

# WORSHIP SERVICE

Northampton Presbyterian Church

*Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost*

*October 15, 2023*

*10:00 AM*

# **PRELUDE**

*Prayer for Israel*

Traditional Israeli

# **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Christian Life Groups, today following the worship service.
- Fall Adult Study, Tuesday (10/17) at 12 PM
- Esther Circle, Wednesday (10/18) at 9:30 AM.

# RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

*Inspired by Psalm 23*

ONE: Loving Shepherd, you know our names; you care for us.

**MANY: When we face darkness and death, walk beside us.**

ONE: When we hunger for your love, fill us with your presence.

**MANY: When we are fearful, feed us at your table.**

ONE: When our cup runs dry, overflow it with your love.

**MANY: May we dwell in the house of goodness and mercy all the days of our lives. Amen.**

# HYMN

*The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

*ST. COLUMBA*

**The King of love my shepherd is,  
Whose goodness faileth never;  
I nothing lack if I am his  
And he is mine forever.**

**Where streams of living water flow  
My ransomed soul he leadeth,  
And where the verdant pastures grow,  
With food celestial feedeth.**

**Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,  
But yet in love he sought me,  
And on his shoulder gently laid,  
And home, rejoicing, brought me.**

**In death's dark vale I fear no ill  
With thee, dear Lord, beside me;  
Thy rod and staff my comfort still,  
Thy cross before to guide me.**

# **UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**God of mercy, in our impatience for answers, we sometimes turn to idols of our own making and forget our covenant with you. Passionate for what is right, we wrong those with whom we differ. Pleased at the invitation to your banquet, we fail to arrive with humility and thanksgiving. Forgive us when our faith is weak and our zeal too strong. In Jesus' name 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**

*Isaiah 25:1-9*

**NEW TESTAMENT READING**

*Philippians 4:1-9*

**SERMON**

*For All Peoples*

Rev. Judith A. Dwyer



# **HYMN**

*This Is My Song*

*FINLANDIA*

**This is my song, O God of all the nations,  
A song of peace for lands afar and mine.  
This is my home, the country where my heart is;  
Here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;  
But other hearts in other lands are beating  
With hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.**

**My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,  
And sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine.  
But other lands have sunlight too, and clover,  
And skies are everywhere as blue as mine.  
So hear my song, O God of all nations,  
A song of peace for their land and for mine.**

**This is my prayer, O Lord of all earth's kingdoms:  
Thy kingdom come; on earth thy will be done.  
Let Christ be lifted up till all shall serve him,  
And hearts united learn to live as one.  
So hear my prayer, O God of all the nations:  
Myself I give thee; let thy will be done.**

# SERVICE OF ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION FOR AN ELDER

## *Responsive Liturgy:*

ONE: There are different gifts,

**MANY: But it is the same Spirit who gives them.**

ONE: There are different ways of serving God,

**MANY: But it is the same Lord who is served.**

ONE: God works through different people in different ways,

**MANY: But it is the same God who achieves God's purpose through them all.**

ONE: Each one is given a gift by the Spirit,

**MANY: To use for the common good.**

ONE: Together we are the body of Christ,

**MANY: And individually members of him.**

ONE: Though we have different gifts, together we are a ministry of reconciliation led by the risen Christ. We work and pray to make Christ's church useful in the world. Within our common ministry, some are chosen for particular work as ministers of the Word and Sacrament, Ruling Elders, or Deacons.

ONE: In this service, we recognize these special ministries, remembering that our Lord Jesus said:

*Whoever among you wants to be great must become the servant of all, and if they want to be first among you, they must be the slave of all.*

**MANY: Just as the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life to set others free.**

## *An Elder Comes Forward With the Candidate for Installation:*

ELDER: Madam Moderator, speaking for the people of the church, I bring Mary McCaffrey to be ordained and installed as a Ruling Elder.

## *The Moderator Asks the Questions Required by the Constitution of the PC(USA):*

Do you trust in Jesus Christ your Savior, acknowledge him Lord of all and Head of the Church, and through him believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit? ***I do.***

Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the Church universal, and God's Word to you? ***I do.***

Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed faith as expressed in the confessions of our church as authentic and reliable expositions of what Scripture leads us to believe and do, and will you be instructed and led by those confessions as you lead the people of God? ***I do and I will.***

Will you fulfill your ministry in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and be continually guided by our confessions? ***I will.***

Will you be governed by our church's polity, and will you abide by its discipline? Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry, working with them, subject to the ordering of God's Word and Spirit? ***I will.***



Will you in your own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world? ***I will.***

Do you promise to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church?  
***I do.***

Will you pray for and seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love? ***I will.***

Will you be a faithful ruling elder, watching over the people, providing for their worship, nurture, and service? Will you share in government and discipline, serving in councils of the church, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ? ***I will.***

## *The Elder Asks the Questions of the Congregation:*

Do we, the members of the church, accept Mary as a Ruling Elder, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ? ***We do.***

Do we agree to pray for her, to encourage her, to respect her decisions, and to follow as she guides us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church? ***We do.***

## *The Prayer of Ordination and Laying on of Hands:*

*Those previously ordained will gather at the front of the sanctuary for the Prayer of Ordination and the Laying on of Hands.*

THE MODERATOR:

Almighty God: in every age you have chosen servants to speak your word and lead your people. We thank you for these people whom you have called to serve you. Give them special gifts to do your special work; and fill them with the Holy Spirit, so they may have the same mind that was in Christ Jesus, and be a faithful disciple as long as they shall live.

God of grace, give Mary courage and discipline to follow where you rightly lead her, that she may declare your wonderful deeds and show your love in the world: through Jesus Christ, the Lord of all. Amen.

*Declaration:*

Mary, you are now an Elder in the church and for this congregation. Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God through him. Let us once more welcome this gracious servant into the service of the church!

# **OFFERING SENTENCE**

*(Scan the QR Code to give online →)*

# **OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

*For the Autumn Sky*



Ruth Elaine Schram

# **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

*Peace of God Be with You*

*AS-SALAAMU LAKUM*

*Peace of God be with you.*

*Peace of God be with you.*

*Salaam, salaam.*

*Peace of God be with you.*

**Peace of God be with you.**

**Peace of God be with you.**

**Salaam, salaam.**

**Peace of God be with you.**



*Assalaamu lakum.*

*Assalaamu lakum.*

*Salaam, salaam.*

*Assalaamu lakum.*

**Assalaamu lakum.**

**Assalaamu lakum.**

**Salaam, salaam.**

**Assalaamu lakum.**

# RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION

**MANY:** Let us be the peacemakers the world aches for; And, by being peacemakers, let us find the peace we long for.

**ONE:** May the grace of our Lord Jesus, the love of God, and the companionship of the Holy Spirit be with you and abide with you this day and forevermore. Go in peace. Make peace. Be at peace. Amen.

# POSTLUDE

*Prayer for Israel*

Traditional Israeli

## CLG QUESTIONS

*Sermon text Philippians 4:1-9*

1. Tell us about someone whose life and witness has been AWESOME and has made a difference for your faith. Whom have you learned from?
2. What are the repeated practices in our congregation (an element of worship, a mission project/partner or a fellowship event) that reinforce our collective identity? How do they reflect our mission?
3. What comes to mind as you hear Paul's encouragement in 4:8 to hold fast to "whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable?"

## **UPDATE FROM THE MISSION COMMITTEE:**

As part of its ongoing work, the NPC Mission Committee is tasked with distributing the funds received from our gift giving congregation to a variety of groups. This month, the Mission Committee has sent \$1,000 to the Philly House (formerly known as Sunday Breakfast Rescue Mission) to support their work.

Philly House has provided services to the homeless community since 1878, thanks to many generous donations. Philly House continues to provide food, clothing and shelter to those in need. NPC is proud to donate to this caring organization.

## WORSHIP NOTES:

- The **Call to Worship** is written by Mary Petrina Boyd, and posted on Ministry Matters. <http://www.ministrymatters.com>
- The **Prayer of Confession** is written by Hans Holznagel, adapted from The Abingdon Worship Annual © 2008 Abingdon Press, and posted on the Ministry Matters website.
- The **Pastoral Prayer** is adapted from prayers written by Rev Karla, posted on RevGalBlogPals. <https://revgalblogpals.org>, and Teri McDowell Ott, The Presbyterian Outlook, October 12, 2023, [www.pres-outlook.org](http://www.pres-outlook.org).
- The **Benediction** is written by John Wurster and provided for free distribution by the Presbyterian Outlook. © Presbyterian Outlook, October 2, 2023.
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