

WORSHIP SERVICE

Northampton Presbyterian Church

Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024

10:00 AM

PRELUDE

Andante Religioso

Smith

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Christian Life Groups, today following the worship service.
- Mission Committee, Wednesday (5/1) at 10 AM.
- Keyboard Capers Concert, next Sunday (5/5) at 3 PM.

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

(inspired by John 13:34-35; 1 John 4:7)

ONE: Jesus offers a new-old commandment, that we should love each other.

MANY: With the incredible power and endless depth of God's love for us, we can, we must love one another.

ONE: And it is in this, our love for one another that the world will know whom and what we worship.

MANY: Come, children of God, let us love one another.

HYMN

O Lord, Our God, How Excellent

WINCHESTER OLD

**O Lord, our God, how excellent,
How glorious is your name.
Your majesty surrounds the earth,
And children sing your fame.**

**The heavens shout your handiwork;
We stand beneath in awe,
To think the One who made all things
Should care for us at all.**

**Yet you have made us less than gods,
Surpassing all but you,
With heart and mind, with strength and will,
To search for what is true.**

Into our hands you've placed all things:

The earth, the sea; each place

We're called to probe for secret gifts

And venture into space.

**O Lord, our God, how excellent,
How glorious is your name,
Majestic in your holiness.
We sing and praise your fame.**

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(based on Psalm 30)

O Healing One, we cry to you for help. We choose to listen for your voice above all others. Be gracious to us for we have made mistakes. We have made choices that have harmed our relationships with your children and your created world. Hear us, Healing God, as we move next to you in silent prayer.

We pause for a moment of silent, personal confession.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ONE: When we are silent, God moves! Praise our Healing God with all your soul! Give thanks forever for God has chosen you!

MANY: Praise the Risen Lord! Alleluia!

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

Acts 8:26-40

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

John 15:1-8

SERMON

An Unlikely Story

Rev. Judith A. Dwyer

HYMN

God of Great and God of Small *GOD OF GREAT AND GOD OF SMALL*

**God of great and God of small,
God of one and God of all,
God of weak and God of strong,
God to whom all things belong,
Alleluia, alleluia, praise be to your name.**

**God land and sky and sea,
God of life and destiny,
God of never-ending power,
Yet beside me every hour,
Alleluia, alleluia, praise be to your name.**

**God of silence, God of sound,
God by whom the lost are found,
God of day and darkest night,
God whose love turns wrong to right.
Alleluia, alleluia, praise be to your name.**

**God of heaven and God of earth,
God of death and God of birth,
God of now and days before,
God who reigns forevermore.
Alleluia, alleluia, praise be to your name.**

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

(Scan the QR Code to give online →)



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Gentle Shepherd

Johnson

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

I Love to Tell the Story

HANKEY

I love to tell the story of unseen things above,

Of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.

I love to tell the story because I know it's true;

It satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.

I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory

To tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

I love to tell the story; 'tis pleasant to repeat

What seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet!

I love to tell the story, for some have never heard

The message of salvation from God's own holy Word.

I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory

To tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

**I love to tell the story, for those who know it best
Seem hungering and thirsting to hear it, like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,
'Twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long.
I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory
To tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.**

RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION

ONE: Go now, and love one another, because love is from God. Proclaim God's salvation to every generation. Remain in Jesus Christ, and like branches of a vine, draw your life from him. And may God the vine grower tend you and make you fruitful; May Christ Jesus abide in you and give you life; And may the Holy Spirit cast out all fear and fill you with God's love.

MANY: We go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

POSTLUDE

Gothic March

Foschini

CLG QUESTIONS: *Acts 8:26-40*

1. Did your family own a Bible when you were growing up? If so, where was it kept? What did that mean to you?
2. What miracles do you see happening in this story? What can we learn from them?
3. Take a moment to be quiet and still. Breathe. Listen. Is the Spirit calling you to love someone, to leap, to step out of socially constructed boundaries? Who might that be?
4. What does "firmament" mean?

WORSHIP NOTES:

The **Call to Worship** is by Katherine Hawker and posted on Outside the Box. <http://liturgyoutside.net>

The **Prayer of Confession** is by Rev. Elsa A Peters and is posted on the **Worship Ways** website of the United Church of Christ. <http://www.ucc.org/worship/worship-ways>

The **Prayer for Illumination** is adapted from a contemporary Welsh prayer posted on A Place for Prayer. <http://revgalprayerpals.blogspot.ca>

The **Prayers of the People** are by John van de Laar, and posted on <http://sacredise.com>

The **Benediction** is by Nathan Nettleton Copyright © 2003 Nathan Nettleton and posted on LaughingBird.net
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