

WORSHIP SERVICE

Northampton Presbyterian Church

Second Sunday of Easter

April 16, 2023

10:00 AM

PRELUDE *(Michael Pugh, piano/vocals)*

Goodness of God

Jenn Johnson

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Session Meeting, Tuesday (4/18) at 6 PM.
- Esther Circle, Wednesday (4/19) at 9:30 AM.
- Women's "Digging Deeper" Study, Wednesday (4/19) at 4:30 PM.

MUSICAL CALL TO WORSHIP *(Michael Pugh, piano/vocals)*

Sing My Way Back

Steffany Getzinger

HYMN

Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!

HYMN TO JOY

**Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna!
Celebrate this day of days!
Christ is risen! Hush in wonder:
All creation is amazed.
In the desert all-surrounding,
See, a spreading tree has grown.
Healing leaves of grace abounding
Bring a taste of love unknown.**

**Christ is risen! Raise your spirits
From the caverns of despair.
Walk with gladness in the morning.
See what love can do and dare.
Drink the wine of resurrection,
Not a servant, but a friend.
Jesus is our strong companion.
Joy and peace shall never end.**

**Christ is risen! Earth and heaven
Nevermore shall be the same.
Break the bread of new creation
Where the world is still in pain.
Tell its grim, demonic chorus:
“Christ is risen! Get you gone!”
God the First and Last is with us.
Sing Hosanna everyone!**

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(inspired by John 20:19-31)

Creator God, we confess that at times we are skeptics. At times we doubt that You exist because of the evil we have seen in the world. Oppression, marginalization, and plain hate still plague our world, and it is hard to see Your love and light. Sometimes, even those who bear Your name do not walk in Your ways. Help us to see Your goodness in this world. Help us to know Your love. Fill us with Your love and goodness, so that we might love one another, and lift up one another in faith. Amen.

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

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

1 Peter 1:3-9

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

John 20:19-31

SERMON

Getting Back to Normal?

Rev. Judith A. Dwyer

HYMN

That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

**That Easter day with joy was bright;
The sun shone out with fairer light
When, to their longing eyes restored,
The apostles saw their risen Lord.**

**He bade them see his hands, his side,
Where yet the glorious wounds abide,
The tokens true which made it plain
Their Lord indeed was risen again.**

**From every weapon death can wield,
Your own redeemed forever shield;
O Lord of all, with us abide
In this our joyful Eastertide.**

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

(Scan the QR Code to give online →)



OFFERTORY ANTHEM *(Kevin Kauermann, cello)*

Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God

arr. Lloyd Larson

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

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 would not follow me.
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John.
They came to 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.**

SENDING

POSTLUDE *(Kevin Kauermann, cello)*

Holy, Holy, Holy

arr. David Abramsky

WORSHIP NOTES:

The **Prayer of Confession** is written by Rev. Mindi and posted on Rev-o-lution. <http://rev-o-lution.org>

The **Prayer for Illumination** is adapted from a prayer by Moira Laidlaw and posted on the Liturgies Online blog.

The **Prayers of the People** are adapted from a prayer posted on Literature & Liturgy.
<https://jesusscribbles.wordpress.com>

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Christian Life Groups—Questions for Discussion:

John 20:19-31:

1. When have you doubted and needed more from God? What do you do with your own doubts or questions of faith and theology?
2. Do you know someone like Thomas? What are they like?
3. In what ways have you experienced the risen Christ?

1 Peter 1:3-9:

4. As a person of faith, how do you envision the future and life eternal?

[Readiness Indicator Survey](#)

On Saturday, April 1, your Session and staff spent a day in retreat at The House Next Door in West Windsor, New Jersey. The agenda for our time together included a consideration of what Northampton Presbyterian Church is being called to do in this season of its life; why that particular call has come to us, and how we will live into our call.

We believe it is up to the congregation to name its call, and that the naming is best done when people are most ready to do it. To that end, the Session is asking you, the members of this congregation, to complete a "Readiness Indicator," which is linked above. We ourselves have completed this survey and found it to be a good indicator of where the church presently is in its perception of call and readiness for new initiatives.

We would be grateful if you take a few minutes to complete it and submit it for our Session to review at their meeting on Tuesday. We think you will find it interesting! Please answer to the best of your ability and as forthrightly as possible so that we have a foundation for moving ahead on our work to "grow" NPC. A good harvest only comes with careful cultivation, so help us plant a beautiful future!