

# WORSHIP SERVICE

Northampton Presbyterian Church

*Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost*

*November 14, 2021*

*10:00 AM*

# **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **Preschool Board, Monday (11/15) at 7 PM.**
- **Esther Circle, Tuesday (11/16) at 10 AM.**
- **Session Meeting, Tuesday (11/16) at 7 PM.**
- **Stewardship Sunday, Next Sunday (11/21).**

# **DEDICATION OF SHOEBOXES**

**Monica Platt**

## RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

*ONE: There is no God like our God, who gives strength to the weak,*

**MANY: But breaks the power of the mighty;**

*ONE: Who gives food to the famished,*

**MANY: But makes those who are already full work for their bread;**

*ONE: Who raises the poor from the dust,*

**MANY: But humbles the proud and the arrogant.**

**ALL: There is no God like our God!**

## SONG OF GATHERING

*Canticle of the Turning*

*STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN*

**My soul cries out with a joyful shout  
That the God of my heart is great,  
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things  
That you bring to the ones who wait.  
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,  
And my weakness you did not spurn,  
So from east to west shall my name be blest.  
Could the world be about to turn?  
My heart shall sing of the day you bring.  
Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,  
And the world is about to turn!**

**Though I am small, my God, my all,  
You work great things in me,  
And your mercy will last from the depths of the past  
To the end of the age to be.  
Your very name puts the proud to shame,  
And to those who would for you yearn,  
You will show your might, put the strong to flight,  
For the world is about to turn.  
My heart shall sing of the day you bring.  
Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,  
And the world is about to turn!**

**From the halls of power to the fortress tower,  
Not a stone will be left on stone.  
Let the king beware for your justice tears  
Every tyrant from his throne.  
The hungry poor shall weep no more,  
For the food they can never earn;  
There are tables spread; every mouth be fed,  
For the world is about to turn.  
My heart shall sing of the day you bring.  
Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,  
And the world is about to turn!**

**Though the nations rage from age to age,  
We remember who holds us fast:  
God's mercy must deliver us  
From the conqueror's crushing grasp.  
This saving word that our forebears heard  
Is the promise which holds us bound,  
Till the spear and rod can be crushed by God,  
Who is turning the world around.  
My heart shall sing of the day you bring.  
Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,  
And the world is about to turn!**

# RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*ONE: We have to admit, Holy Listener, that we are more likely to be irritated by the lives of others than to be provoked to love them. When we are called to encourage those around us, too often our actions and words discourage them. Offered lives of peace and hope, we wander around filled with anxiety and despair.*

**MANY: Forgive us, Rock of Redemption. Cleanse our hearts, so we might be more loving; keep us on the path of faithfulness, so we might find those whom we are called to serve; give us your words, so we might confess your hope offered to all who are broken, who are lost, who cry out to you. This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.**

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

## **RESPONSIVE ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

*ONE: This is the good news: God gives us hope, God gives us peace, God gives us joy so we may share these gifts with everyone we meet.*

**MANY: Thanks be to God, who has forgiven us and provoked us to love others and to serve all who are around us. Amen.**

## **SPECIAL MUSIC (Choir)**

*Sing Praises*

*LARRY SHACKLEY*

## **SCRIPTURE READING**

*From the Old Testament – **1 Samuel 1:4-20***

# **SERMON**

*First Fruits*

Rev. Judith A. Dwyer

# **OFFERING & PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**We who are full can now give bread to others. We who are well-off can reach out to raise up the poor. We who have everything can offer a seat of honor to those who have nothing. We who are blessed by you, Exalted God, can be blessings to others. And so we pray that the gifts we have may give hope to the despairing, give strength to the weak, and justice to the oppressed. Amen.**

## **DOXOLOGY**

**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. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

## **CLOSING SONG**

*Amazing Grace*

*CHRIS RICE*

**Amazing grace how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost, but now I'm found  
Was blind, but now I see**

**'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear  
And grace my fears relieved  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed**

**My chains are gone, I've been set free  
My God, my Savior has ransomed me  
And like a flood His mercy reigns  
Unending love, amazing grace**

**The Lord has promised good to me  
His word my hope secures  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures**

**My chains are gone, I've been set free  
My God, my Savior has ransomed me  
And like a flood His mercy reigns  
Unending love, amazing grace**

**My chains are gone, I've been set free  
My God, my Savior has ransomed me  
And like a flood His mercy reigns  
Unending love, amazing grace**

**The earth shall soon dissolve like snow  
The sun forbear to shine  
But God who called me here below  
Will be forever mine, will be forever mine  
You are forever mine**

## **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 *Prayer of Confession, Assurance of Pardon and Offering Prayer* are written by Thom Schuman and posted on his website, <https://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com>.

Hymns are from *The Hymnal for Worship & Celebration*, WORD Music, Waco, TX.

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# **Christian Life Groups**

## *Questions for November 14, 2021*

### *1 Samuel 1:4-20*

In today's reading of the text, we miss the opening salvo in verses 1-3:

“There was a certain man of Ramathaim, a Zuphite from the hill country of Ephraim, whose name was Elkanah son of Jeroham son of Elihu son of Tohu son of Zuph, an Ephraimite. He had two wives; the name of the one was Hannah, and the name of the other Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children.”

Ancient biblical names notwithstanding, this introduction to the story gives us reason to believe it is about a well-heeled man from the high country of Ephraim. In fact, this introduction is merely a means of drawing us to Hannah, the real protagonist of the story. Hannah's predicament, that of a barren woman and a fertile woman who are married to the same man, is echoed in Genesis by Leah and Rachel, Sarai and Hagar. So what is different this time?

1. Do you find this story to be inspiring or to be one of lament? Are you sensitive to Hannah's plight? Challenged to identify with it?
2. In her commentary on this passage, Valerie Bridgeman remarks that "... this is the story that leads into the nationhood of ancient Israel. It is not the birth of a king, but the desire of a child to be pledged to God as a prophet that the editors use to shape the nation-story of ancient Israel."<sup>1</sup>

God again works in a way that takes us by surprise. It is not the way Israel has anticipated its desire for a ruler to be met, nor is it the way Hannah expects God to work. How do you expect God to work in your life? In what ways has God surprised you?

3. Hannah could have directed her anger and grief at either Elkanah, who does not understand, or Peninnah, who gloats. She does neither of these things but takes her frustration and her faith to God in prayer.

To whom do you go with your irresolvable challenges?

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<sup>1</sup> Valerie Bridgeman, Commentary on 1 Samuel 1:4-20, November 14, 2021. [www.workingpreacher.org](http://www.workingpreacher.org). Accessed November 9, 2021.

# **MINUTE FOR MISSIONS:**

## *Medical Benevolence Foundation*

Some of our NPC Mission envelope/online offerings have been designated to support the Medical Benevolence Foundation (MBF). Their goal is simple: To give hope and healing to the poor around the globe.

**Christian Witness:** Their desire is that everyone served by an MBF partner has the opportunity to learn about Jesus and discover how to develop a lifelong relationship with God. This good news is modeled and shared in culturally sensitive ways — never through coercion.

**Excellence in Medical Care:** MBF strives for medical excellence by promoting medical missions care through the physical presence of partner co-workers, education, disease prevention, and curative care, for those in impoverished communities suffering from acute and chronic illness. MBF seeks to bring up-to-date, evidence-based health care practices and technology as they support the appropriate, affordable, sustainable and quality services of their partners.

**Sustainability:** MBF will pursue projects that empower their partners to meet their health care needs and improve wellness in their community. This is by an emphasis on training local

administrative and healthcare personnel, as well as the creation of a replicable, culturally sustainable model that allows for future growth and modification.

**Accountability:** The Bible repeatedly emphasizes the mandate that God's servants must be wise stewards of the resources God provides. MBF acknowledge implicitly and explicitly that every resource God provides actually belongs to God; their job is to be faithful managers. MBF seeks to model the highest standards of stewardship behavior through regular and consistent reporting. They will assist every international partner to develop ongoing management plans, establish and monitor performance metrics and provide appropriate reporting.

Visit their website for more information: [www.medicalmission.org](http://www.medicalmission.org)

**"Ways to Help Medical Benevolence Foundation"** – Join them for prayer (by conference call) on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 1:30pm, 605-313-5831, code 459503.

*"In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"*  
(Acts 20:35).

