

# **WORSHIP SERVICE**

*Northampton Presbyterian Church*

*Fourth Sunday After the Epiphany  
Annual Meeting and Potluck Sunday*

*January 28, 2024*

*10:00 AM*



## **PRELUDE**

*Prelude on "There Is a Balm in Gilead"*

D. Byron Arneson

## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Annual Congregational Meeting and Potluck will be held today immediately following worship.
- Bible Study for Everyone, Tuesday (1/30) at 11 AM.



## **RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP** *(based on Psalm 111)*

ONE: Praise the Lord! In the company of the saints above and beside us, let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

**MANY: Great are the works of the Lord, full of honor and majesty, whose righteousness endures forever.**

ONE: The Lord is gracious and merciful; the work of God's hands are faithful and just.

**MANY: God's covenant is established forever in truth and justice.**

ONE: Our redemption is in the name of our Lord.

**MANY: Holy and awesome is God's name in all the earth!**



# HYMN

*To God Be the Glory*

*TO GOD BE THE GLORY*

**To God be the glory; great things he has done!  
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,  
Who yielded his life an atonement for sin,  
And opened the life-gate that all may go in.**



**Praise the Lord, praise the Lord;**

**Let the earth hear his voice!**

**Praise the Lord, praise the Lord;**

**Let the people rejoice!**

**O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,**

**And give him the glory: great things he has done!**



**Great things he has taught us; great things he has done,  
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;  
But purer and higher and greater will be  
Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.**



**Praise the Lord, praise the Lord;**

**Let the earth hear his voice!**

**Praise the Lord, praise the Lord;**

**Let the people rejoice!**

**O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,**

**And give him the glory: great things he has done!**



# **RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

*(based on Deuteronomy 18:15-20)*

ONE: Merciful God, from you comes all truth, all healing, all that makes our world good and whole.

**MANY: Forgive us, O Lord, those times when we have listened to those who do not speak for you.**

ONE: Forgive us for the weakness that has led us at times to seek the water of life at springs which can never satisfy.



**MANY:** Forgive us for not testing the spirits that are around us: forgive us too for how we play with empty knowledge and delight in useless predictions that help neither us or those around us.

**ONE:** Have mercy on us and speak once again to us.

**MANY:** Help us to hear the word you send and to turn away from the words that come from false prophets and those who do not know your ways.

*We pause for a moment of silent, personal confession.*



# **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

*(based on 2 Chronicles 7:14)*

**ONE:** This is the promise of God: "If my people humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

**MANY:** **Thanks be to God! 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**

## **OLD TESTAMENT READING**

*Deuteronomy 18:15-20*

## **NEW TESTAMENT READING**

*Mark 1:21-28*

## **SERMON**

*Picking a Fight*

Rev. Judith A. Dwyer



# HYMN

*There Is a Balm in Gilead*

*BALM IN GILEAD*

**There is a balm in Gilead  
To make the wounded whole;  
There is a balm in Gilead  
To heal the sin-sick soul.**



**Sometimes I feel discouraged,  
And think my work's in vain,  
But then the Holy Spirit  
Revives my soul again.**

**There is a balm in Gilead  
To make the wounded whole;  
There is a balm in Gilead  
To heal the sin-sick soul.**



**Don't ever feel discouraged,  
For Jesus is your friend,  
And, if you lack for knowledge,  
He'll not refuse to lend.**

**There is a balm in Gilead  
To make the wounded whole;  
There is a balm in Gilead  
To heal the sin-sick soul.**



**If you cannot preach like Peter,  
If you cannot pray like Paul,  
You can tell the love of Jesus  
And say, "He died for all."**

**There is a balm in Gilead  
To make the wounded whole;  
There is a balm in Gilead  
To heal the sin-sick soul.**



## **CALL FOR THE OFFERING**

*(Scan the QR Code to give online →)*



## **OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

*Inscription of Hope*

Z. Randall Stroope



# **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**



# **RESPONSIVE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

ONE: You pull on your work boots, crafted from love; you hang justice and peace on your tool belt; you take on rebuilding neighborhoods when we would walk away.

**MANY: What have you to do with us, Holy God? You model compassion for us.**

ONE You take us by the hand to lift us to our feet; you show us the path that leads to humility; you leave a trail of grace crumbs so that we might follow.



**MANY: What have you to do with us, Brother of the poor? You call us to serve by your side.**

ONE: You plant words of peace deep in our hearts; you raise up little children to whisper hope to us; you stand by the side of all who look for life.

**MANY: What have you to do with us, Spirit of grace? You teach us how to build up others with love. What have you to do with us, God in Community, Holy in One? Everything it turns out, everything, as we lift our prayer to you:**



**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

*Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

*CWM RHONDDA*

**Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,  
Pilgrim through this barren land.  
I am weak, but thou art mighty,  
Hold me with thy powerful hand.  
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,  
Feed me till I want no more;  
Feed me till I want no more.**



**Open now the crystal fountain,  
Whence the healing stream doth flow.  
Let the fire and cloudy pillar  
Lead me all my journey through.  
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,  
Be thou still my strength and shield;  
Be thou still my strength and shield.**



**When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
Bid my anxious fears subside.  
Death of death, and hell's destruction,  
Land me safe on Canaan's side.  
Songs of praises, songs of praises,  
I will ever give to thee;  
I will ever give to thee.**



# **VISUAL BENEDICTION: *O Divine Healer***

## **POSTLUDE**

*We Cannot Measure How You Heal*

arr. Jon L. Bell

Please remain seated following the Postlude for our Annual Meeting.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Pastor Judy will offer a prayer that will serve as our blessing for today's potluck meal in Fellowship Hall.



## WORSHIP NOTES:

The **Call to Worship** is written by Michael Morgan, organist for the Central Presbyterian Church in Atlanta, Georgia, and author of the Psalter for Christian Worship. It was posted on the LiturgyLink website.

The **Prayer of Confession** and Assurance of Pardon are written by Richard J. Fairchild and posted on his Kirshalom website. <http://www.spirit-net.ca/sermons/b-or02sm.php>

The **Prayer for Illumination** is written by Amy Loving, and posted on The Worship Closet: The Place for Creative Worship Ideas. <http://worshipcloset.com/baptism-of-the-lord-sunday-year-b-words-for-worship/>

The **Prayers of the People** are written by Thom M. Shuman and posted on his website at [lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com](http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com). © 2018 Thom M. Shuman

The **Visual Benediction** is part two of *O Divine Healer*, written by Ginny Brown Daniel and posted on The Work of The People, [www.theworkofthepeople.com](http://www.theworkofthepeople.com).

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