

# WORSHIP SERVICE

Northampton Presbyterian Church

*Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost  
Reformation Sunday / All Saints Eve  
October 31, 2021  
10:00 AM*

# **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **Mission Committee, Monday (11/1) at 7 PM.**
- **Refugee Assistance Collection, Tuesday (11/2) and Thursday (11/4) from 10 AM—12 PM.**
- **SBRM Blanket Group, Wednesday (11/3) at 10 AM.**
- **Women's Bible Café, Wednesday (11/3) at 6 PM.**
- **Daylight Savings Time ends next Sunday. Remember to set your clocks back one hour Saturday night.**

## **RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP** *(from Psalm 46)*

*ONE: God is our refuge and strength,*

***MANY: A very present help in trouble.***

*ONE: The Lord of hosts is with us!*

***ALL: The God of Jacob is our fortress!***

## **UNISON OPENING PRAYER**

God of the faithful, we give thanks for your abundant blessings. We thank you for our fathers and mothers in the faith who, sometimes at significant risk, stood up for their beliefs. Give us the courage to speak out and speak up, that we might share your merciful love and grow in grace. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

## **OPENING HYMN**

*A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

EIN FESTE BURG

**A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;  
Our helper He, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.  
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;  
His craft and pow'r are great, and armed with cruel hate,  
On earth is not his equal.**

**Did we in our own strength confide,  
Our striving would be losing,  
Were not the right man on our side,  
The man of God's own choosing.  
Dost ask who that may be?  
Christ Jesus, it is He;  
Lord Sabaoth His name,  
From age to age the same;  
And He must win the battle.**

**And tho this world, with devils filled,  
Should threaten to undo us,  
We will not fear, for God hath willed  
His truth to triumph thru us.  
The prince of darkness grim,  
We tremble not for him;  
His rage we can endure,  
For lo, his doom is sure:  
One little word shall fell him.**

**That word above all earthly pow'rs,  
No thanks to them abideth;  
The Spirit and the gifts are ours  
Thru Him who with us sideth.  
Let goods and kindred go,  
This mortal life also;  
The body they may kill:  
God's truth abideth still:  
His kingdom is forever.**

## **UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Gracious God, we pray for this, your holy church. Fill it with all truth and peace. Where we, the church, are corrupt, purify us; where we are in error, direct us; where we are amiss, reform us; where we are right, strengthen us; where we are in need, provide for us; where we are divided, reunite us, for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*(We pause for a moment of silent personal confession).*

## **RESPONSIVE ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

*ONE: God shows us divine forbearance through the work of the Holy Spirit, that we may come to know the truth and be made free. Jesus Christ releases us from all that binds us.*

**MANY: Our sins are forgiven, that we may be known as children of God. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## **MUSICAL OFFERING**

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

## **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, forever. Amen.**

## **OFFERING & PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

## **SERMON HYMN**

*Soon and Very Soon*

SPIRITUAL

**Soon and very soon,  
We are going to see the King,  
Soon and very soon,  
We are going to see the King.  
Soon and very soon,  
We are going to see the King,  
Hallelujah, Hallelujah,  
We're going to see the King.**

**No more crying there,  
We are going to see the King,  
No more crying there,  
We are going to see the King.  
No more crying there,  
We are going to see the King,  
Hallelujah, Hallelujah,  
We are going to see the King.**

**No more dying there,  
We are going to see the King,  
No more dying there,  
We are going to see the King.  
No more dying there,  
We are going to see the King,  
Hallelujah, Hallelujah,  
We are going to see the King.**

**Soon and very soon,  
We are going to see the King,  
Soon and very soon,  
We are going to see the King.  
Soon and very soon,  
We are going to see the King,  
Hallelujah, Hallelujah,  
We're going to see the King.**

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

*From the Gospel – 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18*

*From the Gospel – Luke 18:9-14*

## **SERMON**

*Trick or Truth*

Rev. Judith A. Dwyer

## **CLOSING HYMN**

*For All the Saints*

SINE NOMINE

**For all the saints who from their labors rest,  
Who Thee by faith before the world confessed,  
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might,  
Thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;  
Thou, in the darkness drear, their one true Light.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**O may Thy soldiers, faithful, true and bold,  
Fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,  
And win with them the victor's crown of gold.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Oh, blest communion, fellowship divine!  
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;  
Yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**But lo! There breaks a yet more glorious day:  
The saints triumphant rise in bright array;  
The King of glory passes on His way:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,  
Thru gates of pearl streams in the countless host,  
Singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

## WORSHIP NOTES:

*The sharing of joys and concerns is very much a part of the fabric and prayer life of many congregations. It is a way we lift to God those for whom we have deep concern or with whom we celebrate life's joys. Pre-COVID, we were accustomed to an intimate level of sharing details of one another's blessings and woes. Post-COVID, we find ourselves in a new worship context that includes livestreaming, recording and archiving every service. In order to care for those whom we are praying, best practice invites us to divulge as few details as possible. It is perfectly acceptable to ask for prayer just by mentioning a person's first name. God knows every hair on our heads and each person we bring to him, and that is sufficient. Let's be good stewards of one another's lives by bringing to public prayer (and to our recordings!) the least amount of detail necessary to bring those for whom we pray to God's loving attention.*

The *Opening Prayer* is posted on the website of the First United Methodist Church of McCamey, Texas.

The *Prayer of Confession* is posted on the **Evangelical Lutheran Church in America** website. <https://www.elca.org/Growing-In-Faith/Worship/Lectionary/Year-C/Time-after-Pentecost.aspx>

The *Prayers of the People* are adapted from a prayer written by Rev. Karla Miller, Minister for Community Life at Old North Church UCC in Marblehead, Massachusetts and posted on <https://revgalblogpals.org/2017/11/04/sunday-prayer-226>

# **Christian Life Groups**

## *Questions for October 31, 2021*

### *Luke 18:9-14*

The exchange reported in this parable takes place at the Temple. Theologian David Lose reminds us that this is not by accident. “On the grounds of the Temple,” he writes, “you were always intimately aware of who you were, of what status you had, of what you could expect from God. There were, at the Temple, ‘insiders’ and ‘outsiders,’ and according to these rules there was no question of where the Pharisee and tax collector stood. But when Jesus dies all this changes. As the gospels report, the curtain in the Temple is torn in two (Luke 23:45), symbolically erasing all divisions of humanity before God. That act is prefigured here, as God justifies not the one favored by Temple law, but rather the one standing outside the Temple gate, and aware only of his utter need.”<sup>1</sup>

1. When have you found yourself ‘intimately aware of who you were’ in relation to others? How did you measure this for yourself?

2. Lose adds, “Anytime you draw a line between who’s ‘in’ and who’s ‘out,’ this parable asserts, you will find God on the other side.” How can we avoid the temptation to think of ourselves as “in” and those of other faiths as “out?”
3. As we celebrated the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017, theologian Brian McLaren published his book, *Faith After Doubt*.<sup>2</sup> Referencing our tendency to measure ourselves up and against others he writes, “The last reformation assumed that Christian faith was, at its essence, a system of beliefs, so Catholics and Protestants argued whose system was most correct. The next reformation seeks a way of life that will promote human thriving for all, in tune with the Spirit of God and the life and teaching of Jesus.”

Do you believe it is possible for us to set ourselves aside in order to promote ‘human thriving for all?’

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<sup>1</sup> David Lose, Commentary on Luke 18:9-14, October 31, 2010. [www.workingpreacher.org](http://www.workingpreacher.org). Accessed October 25, 2021.

<sup>2</sup> Brian D. McLaren, “The Last Reformation... and The Next Reformation,” October 31, 2017. The Last Reformation ... and the Next Reformation – Brian McLaren. Accessed October 25, 2021.

# **MINUTE FOR MISSIONS:**

## *Bethany Christian Services*

**Some of our NPC Mission envelope/online offerings have been designated to support Bethany Christian Services. They are a nonprofit that demonstrates the love and compassion of Jesus Christ by protecting children, empowering youth, and strengthening families through quality social services. At Bethany, they believe that family changes everything. They also know that the children and families they serve have experienced brokenness and pain and seek to offer the hope and healing of Jesus and trauma informed counseling.**

**Bethany also believes that healthy individuals and families are important for strong communities. Dedicated Christian counselors provide support through topics such as grief and loss, anxiety and depression, marital and relationship difficulties, eating disorders, adoption issues, infertility and pregnancy loss, stress and anger management, childhood trauma and abuse, neglect, and post-pandemic life challenges. Master's level and licensed clinicians, with proven outcomes in their area of expertise, are available. Full and partial Scholarships are available to individuals and families.**

**Visit their website for more information:**

**[www.bethany.org/get-help/families/family-counseling-services](http://www.bethany.org/get-help/families/family-counseling-services)**

**“Ways to Help Bethany Christian Services” – Praise God in your prayers and ask him to be a refuge and an ever-present help in times of trouble for those in need of the counseling services at Bethany Christian Services.**

***“I rejoice in the Lord...I will be glad and exult in you, I will sing praise to your name, O Most High,” (Psalm 104:34; 9:2).***

