

WORSHIP SERVICE

Northampton Presbyterian Church

Third Sunday After the Epiphany

January 21, 2024

10:00 AM

PRELUDE

Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee

Christofferson

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Christian Life Groups, today following the worship service.
- Bible Study for Everyone, Tuesday (1/23) at **10:30 AM this week.**
- Women's Breakfast at Manny's, Wednesday (1/24) at 9 AM.
- The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held next Sunday immediately following worship (Annual Reports are available for review). A Potluck will follow the Congregational Meeting. Please sign-up in the narthex or email npchurch@comcast.net.

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: The word of God came to Jonah.

MANY: The word of God comes to us: go.

ONE: Despite your fears, speak the truth of God.

MANY: Love your neighbor and your enemy.

ONE: Forgive as you have been forgiven.

MANY: Receive grace upon grace overflowing from the fullness of God.

HYMN

How Firm a Foundation

FOUNDATION

**How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in God's excellent Word!
What more can be said than to you God hath said,
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?**

**“Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
Upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.**

**“When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
The rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
For I will be near thee, thy troubles to bless,
And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.**

**“When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
My grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
Thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.**

**“The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake.”**

RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ONE: O Lord, forgive us when we fail to respond to your call with faith.

MANY: **Through your Spirit we stand in the assurance of your acceptance.**

ONE: Forgive us when we are shackled by our narrow understandings of discipleship and our clouded sense of purpose.

MANY: **Through your Spirit we are drawn into the illumination of your empowering love.**

ONE: Forgive us when we are frightened of the future or pull back from the demand of your calling. Forgive us when we fail to sense your presence in our past, to acknowledge your grace in the present moment, and to trust you for our future.

MANY: Through your Spirit we offer ourselves in discipleship. We stand together as your disciples. We seek renewed and renewing faith. Touch us now with your Spirit, Lord. Touch us now with your Spirit.

We pause for a moment of silent, personal confession.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ONE: The one who calls us to this place calls us to reconciliation through grace. God will not deny a repentant heart or an open spirit. Know that you are forgiven and walk in the new way that is made known to you in God's love.

MANY: **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

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

VISUAL LITURGY

Mark 1:14-20

SERMON

Text-Worthy!

Rev. Judith A. Dwyer

HYMN

Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore *PESCASDOR DE HOMBRES*

Lord, you have come to the lakeshore

Looking neither for wealthy no wise ones,

You only asked me to follow humbly.

O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me,

And while smiling have spoken my name;

Now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me.

By your side I will seek other seas.

**You know so well my possessions;
My boat carries no gold or weapons;
You will find there my nets and labor.**

**O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me,
And while smiling have spoken my name;
Now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me.
By your side I will seek other seas.**

**You need my hands, full of caring,
Through my labors to give others rest
And constant love that keeps on loving.**

**O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me,
And while smiling have spoken my name;
Now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me.
By your side I will seek other seas.**

**You, who have fished other oceans,
Ever longed for by souls who are waiting,
My loving friend, as thus you call me:**

**O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me,
And while smiling have spoken my name;
Now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me.
By your side I will seek other seas.**

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

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OFFERTORY ANTHEM

A New City of Joy

Brad Nix

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.

RESPONSIVE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

ONE: Eternal God, you are the maker of us all, and we are your creation, people formed in your image, as individuals, as community; formed and fed and furnished with understanding of who you are and of who and whose we are. We worship you today in recognition of your calling, of your communicating, of your caring to invite us to share in your creative and healing work. We are here because we have heard you speak in us and through others. Help us, dear Lord, to ever respond to you and your invitation to your grace.

MANY: Lord, hear our prayer.

ONE: God of all our moments, of our days and our nights, you speak and you act in the world around us, not only to call all people to you, but also to direct and guide us in the way of healing and wholeness. Awaken us Lord, to hear what you would say to us. Help us to open our ears, our eyes, and our hearts to your presence. Help us to know when it is your voice we are hearing and it when it is our prejudices and desires to which we are paying heed.

MANY: Lord, hear our prayer.

ONE: Lord, we pray that your church may rise up with renewed commitment in answer to your call, that your people may be instruments of your grace and love.

MANY: Lord, hear our prayer.

ONE: We pray for those who consider themselves inadequate and dismiss or avoid your calling in their lives. Give them a new vision, a vision in which you are their strength and their hope.

MANY: Lord, hear our prayer.

ONE: We pray for those who, in answering your call, must leave the known for the unknown, the oasis for the desert, the comfortable for the uncertain. Grant them courage and steadfast faith.

MANY: Lord, hear our prayer.

ONE: We pray too, today, O Lord, for those in want and need – for those of us and of the larger community who suffer in body or in soul. We remember before you...

[various intercessions]

MANY: Lord, hear our prayer.

ONE: Loving Father, bless us all with an abundant faith, a fruitful ministry, a joyful life. Bless us and all those who gather together to continue the work of Jesus, who came to heal, save, and deliver us all, and who taught us to pray as one family, saying...

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

Will You Come and Follow Me

KELVINGROVE

“Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?

Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?

Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;

Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?”

**“Will you leave your self behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?”**

**“Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,
And admit to what I mean in you and you in me?”**

“Will you love the ‘you’ you hide if I but call your name?

Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?

Will you use the faith you’ve found to reshape the world around,

Through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?”

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.

Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.

In your company I’ll go where your love and footsteps show.

Thus I’ll move and live and grow in you and you in me?.

RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION

ONE: As you go out into the world, Jesus calls:

MANY: Follow me.

ONE: At home with your household, Jesus whispers:

MANY: Follow me.

ONE: At school and work, Jesus murmurs:

MANY: Follow me.

ONE: In everything you do this week, Jesus beckons:

MANY: Follow me.

ONE: “And as you do, remember that I am with you always, even to the end of the world.”

POSTLUDE

Postlude in G

Kanner

CHRISTIAN LIFE GROUP (CLG) QUESTIONS:

1. Consider a variety of call stories — your own or others'. When has God's call been clear? Are there times when God's call is also urgent? How have you experienced the persistence of God's calling in your own life?
2. Contemporary calls to repentance in our culture often resemble Jonah's proclamation, "Repent, or else!" Has that shaped the way we understand or use the word "repentance"? Beyond the corporate confession in worship, how do we speak about repentance in church?
3. Is God's call to us today urgent? If so, how? How do we adjudicate between the various important and urgent calls within our lives, including family needs, career, church involvement, community engagement, and more? What distracts or deters us from responding to God's call?

WORSHIP NOTES:

The **Call to Worship** is written by Joanna Harader and posted on Spacious Faith. <https://spaciousfaith.com>

The **Prayer of Confession** is from Prayers and Readings for Worship, Volume 2, Peter Judd, ed. (Herald Publishing House, 1996, ISBN 9780830907199), 22. Posted on the Community of Christ website. <http://www.cofchrist.org/worship12-13/13-05-12.asp>

The **Prayer for Illumination** is from a collection of prayers posted on the Worship@ North website. <https://northchurchindy.wordpress.com/>

The **Visual Liturgy** is by Travis Reed, founder of and filmmaker for The Work of The People, www.theworkofthepeople.com.

The **Prayers of the People** are written by Rev. Richard J. Fairchild, and posted on Kir-shalom. <http://www.spirit-net.ca/sermons/b-or02sm.php>

The **Benediction** is written by Carolyn Brown, and posted on her excellent Worshipping with Children website.

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