

COMMUNION SERVICE

Northampton Presbyterian Church

Fifth Sunday After the Epiphany

February 4, 2024

10:00 AM

PRELUDE

Prelude in G Major

Harold Rutz

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Join us for a special “Coffee Tasting” with our new coffee makers as well as Christian Life Groups, today following the worship service.
- Bible Study for Everyone, Tuesday (2/6) at 11 AM.
- Save the Date: Ash Wednesday Service (2/13) at 6:30 PM.

UNISON CALL TO WORSHIP

Holy Spirit: with astonishment, we see that you renew our strength constantly. Allow us not to forget your presence, even in adversity. And, in our turn, we will renew our gratefulness and we will sing for your love. Amen.

HYMN

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!

**What God's almighty power has made
God's gracious mercy keepeth;
By morning glow or evening shade
God's watchful eye ne'er sleepeth.
Within the kingdom of God's might,
Lo! All is just and all is right:
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 can we ever understand the mystery of Your love, O God? How can we ever estimate the value of Your compassion and mercy?

MANY: **In our weakness and brokenness, in our strength and wholeness, we find the touch of Your support and creative energy.**

ONE: In our fears and suffering, in our joys and pleasures, we find the moistness of Your tears and the percussion of Your laughter.

MANY: In our failures and despair, in our successes and dreams, we find the comfort of Your forgiveness and the inspiration of Your Spirit.

ONE: These are gifts beyond measure, and we can only respond with joyful praise.

MANY: You are the home we long for, the family where we discover that we truly belong, the hearth where we are warmed and renewed. We worship You with our whole being, wonderful and loving God. Amen.

We pause for a moment of silent, personal confession.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ONE: Hear the good news: Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life is gone; a new life has begun. Friends, believe the gospel: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

MANY: Thanks be to God!

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 40:21-31

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Mark 1:29-39

SERMON

Domestic Relations

Rev. Judith A. Dwyer

HYMN

Healer of Our Every Ill

HEALER OF OUR EVERY ILL

**Healer of our every ill,
Light of each tomorrow,
Give us peace beyond our fear,
And hope beyond our sorrow.**

**You who know our fears and sadness,
Grace us with your peace and gladness;
Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts.**

**Healer of our every ill,
Light of each tomorrow,
Give us peace beyond our fear,
And hope beyond our sorrow.**

**In the pain and joy beholding
How your grace is still unfolding,
Give us all your vision, God of love.**

**Healer of our every ill,
Light of each tomorrow,
Give us peace beyond our fear,
And hope beyond our sorrow.**

**Give us strength to love each other,
Every sister, every brother;
Spirit of all kindness, be our guide.**

**Healer of our every ill,
Light of each tomorrow,
Give us peace beyond our fear,
And hope beyond our sorrow.**

**You who know each thought and feeling,
Teach us all your way of healing;
Spirit of compassion, fill each heart.**

**Healer of our every ill,
Light of each tomorrow,
Give us peace beyond our fear,
And hope beyond our sorrow.**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: AN EXCERPT FROM THE CONFESSION OF 1967, 9.31–.38

To be reconciled to God is to be sent into the world as his reconciling community. This community, the church universal, is entrusted with God's message of reconciliation and shares his labor of healing the enmities which separate us from God and from each other. Christ has called the church to this mission and given it the gift of the Holy Spirit. The church maintains continuity with the apostles and with Israel by faithful obedience to his call.

OFFERING SENTENCE

(Scan the QR Code to give online →)

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

How Beautiful



Twila Paris

COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table – Hymn:

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

UNION SEMINARY

(vs. 1: Two Voices / vs. 2: Choir / vs. 3: ALL)

*Draw us in the Spirit's tether,
For when humbly in your name,
Two or three are met together,
You are in the midst of them.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Here we touch your garment's hem.*

*As disciples used to gather
In the name of Christ to sup,
Then with thanks to God the giver
Break the bread and bless the cup,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
So now bind our friendship up.*

**All our meals and all our living
Make as sacraments of you,
That by caring, helping, giving,
We may be disciples true.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
We will serve with faith anew.**

Sharing the Bread and Wine

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayer of Thanksgiving

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.

A HEALING BLESSING

And All Be Made Well

POSTLUDE

As Pants the Hart for Cooling Streams

Allan Mahnke

CLG QUESTIONS:

Our sermon text from the lectionary for this week is Mark 1:29-39, the story of Jesus healing Simon Peter's mother in-law. For your consideration:

1. Jesus heals Simon's mother-in-law and she gets up to serve. How has Jesus healed you for you to serve him?
2. Jesus' mission requires him to leave those who want him to stay. He is always on the move in Mark's Gospel. How do we discern when to stay and when to move? When to keep serving in ways we currently serve and when to make a change?
3. How do you know when it's time to ask for help from those who can minister to you?
4. Pray the headlines this week. Pull up a news website or look at the front page of your local paper. Pray for the people and places you read about there.

WORSHIP NOTES:

The **Call to Worship** is posted on the Sacred Pauses blog. <http://www.sacredpauses.com>.

The **Prayer of Confession** is written by John van de Laar, and posted on the Sacredise website.

The **Prayer for Illumination** is written by Amy Loving, and posted on The Worship Closet: The Place for Creative Worship Ideas. <http://worshipcloset.com/baptism-of-the-lord-sunday-year-b-words-for-worship/>

The **Prayer of Thanksgiving** is written by Thom M. Shuman and posted on his blog, lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com.

The **Healing Blessing** is written by Jan Richardson and posted on her blog at the paintedprayerbook.com.

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