

WORSHIP SERVICE

Northampton Presbyterian Church

Third Sunday After the Epiphany

January 22, 2023

10:00 AM

PRELUDE

Aubade

Broughton

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Christian Life Groups, this morning following worship.
- Annual Reports are available for review.
- “Bible Study for Everyone,” Tuesday (1/24) at 10:30 AM.
- Women’s Breakfast (1/25) at 9 AM, at Manny’s Deli.
- Congregational Meeting (1/29) following worship.

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Let us kneel in the darkness,

MANY: Until we see God's light emerge.

ONE: Let us wait with hope filled hearts,

MANY: As Christ's image grows within us and shows us life.

ONE: Let him speak to us and teach us love,

MANY: Until we open our hearts to be his home.

HYMN

Arise, Your Light Is Come!

FESTAL SONG

Arise, your light is come!

The Spirit's call obey;

Show forth the glory of your God,

Which shines on you today.

**Arise, your light is come!
Fling wide the prison door;
Proclaim the captives' liberty,
Good tidings to the poor.**

**Arise, your light is come!
All you in sorrow born,
Bind up the broken-hearted ones
And comfort those who mourn.**

**Arise, your light is come!
The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing;
God's power will make us strong.**

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, we yearn to be a community of believers, united in your Spirit. And yet we are fraught with divisions: denominational, political, theological. We are weighed down by tensions and the things that break us apart. Forgive us, great God, for this great sin. Help us to learn to live in community together, loving one another, in spite of our differences, and respecting one another in everything that we do and say. Help us to be as you call us, one in heart and mind. Only through the grace of your son, Jesus Christ, can we achieve this. Amen.

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

RESPONSIVE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ONE: Our Loving God is not impatient and tight-fisted like us. God's generosity flows freely to all God's creatures. We praise God that our sins are forgiven, and that the future has again become an open door.

MANY: Thanks be to you, God of grace and glory! Through Christ Jesus our Savior. Amen!

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 9:1-4

NEW TESTAMENT READING

1 Corinthians 1:10-18 (The Voice)

SERMON

Unfriending and Unfollowing

Rev. Judith A. Dwyer

HYMN

This Little Light of Mine

SPIRITUAL

This little light of mine

I'm gonna let it shine,

This little light of mine

I'm gonna let it shine;

This little light of mine

I'm gonna let it shine,

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

**Ev'rywhere I go,
I'm gonna let it shine,**

**Ev'rywhere I go,
I'm gonna let it shine;**

**Ev'rywhere I go,
I'm gonna let it shine,**

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

**Jesus gave it to me,
I'm gonna let it shine,**

**Jesus gave it to me,
I'm gonna let it shine;**

**Jesus gave it to me,
I'm gonna let it shine,**

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

(Scan the QR Code to give online →)



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Let Us Build a House

TWO OAKS

*The choir will sing verses 1-3 and
the congregation is invited to join in singing verses 4-5.*

*Let us build a house where love can dwell
And all can safely live,
A place where saints and children tell
How hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
Rock of faith and vault of grace;
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions:
All are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.*

*Let us build a house where prophets speak,
And words are strong and true,
Where all God's children dare to seek
To dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
And as symbol of God's grace;
Here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:
All are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.*

*Let us build a house where love is found
In water, wine, and wheat;
A banquet hall on holy ground
Where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus,
Is revealed in time and space;
As we share in Christ the feast that free us:
All are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.*

**Let us build a house where hands
Will reach beyond the wood and stone
To heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
And live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
Bear the image of God's face;
Let us bring an end to fear and danger:
All are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.**

**Let us build a house where all are named,
Their songs and visions heard
And loved and treasured, taught and claimed
As words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith
And songs of grace;
Let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:
All are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.**

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

May the God of Hope Go with Us

ARGENTINA

*The choir will sing this once for us and
the congregation will join in the second time through.*

*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

Festive Piece

Eliot Soul

WORSHIP NOTES:

The **Call to Worship** is written by Christine Sine (2012), and posted on GodSpace.

<http://godspace.wordpress.com/2012/12/07/prayers-for-the-journey-advent-prayers-for-the-week>

The **Prayer of Confession** is posted on Waiting for Water: Liturgy for The Easter Journey 2013

<http://storage.cloversites.com/waitingforwater/documents/Liturgical%20resources%202013%2010%2018%2012.pdf>

The **Prayers of the People** are written by Katherine Hawker. Posted on Liturgies Outside.

<http://liturgyoutside.net>

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

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CHRISTIAN LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

Third Sunday After Epiphany: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Questions for Discussion:

1. Paul is addressing a small community of Christians that are finding it difficult to follow Christ some generations after he lived among them. Some are even choosing to follow Paul himself. Why is Paul so concerned that he would write to them from prison?
2. Paul talks here about the practice of baptism and then offers a disclaimer: “Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel.” Why do you think he makes this distinction?
3. Paul is speaking not only to a church but to a community of friends splintering into division. What can help prevent this from happening? What practices of friendship are no longer habitual to you? What habits that have been lost in recent years would you like to pick up once again?
4. What negative habits from the pandemic would you like to break? Have you developed habits during the pandemic that might actually strengthen your friendships and relationships?
5. How might these questions — and today’s observations about the challenges faced by faith communities and the loneliness epidemic — relate to NPC?