

# WORSHIP SERVICE

Northampton Presbyterian Church

*Fourth Sunday After the Epiphany*

*January 29, 2023*

*10:00 AM*

# PRELUDE

*Meditation*

Fonton

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Please stay after the worship service for our Annual Congregational Meeting, followed by a “Beach Blanket Picnic” Potluck.
- “Bible Study for Everyone,” Monday (1/30) at 10:30 AM (*rescheduled for Monday this week*).
- Sharing Session: “Fingerprinting” with Sharon Melsky, Wednesday (2/1) at 2 PM.
- Women’s “Digging Deeper” Study, Wednesday (2/1) at 4 PM.
- “Souper Bowl” Food Drive, next Sunday (2/5).

# RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: O God, you are the gathering one who calls us into community with each other to love and work, to support and heal.

**MANY: You are the gathering one who calls us into community with all people; to bring justice and hope, freedom and truth.**

ONE: You are the gathering one who calls us into community with the whole creation; to live in harmony, to cherish and renew.

**MANY: Let us worship the God who makes us one.**

# HYMN

*Gather Us In*

*GATHER US IN*

**Here in this place the new light is streaming;  
Now is the darkness vanished away;  
See in this space our fears and our dreamings  
Brought here to you in the light of this day.  
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken;  
Gather us in, the blind and the lame;  
Call to us now, and we shall awaken;  
We shall arise at the sound of our name.**

**We are the young, our lives are a mystery.  
We are the old who yearn for your face.  
We have been sung throughout all of history,  
Called to be light to the whole human race.  
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty;  
Gather us in, the proud and the strong;  
Give us a heart, so meek and so lowly;  
Give us the courage to enter the song.**

**Here we will take the wine and the water;  
Here we will take the bread of new birth.  
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters,  
Call us anew to be salt for the earth.  
Give us to drink the wine of compassion;  
Give us to eat the bread that is you;  
Nourish us well and teach us to fashion  
Lives that are holy and hearts that are true.**

**Not in the dark of buildings confining,  
Not in some heaven light years away:  
Here in this place the new light is shining;  
Now is the kingdom, and now is the day.  
Gather us in and hold us forever,  
Gather us in and make us your own;  
Gather us in, all peoples together,  
Fire of love in our flesh and our bones.**

# **UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Awesome God, when we catch sight of the totality of your claim on our lives, our believing wavers. When we hear the absurdity of your unbreakable covenant with us, like Sara and Abram, we laugh. When we face the foolish wisdom of the looming cross, like Peter, we suggest an alternative. Meet us in our disbelieving, loving God, move us gently into the deep waters of faith.**

*(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**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**

*Micah 6:1-8*

**NEW TESTAMENT READING**

*1 Corinthians 1:18-31*

**SERMON**

*How to Be Foolish*

Rev. Judith A. Dwyer

# **HYMN**

*I, the Lord of Sea and Sky*

*HERE I AM*

**I, the Lord of sea and sky,**

**I have heard my people cry.**

**All who dwell in dark and sin**

**My hand will save.**

**I, who made the stars of night,**

**I will make their darkness bright.**

**Who will bear my light to them?**

**Whom shall I send?**

**Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart**

**I, the Lord of snow and rain,  
I have borne my people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them.  
They turn away.**

**I will break their hearts of stone,  
Give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my word to them.  
Whom shall I send?**

**Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart**

**I, the Lord of wind and flame,  
I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them.  
My hand will save.**

**Finest bread I will provide  
Till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them.  
Whom shall I send?**

**Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart**

# **CALL FOR THE OFFERING**

*(Scan the QR Code to give online →)*

# **OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

*Matchless Grace*

*arr. J.B. Taylor*



# **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 FOR ALL EPIPHANY AND THE LORD'S PRAYER:

ONE: As the prophet Isaiah rang out, "Arise, shine; for your light has come," empower your Church, O God, to ring out the Good News of the Light of your son Jesus, which pierces even the deepest darkness. Lord, in your mercy,

**MANY: Hear our prayer.**

ONE: As a star rose high into the nighttime sky to draw the nations to the Christ Child; send your blessing, O God, on this nation, and every nation, and draw the whole world to your peace and truth. Lord, in your mercy,

**MANY: Hear our prayer.**

ONE: As John the Baptist guided throngs of people to the edge of the wilderness and baptized Jesus in the River Jordan, we pray that you would guide our country and our leaders to the ways of justice and righteousness. Lord, in your mercy,

**MANY: Hear our prayer.**

ONE: Like the Magi who traveled from afar to bring gifts and celebrate the Savior's birth, we pray for this community, and for those who celebrate their own birthdays and anniversaries; grant them the joy of knowing you celebrate with them. Lord, in your mercy,

**MANY: Hear our prayer.**

ONE: As Jesus climbed the mountaintop, and proclaimed blessings on the people of the world, we pray for the sick and the distressed, the poor and the lame. We especially pray for those we know to be ill, in body, mind or spirit.

*Here the pastor will offer our prayer concerns for this day.*

Lord, in your mercy,

**MANY: Hear our prayer.**

ONE: As Jesus called his disciples to leave their nets and boats, and follow him, we pray for those we love who have answered your call to follow Jesus to your Heavenly Kingdom. Give them your peace. Lord, in your mercy,

**MANY: Hear our prayer.**

ONE: Lord Jesus, Light of the World, hear our prayers, and make us reflections of your Light, that the places of darkness in our world would be pierced by your Light, and that all nations would be drawn to you and be overwhelmed with joy.

**MANY: 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, forever. Amen.**

# **HYMN**

*We Are Marching in the Light of God Us*

*SIYAHAMBA*

**We are marching in the light of God;**

**We are marching in the light of God.**

**We are marching in the light of God;**

**We are marching in the light of, the light of God.**

**We are marching, marching,**

**We are marching, marching,**

**We are marching in the light of, the light of God.**

**We are marching, marching,**

**We are marching, marching,**

**We are marching in the light of God.**

**We are dancing in the light of God;**

**We are dancing in the light of God.**

**We are dancing in the light of God;**

**We are dancing in the light of, the light of God.**

**We are dancing, dancing,  
We are dancing, dancing  
We are dancing in the light of, the light of God.  
We are dancing, dancing,  
We are dancing, dancing,  
We are dancing in the light of God.**

**We are praying in the light of God;**

**We are praying in the light of God.**

**We are praying in the light of God;**

**We are praying in the light of, the light of God.**

**We are praying, praying,**

**We are praying, praying,**

**We are praying in the light of, the light of God.**

**We are praying, praying,**

**We are praying, praying,**

**We are praying in the light of God.**

**We are singing in the light of God;**

**We are singing in the light of God.**

**We are singing in the light of God;**

**We are singing in the light of, the light of God.**

**We are singing, singing,**

**We are singing, singing,**

**We are singing in the light of, the light of God.**

**We are singing, singing,**

**We are singing, singing,**

**We are singing in the light of God.**

# RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION

ONE: May the holy wisdom of God guard your ways and guide your paths. May the living truth of God enlighten your hearts and open your minds. And may the living Spirit of God give you life, and life to the full!

**MANY: Amen!**

## POSTLUDE

*Postlude in G*

*Pavlacek*

*We will move into the Annual Congregational Meeting  
immediately following the Postlude.*

## WORSHIP NOTES:

The **Call to Worship** is posted on the Monthly Prayers page of the Christian Aid website.

<http://www.christianaid.org.uk>

The **Prayer of Confession** is written by Katherine Hawker, and posted on her Liturgies Outside website.

The **Assurance of Pardon** is written by Nathan Nettleton <http://www.laughingbird.net> ©2002

The **Prayers of the People** for All Epiphany are written by Rick Morley, and posted on A Garden Path.

<http://www.rickmorley.com>

The **Benediction** is posted on Literature & Liturgy. <https://jesusscribbles.wordpress.com>

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