

# COMMUNION SERVICE

Northampton Presbyterian Church

*Third Sunday in Lent*

*March 3, 2024*

*10:00 AM*

# **PRELUDE**

*At Calvary*

Towner

## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Christian Life Groups, today following the worship service.
- Bible Study for Everyone, Tuesday (3/5) at 11 AM.
- Mission Committee, Wednesday (3/6) at 9:30 AM
- Daylight Savings Time starts next Sunday. Remember to turn your clocks ahead one hour.

# RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: If you ask the sky who God is,

**MANY: The sky will tell you of God's reach.**

ONE: If you ask the day who God is,

**MANY: The sun will tell you of God's warmth.**

ONE: If you ask the night who God is,

**MANY: The moon will tell you of God's comfort.**

ONE: "The heavens are telling the glory of God," (Psalm 19:1).

Are you listening?

**MANY: We are listening! We will sing of God's glory.**

ONE: Let us worship God.

# HYMN

*The Church's One Foundation*

AURELIA

**The church's one foundation  
Is Jesus Christ her Lord.  
She is his new creation  
By water and the word.  
From heaven he came and sought her  
To be his holy bride.  
With his own blood he bought her,  
And for her life he died.**

**Elect from every nation,  
Yet one o'er all the earth,  
Her charter of salvation:  
One Lord, one faith, one birth.  
One holy name she blesses,  
Partakes one holy food,  
And to one hope she presses,  
With every grace endued.**

**Though with a scornful wonder,  
This world sees her oppressed,  
By schisms rent asunder,  
By heresies distressed,  
Yet saints their watch are keeping;  
Their cry goes up, "How long?"  
And soon the night of weeping  
Shall be the morn of song.**

**Mid toil and tribulation,  
And tumult of her war,  
She waits the consummation  
Of peace forevermore:  
Till with the vision glorious  
Her longing eyes are blest,  
And the great church victorious  
Shall be the church at rest.**

**Yet she on earth hath union  
With God, the Three in One,  
And mystic sweet communion  
With those whose rest is won:  
O happy ones and holy!  
Lord, give us grace that we,  
Like them, the meek and lowly,  
May live eternally.**



# RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ONE: Holy God, some days, we are quick to declare your goodness. Like Peter, we see you in our midst and we are confident in our faith. Other days, we are distracted and uncertain, desperate for answers.

**MANY: Forgive us for losing sight of you.**

ONE: Some days we are quick to trust your blessings—

**MANY: Trusting that we are called, that we can make a difference.**

ONE: Other days, our praise falls silent and doubt creeps in.

**MANY: Forgive us for losing sight of ourselves.**

ONE: We know that fear and doubt are part of the journey of faith. But for the days when we are far from you and far from ourselves, we ask for your tender grace.

**MANY: Pull us closer toward you. Remind us of the mountaintop moments of our faith. Amen.**

*We pause for a moment of silent, personal confession.*

# **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**ONE:** Friends, whether you speak to God in a whisper or with clear conviction, with questions or with answers, with hope in your heart or with doubt in your throat—God will always listen with love and mercy. So rest in this good news: regardless of how loudly you live your faith—you belong to God. You are loved. You are claimed. You are forgiven. Speak that good news with confidence.

**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**

**THE PSALTER** *(Sung by the Choir)*

*Psalm 19*

**NEW TESTAMENT READING**

*Matthew 16:13-20*

**SERMON**

*What Is Your Real ID?*

Rev. Judith A. Dwyer

# HYMN

*Fairest Lord Jesus*

*CRUSADERS' HYMN*

**Fairest Lord Jesus,  
Ruler of all nature,  
O thou of God to earth come down,  
Thee will I cherish,  
Thee will I honor,  
Thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.**

**Fair are the meadows,  
Fairer still the woodlands,  
Robed in the blooming garb of spring.  
Jesus is fairer;  
Jesus is purer,  
Who makes the woeful heart to sing.**

**Fair is the sunshine,  
Fairer still the moonlight,  
And all the twinkling, starry host.  
Jesus shines brighter;  
Jesus shines purer,  
Than all the angels heaven can boast.**



**Beautiful Savior,  
Ruler of the nations,  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
Glory and honor,  
Praise, adoration,  
Now and forevermore be thine!**

# AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

ONE: Jesus asked the disciples, “But what about you? Who do you say that I am?” Church, what do you say?

**MANY: Jesus is a hand reaching out in the storm, the voice of truth spoken over us, and love without walls. Jesus is justice for the weary, healing for the hurt, and welcome for the stranger. Jesus is teacher, Messiah, and friend—with me on the mountain and beside me in the valley. Jesus is a star in the night, and the love that knows my name.**

ONE: Jesus asked, “Who do you say that I am?”

**MANY: Like Peter, we say, “Jesus, you are the Messiah, son of the Living God.”**

## **OFFERING SENTENCE**

*(Scan the QR Code to give online →)*



## **OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

*If We Truly Believe*

Besig

# COMMUNION

*Invitation to the Table*

*Sharing of Bread and Wine*

*Sharing of Joys and Concerns*

*Prayers of the People*

# **CLOSING HYMN**

*God of Grace and God of Glory*

*CWM RHONDDA*

**God of grace and God of glory,  
On thy people pour thy power;  
Crown thy ancient church's story;  
Bring its bud to glorious flower.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage  
For the facing of this hour,  
For the facing of this hour.**

**Lo, the hosts of evil round us  
Scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!  
From the fears that long have bound us  
Free our hearts to faith and praise.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
For the living of these days,  
For the living of these days.**

**Cure your children's warring madness;  
Bend our pride to thy control;  
Shame our wanton, selfish gladness,  
Rich in things and poor in soul.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
Lest we miss thy kingdom's goal,  
Lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.**

**Save us from weak resignation**

**To the evils we deplore.**

**Let the gift of thy salvation**

**Be our glory evermore.**

**Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,**

**Serving thee whom we adore,**

**Serving thee whom we adore.**



# RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION

ONE: Jesus stands and asks: “Who do you say I am?”

**MANY: We join millions who have gone before and say: “the Messiah.”**

ONE: Jesus stands in front of us and tells us the realities of discipleship.

**MANY: We join millions who have gone before in the challenges of living as disciples.**

ONE: Jesus stands before us and offers food and drink for the journey.

**MANY: Fed and nourished, we go out into the world to live and serve.**

ONE: Jesus stands before us, shining in glory, and will be with us to the end of the age.

**MANY: Thanks be to God. Amen.**

# **POSTLUDE**

*What Wondrous Love Is This /  
Take My Life and Let it Be*

Walker Malan

# **HYMN**

## *The Lord's Prayer (Sung)*

**Our Father, which 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,**

**Forever, Amen.**

## **CLG QUESTIONS:**

1. Have you ever been asked by someone about your Christian beliefs? About Jesus? How did you, or would you, answer?
2. When have you felt as if God has given you the courage to do or say something you would not have done without that divine intervention?
3. Have you been surprised by how God has used you and your gifts?
4. When have you made a public declaration of faith? What were the circumstances? How did you feel about doing so?
5. In our current culture, who do various people/groups say that Jesus is?

## WORSHIP NOTES:

The **Call to Worship, Prayer of Confession** and **Prayer for Illumination** are written by Rev. Sarah A. Speed and posted on A Sanctified Art. | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

The **Invitation to Communion** is written by Ann Weems and found in her book, *Kneeling in Jerusalem*, Westminster/John Knox Press, Louisville, Kentucky, 1992.

The **Prayers of the People** are adapted from a prayer posted on the Christian Aid website. <https://www.christianaid.org.uk>

The **Benediction** is posted by Rev Gord on his blog, Worship Offerings. <http://worshipofferings.blogspot.ca>

Hymns are from the *Glory to God Hymnal*, The Presbyterian Publishing Corporation, Louisville, KY, 2017. All are licensed for use by CCLI.

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from One License with license # A-739749.