

# WORSHIP SERVICE

Northampton Presbyterian Church

*First Sunday After the Epiphany*

*Peace and Justice Sunday*

*January 14, 2024*

*10:00 AM*

# PRELUDE

*Come With Me*

Christofferson

# WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Christian Life Groups, today following the worship service.
- Session Meeting, Tuesday (1/16) at 7 PM.
- Esther Circle, Wednesday (1/17) at 9:30 AM.
- The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held Sunday (1/28) immediately following worship. Annual Reports will be available for review on (1/21). **Please email your committee reports to the church office by 1/16.** A Potluck will follow the Congregational Meeting. Please sign-up in the narthex or email [npchurch@comcast.net](mailto:npchurch@comcast.net).

# RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Rejoice, my friends! We live sustained by God's presence and love.

**MANY: Thanks be to God.**

ONE: As we mourn the wounds of God's children,

**MANY: God weeps with us.**

ONE: As we give thanks for brothers and sisters who have lived in faith,

**MANY: God gives thanks with us.**

ONE: As we struggle for justice,

**MANY: God struggles with us.**

ONE: As we strive for peace,

**MANY: God strives with us.**

ONE: As we work to build the Beloved Community,

**MANY: God works with us.**

ONE: As we offer our gifts to all,

**MANY: God blesses us.**

ONE: Sisters and brothers, rejoice!

**MANY: Sustained by God's love and presence we worship God.**

# HYMN

*Praise, Praise, Praise the Lord!*

*LOUEZ LE SEIGNEUR*

**Praise, praise, praise the Lord!**

**Praise God's holy name. Alleluia!**

**Praise, praise, praise the Lord!**

**Praise God's holy name. Alleluia!**

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**Praise God's holy name. Alleluia!**

# **UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Most holy and merciful God: We acknowledge our slowness to do good, our blindness to injustice, and our complicity in deferring the dreams and hopes of the oppressed. We have refused to heed your call to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with you, O God. Give us the courage to name our sin, give us the strength to claim responsibility for our actions. Give us the grace to pay the price for changing our behavior. Through Jesus Christ we pray. 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**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**

*1 Samuel 3:1-10*

**VISUAL LITURGY: "ALWAYS NEAR"**

*Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18*



# **NEW TESTAMENT READING**

*John 1:43-51*

# **SERMON**

*Where God Gets to Know Us*

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**

*With Simple Faith*

Charles McCartha



# **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 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

*May the God of Hope Go with Us*

ARGENTINA

*May the God of hope go with us every day,  
Filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.  
May the God of justice speed us on our way,  
Bringing light and hope to every land and race.  
Praying, let us work for peace;  
Singing, share our joy with all;  
Working for a world that's new,  
Faithful when we hear Christ's call.*

**May the God of hope go with us every day,  
Filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.  
May the God of justice speed us on our way,  
Bringing light and hope to every land and race.  
Praying, let us work for peace;  
Singing, share our joy with all;  
Working for a world that's new,  
Faithful when we hear Christ's call.**

# RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION

ONE: God is our light, our hope, our all in all:

**MANY: Blessed be God, now and forever!**

ONE: Christ is our home, our life, our joy:

**MANY: Blessed be God, now and forever!**

ONE: Our worship concludes; our service continues.

**MANY: Blessed be God, now and forever!**

# **POSTLUDE**

*I Need Thee Every Hour*

Lowry

## **CHRISTIAN LIFE GROUP (CLG) QUESTIONS:**

Along with 1 Samuel 3:1-10 and John 1:43-51, which carry the theme of "seeing," Psalm 139 is listed in the lectionary for Sunday, January 14, the weekend of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. Read through the psalm and note God's knowledge of our bodies. "For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb." The Hebrew word for "to know" appears six times in Psalm 139: a clear theme. God's knowledge is comforting to the psalmist, who describes it as "wonderful." However, a God who knows our thoughts from far away and knows our words before they are even on our tongue also poses a challenge. Our God cannot be ignored or deceived. God hems the psalmist in, behind and before. There is no escape. God knows the whole truth of us – body, mind, and soul – whether we acknowledge it or not.

1. What thoughts, feelings, ideas or images arise as you read this psalm? How does it connect with the OT and NT readings for this Sunday?
2. Who knows you? Is there someone in your life who knows you better than you know yourself? If so, what does this "knowing" feel like? Is it a comfort? Or a challenge?
3. Do you take comfort in God's knowledge of you? What does God know/see about you that you have a hard time accepting or acknowledging yourself?

## **WORSHIP NOTES:**

The **Call to Worship**, **Prayer of Confession** and **Prayers of the People** are posted on the PCUSA's Peacemaking Program Resources page. [www.pcusa.org/peacemaking](http://www.pcusa.org/peacemaking) January 2011.

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

The **Visual Liturgy** is from The Work of The People and filmed by Travis Reed, the founder and filmmaker at The Work Of The People. [www.theworkofthepeople.com](http://www.theworkofthepeople.com).

The **Benediction** is posted on the United Church of Christ's Worship Ways Archive. <http://www.ucc.org>

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