleluia! Amen!**

HYMN

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me *GLORY TO GOD*

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
And to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.**

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen

World without end, without end. Amen.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

UNISON PSALTER READING: *Psalm 23 (KJV)*

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

GOSPEL READING

John 21:1-19

SERMON

Where We Do Not Wish to Go

Rev. Judith A. Dwyer

HYMN

Will You Come and Follow Me

KELVINGROVE

Will you come and follow me

If I but call your name?

Will you go where you don't know

And never be the same?

Will you let my love be shown;

Will you let my name be known;

Will you let my life be grown

In you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind

If I but call your name?

Will you care for cruel and kind

And never be the same?

Will you risk the hostile stare

Should your life attract or scare?

Will you let me answer prayer

In you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see

If I but call your name?

Will you set the prisoners free

And never be the same?

Will you kiss the leper clean,

And do such as this unseen,

And admit to what I mean

In you and you in me?

Will you love the 'you' you hide

If I but call your name?

Will you quell the fear inside

And never be the same?

Will you use the faith you've found

To reshape the world around,

Through my sight and touch and sound

In you and you in me?

**Lord, your summons echoes true
When you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
And never be the same.
In your company I'll go
Where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
In you and you in me.**

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

(Scan the QR Code to give online →)



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

Irish Melody

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.

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

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 it is 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

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

DENNIS

**Blest be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds
Is like to that above.**

Before our Father's throne

We pour our ardent prayers;

Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,

Our comforts and our cares

**We share our mutual woes;
Our mutual burdens bear.
And often for each other flows
The sympathizing tear.**

**When we are called to part,
It gives us inward pain;
But we shall still be joined in heart,
And hope to meet again.**

**From sorrow, toil, and pain,
And sin, we shall be free;
And perfect love and friendship reign
Through all eternity.**

RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION

ONE: Christ asks if we love him. If we say yes, he says; “Then care for one another.” This is our opportunity to make a difference, to live lovingly on the frontiers of his bright new world.

MANY: We cannot promise to do it perfectly, but we can give it a go, relying on his abundant wisdom to take our small love, and fit it into a larger pattern of good for all creation.

ONE: May God bless the world in which you move, and bless your home and bless your friends. May God bless the eyes with which you see, and bless the ears with which you listen. May God bless the way you use your hands, bless the way you employ your tongues, and may grace mercy and peace will be yours, today and always.

MANY: Amen!

POSTLUDE

Since Jesus Came into My Heart

Gabriel

CLG QUESTIONS: *John 21:1-19*

1. When have you gone somewhere unexpected to say or do something you did not anticipate because you believed Jesus was sending you? What happened?
2. The risen Christ tells the disciples to cast their net on the other side. For some reason they just kept doing what they'd been doing and therefore got the same results they'd been getting. How might we "cast our net to the other side" in our ministry and churches?
3. The verses appointed from John's Gospel offer an interesting contrast between the extraordinary of the appearance of the resurrected Jesus and the ordinary of daily work and eating breakfast. How and when do you see the risen Christ in the ordinary of daily living?
4. How and when have you been taken to a place – either a physical place or an emotional place – where you did not want to go? What or who took you there? How did you find your way out of that place?

WORSHIP NOTES:

The **Call to Worship** is by Rev. Susan A. Blain, and posted on the Worship Ways website. <http://uccfiles.com>

The **Prayer of Adoration and Confession** is by Rev. Roddy Hamilton, Minister of New Kilpatrick Church. Posted on the Church of Scotland's **Starters for Sunday** website. http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/worship/starters_for_sunday

The **Prayer for Illumination** is adapted from a prayer published in **Revised Common Lectionary Prayers** copyright © 2002 Consultation on Common Texts admin. Augsburg Fortress. Posted on Thematic, Intercessory and Scripture Prayers for the RCL, Vanderbilt Divinity Library. <http://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu>

The **Prayers of the People** are by Roddy Hamilton, and posted on Mucky Paws. <http://www.nkchurch.org.uk/index.php/mucky-paws>

The **Benediction** is by Bruce Prewer, and posted on Bruce Prewer's Homepage. <http://www.bruceprewer.com/>

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