

# WORSHIP SERVICE

Northampton Presbyterian Church

*Fourth Sunday of Easter*

*April 30, 2023*

*10:00 AM*

# PRELUDE

*Romanze*

Schumann

# WELCOME

# RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Gentle... yet powerful.

**MANY: Lowly... yet almighty.**

ONE: Shepherd... yet King. In Your gentleness, guide us.

**MANY: In Your power, strengthen us.**

ONE: In Your lowliness, strip from us our selfish pride that only destroys us.

**MANY: In Your greatness, lift us up that we might aspire to greater things.**

ONE: As a shepherd, call us to be Your servants.

**MANY: As a King, call us to be Your royal priesthood.**

ONE: O God, who is our shepherd and our King;

**MANY: O Christ, who was crucified and is now risen from the dead;**

ONE: O Spirit, who comforts and empowers;

**MANY: O great One in Three, Holy Trinity, this hour, set us free to worship. Amen.**

# **HYMN**

*Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty*

*LOBE DEN HERREN*

**Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty,**

**The King of creation!**

**O my soul, praise him, for he is thy**

**Health and salvation!**

**All ye who hear,**

**Now to his temple draw near;**

**Join me in glad adoration!**

**Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things  
So wondrously reigneth,  
Shelters thee under his wings,  
Yea, so gently sustaineth!  
Hast thou not seen  
How thy desires e'er have been  
Granted in what he ordaineth?**

**Praise ye the Lord! O let all that  
Is in me adore him!  
All that hath life and breath,  
Come now with praises before Him!  
Let the amen  
Sound from his people again;  
Gladly for aye we adore him.**

# **UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Lord, we would follow you wherever you might lead. Lord, we would follow you. Forgive us when we stumble and when we stray. Forgive us when, distracted we lose our way. Be the one to whom we turn, whose hand we hold, the Shepherd who leads us safely to the fold. Lord, we would follow you wherever you might lead. Lord, we would follow you.**

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

# **ASSURANCE PARDON**

# 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**

**FIRST SCRIPTURE READING**

*Acts 2:42-27*

**SECOND SCRIPTURE READING**

*John 10:1-10*

**SERMON**

Rev. Ashley Rossi

# HYMN

*Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*

*BRADBURY*

**Savior, like a shepherd lead us;  
Much we need your tender care.  
In your pleasant pastures feed us;  
For our use your fold prepare.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
You have bought us: we are yours.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
You have bought us: we are yours.**

**We are yours: in love befriend us;  
Be the guardian of our way.  
Keep your flock: from sin defend us;  
Seek us when we go astray.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
Hear your children when we pray.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
Hear your children when we pray.**

**You have promised to receive us,  
Poor and sinful though we be;  
You have mercy to relieve us,  
Grace to cleanse, and power to free.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
Early let us turn to you.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
Early let us turn to you.**

**Early let us seek your favor;  
Early let us do your will.  
Blessed Lord and only Savior,  
With your love our spirits fill.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
You have loved us; love us still.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
You have loved us; love us still.**

# **CALL FOR THE OFFERING**

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# **OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

*For the Beauty of the Earth*



Grunewald

# **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

*What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine*

SHOWALTER

**What a fellowship, what a joy divine,**

**Leaning on the everlasting arms;**

**What a blessedness, what a peace is mine,**

**Leaning on the everlasting arms.**

**Leaning, leaning,**

**Safe and secure from all alarms;**

**Leaning, leaning,**

**Leaning on the everlasting arms.**

**O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms;  
O how bright the path grows from day to day,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms.**

**Leaning, leaning,  
Safe and secure from all alarms;  
Leaning, leaning,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms.**

**What have I to dread, what have I to fear,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms?  
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms.**

**Leaning, leaning,  
Safe and secure from all alarms;  
Leaning, leaning,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms.**

**SENDING**

**POSTLUDE**

*Prepare the Way, O Zion*

Paxton

## WORSHIP NOTES:

The **Call to Worship** is posted on My Redeemer Lives website.

<http://www.myredeemerlives.com/prayers.html>

The **Prayer of Confession** is written by John Birch, and posted on Faith and Worship.

<http://www.faithandworship.com>

The **Prayer for Illumination** is adapted from a prayer posted on the Monthly Prayers page of the Christian Aid website. <http://www.christianaid.org.uk>

The **Prayers of the People** are written by the Rev. Terri C. Pilarski and posted on WordsMatter.

<http://expansivelanguage.blogspot.ca>

The **Sending** is written by Richard Fairchild, and posted on his Kir-Shalom website.

Hymns are from the *Glory to God Hymnal*, The Presbyterian Publishing Corporation, Louisville, KY, 2017.

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***This morning we welcome Rev. Ashley Rossi as our guest preacher:***

Ashley Rossi is a Teaching Elder in the PCUSA, serving as the Director of Donor Relations for The Common Place. Her previous positions include serving as Associate Pastor of Carmel Presbyterian Church in Glenside and as Pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Williamsport. She also served as the Moderator of the Philadelphia Presbytery. Ashley graduated with a B.S. in accounting from the Pennsylvania State University in 2002, and worked as a CPA and financial analyst for 8 years prior to entering seminary. She holds a Master of Divinity from the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia (2012) as well as a graduate certificate in Church Planting from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary (2020). Her passions include social justice issues, building community, and re-imagining church in the 21st century. Ashley lives with her husband, three children, and two dogs in Glenside.

## Christian Life Groups—Questions for Discussion:

### *John 10:1-10*

1. What gates do you experience on a regular basis? Gated communities? Airport gates? Gates on a playground? What are they for? To keep people out? Safe? To make a boundary or a barrier? How do they help or hinder the image of Jesus as the gate?
2. “Gatekeeping” is defined as “the activity of controlling, and usually limiting, general access to something.” Does the church participate in this kind of gatekeeping? When have you witnessed or experienced “gatekeeping” and what, if anything did you do about it?
3. How do we recognize Jesus’ voice? What do we hear him saying?
4. Are you part of any communities that are fluid – with changing members, comings and goings? Why do our communities get so “fixed” so quickly? Is there an argument to be made for communities that remain the same over time? Is there an argument against?