

WORSHIP SERVICE

Northampton Presbyterian Church

HOMECOMING SUNDAY

SIXTEENTH Sunday After Pentecost

SEPTEMBER 8, 2024

10:00 AM

PRELUDE

Trish Conover, Music Director

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Men's Breakfast at Robin Hood, Wednesday (9/11) at 8:30 AM.

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP *(Psalm 146:2a,5-8)*

MANY: Hallelujah! We will praise the Lord as long as we live!

ONE: Happy are those who have the God of Israel as their helper, whose hope is in the Lord their God. He is the one who made heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them.

MANY: Hallelujah! We will praise the Lord as long as we live!

ONE: He is the one who keeps every promise forever, who gives justice to the oppressed, and food to the hungry.

MANY: Hallelujah! We will praise the Lord as long as we live!

ONE: The Lord frees the prisoners. The Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts the burdens of those bent beneath their loads. The Lord loves the righteous.

MANY: Hallelujah! We will praise the Lord as long as we live!

HYMN #645:

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

MIT FREUDEN ZART

**Sing praise to God who reigns above, the God of all
creation, the God of power, the God of love,
the God of our salvation, With
healing balm my soul is filled, and every faithless
murmur stilled: to God all praise and glory!**

**The Lord is never far away, but, through all grief
distressing, an ever-present help and stay,
our peace and joy and blessing, as
With a mother's tender hand God gently leads the
Chosen band: to God all praise and glory!**

**Thus all my toilsome way along I sing aloud
thy praises, that all may hear the grateful song
my voice unwearied raises. Be
joyful in the Lord, my heart; both soul and body,
take your part: to God all praise and glory!**

Responsive Prayer of Confession:

ONE: How glibly we say we trust you, Holy One,

MANY: And how quickly our fears silence our words.

ONE: We find you at the side of the poor,

MANY: While we cozy up to the rich and famous.

ONE: You stand behind the counter serving the hungry at the soup kitchen,

MANY: While we are stocking our freezers and pantries till they overflow.

ONE: We look down at those whose hands are dirty,

MANY: **But your hand of mercy pulls them into your embracing love.**

ONE: Forgive us, O Lord, and do good to us when we have trouble doing good for others.

MANY: **Surround us with your love; surround us with your grace; surround us with your peace; surround us with the Spirit of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.**

We pause for a moment of silent personal confession.

Responsive Assurance of Pardon:

ONE: Be strong, do not fear! God comes, to fill your parched souls with living water, to open your eyes to the grace which is yours.

MANY: Surround us with your love; surround us with your grace; surround us with your peace; surround us with the Spirit of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

HYMN #582:

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.**

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.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Proverbs 22: 1-2, 8-9, 22-23

READER'S THEATER

James 2:1-10, (11-13), 14-17

SERMON

Rev. Judith A. Dwyer

Mirror, Mirror on the Wall

HYMN #318

In Christ There Is No East or West

ST PETER

**In Christ there is no east or west, in
Him no south or north, but one great fellowship
of love throughout the whole wide earth.**

**In Christ shall true hearts everywhere their
high communion find; his service is the
golden cord close binding humankind.**

**Join hands, disciples of the faith, what
E'er your race may be. All children of the
Living God are surely kin to me.**

**In Christ now meet both east and west; in
Him meet south and north. All Christly souls are
one in him throughout the whole wide earth.**

THE OFFERING

(Scan the QR Code to give online →)



MUSICAL MEDITATION *(Andy Chen, Soloist)*

Homeward Bound

MARTA KEEN

DOXOLOGY (#606) 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

. . . And may we keep in front of us always the prayer Jesus taught us to pray, saying now:

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 #340

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 skins 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 the 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 they 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 they will be done.**

RESPONSIVE BLESSING

ONE: Go now, and invest your lives in the works of faith. Make a name for yourselves for generosity and compassion. Fulfill God's holy law by putting love into action as eagerly for others as you would for yourselves. And may God be your defender and provider; May Christ Jesus dispel all that disturbs or disables you; and may the Holy Spirit make you rich in faith and loving and merciful in action. We go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

MANY: **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

POSTLUDE

Trish Conover, Music Director

WORSHIP NOTES

The **Call to Worship** is written by Tim Graves, and posted on LiturgyBits. <https://liturgybits.wordpress.com>

The **Prayer of Confession** is written by Thom Shuman, and posted on Lectionary Liturgies.
<http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.ca/>

The **Assurance of Pardon** is written by Rev. Mindi and posted on Rev-o-lution. <http://rev-o-lution.org>

The **Prayers of the People** are from a worship service written by Bruce Gillette and Carolyn Winfrey Gillette for the Center for Christian Ethics. Posted on <http://www.baylor.edu/content/services/document.php/174967.pdf>

The **Benediction** is by Nathan Nettleton. Copyright © 2003 Nathan Nettleton
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