

WORSHIP SERVICE

Northampton Presbyterian Church

Sixth Sunday After the Epiphany

February 12, 2023

10:00 AM

PRELUDE

Variations on "For the Beauty of the Earth"

David Lasky

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Facilities Committee, Monday (2/13) at 7 PM.
- "Bible Study for Everyone," Tuesday (2/14) at 10:30 AM.
- Women's "Digging Deeper" Study, Wednesday (2/15) at 4 PM.
- Worship Committee, Wednesday (2/15) at 7 PM.
- Esther Circle, Thursday (2/16) at 1 PM.

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: We would be perfectly happy if our path were faultless, if we were always in step with God.

MANY: This is my commandment: That you love one another.

ONE: God has give us commandments that we may live as effectively as possible. With our eyes fixed on doing the right thing, we shall never be put to shame.

MANY: You are to love one another in the same way as I have loved you.

ONE: O Lord, touch our lips with your saving grace,

MANY: That our lives may declare your praise!

HYMN

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

HYFRYDOL

**Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
Fix in us thy humble dwelling;
All thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion;
Pure, unbounded love thou art;
Visit us with thy salvation;
Enter every trembling heart.**

**Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
Into every troubled breast;
Let us all in thee inherit;
Let us find the promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning,
Set our hearts at liberty.**

**Come, Almighty, to deliver;
Let us all thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
Nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve thee as thy hosts above,
Pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
Glory in thy perfect love.**

**Finish, then, thy new creation;
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see thy great salvation
Perfectly restored in thee:
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before thee,
Lost in wonder, love and praise.**

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy One, we confess that we have been caught up in the ways of the world. Instead of looking to commandments and rules as a way to guide our lives, we use them to punish and restrict others. Forgive us for our judgments and misconceptions. Forgive us for not working on ourselves, on our own lives. Call us back to your way of life, a way of love, commitment, respect, and forgiveness. Call us back to a way of life that honors you and creation, and guides us to better love our neighbors as ourselves. In the name of Jesus the Christ, who ended sacrifice and death and fulfilled the promise of new life, we pray. Amen.

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

ASSURANCE OF 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

READER'S THEATER

(In the style of a responsive reading)

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

ONE: Now listen! Today I am giving you a choice between life

MANY: And death,

ONE: Between prosperity

MANY: And disaster.

ONE: For I command you this day to love the Lord your God and to keep his commands, decrees, and regulations by walking in his ways.

MANY: If you do this, you will live and multiply, and the Lord your God will bless you and the land you are about to enter and occupy.

ONE: But if your heart turns away and you refuse to listen,

MANY: And if you are drawn away to serve and worship other gods,

ONE: Then I warn you now that you will certainly be destroyed.

MANY: You will not live a long, good life in the land you are crossing the Jordan to occupy.

ONE: Today I have given you the choice between life

MANY: And death,

ONE: Between blessings

MANY: And curses.

ONE: Now I call on heaven and earth to witness the choice you make.

MANY: Oh, that you would choose life, so that you and your descendants might live!

ONE: You can make this choice by loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and committing yourself firmly to him. This is the key to your life.

MANY: And if you love and obey the Lord, you will live long in the land the Lord swore to give your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

1 Corinthians 3:1-9

SERMON

All Too Human

Rev. Judith A. Dwyer

HYMN

This Is My Song

FINLANDIA

**This is my song, O God of all the nations,
A song of peace for lands afar and mine.
This is my home, the country where my heart is;
Here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;
But other hearts in other lands are beating
With hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.**

**My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,
And sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine.
But other lands have sunlight too, and clover,
And skies are everywhere as blue as mine.
So hear my song, O God of all the nations,
A song of peace for their land and for mine.**

**This is my prayer, O Lord of all earth's kingdoms:
Thy kingdom come; on earth thy will be done.
Let Christ be lifted up till all shall serve him,
And hearts united learn to live as one.
So hear my prayer, O God of all nations:
Myself I give thee; let thy will be done.**

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

(Scan the QR Code to give online →)

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Where There Is Love



Karen Crane/arr. Douglas Nolan

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

All Are Welcome

TWO OAKS

**Let us build a house where love can dwell
And all can safely live,
A place where saints and children tell
How hearts learn to forgive.**

**Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
Rock of faith and vault of grace;
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions:
All are welcome; all are welcome;
All are welcome in this place.**

**Let us build a house where prophets speak,
And words are strong and true,
Where all God's children dare to seek
To dream God's reign anew.**

**Here the cross shall stand as witness
And as symbol of God's grace;
Here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:**

**All are welcome; all are welcome;
All are welcome in this place.**

Let us build a house where love is found

In water, wine, and wheat;

A banquet hall on holy ground

Where peace and justice meet.

Here the love of God, through Jesus,

Is revealed in time and space;

As we share in Christ the feast that frees us:

All are welcome; all are welcome;

All are welcome in this place.

**Let us build a house where hands will reach
Beyond the wood and stone
To heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
And live the Word they've known.**

**Here the outcast and the stranger
Bear the image of God's face;
Let us bring an end to fear and danger:
All are welcome; all are welcome;
All are welcome in this place.**

**Let us build a house where all are named,
Their songs and visions heard
And loved and treasured,
Taught and claimed as words within the Word.**

**Built of tears and cries and laughter,
Prayers of faith and songs of grace;
Let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:**

**All are welcome; all are welcome;
All are welcome in this place.**

RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION

ONE: God has placed before us life and death, blessings and curses.

MANY: Let us choose life and follow God's way.

ONE: Let us go now, and be a people of reconciliation and integrity.

MANY: May our "yes" be "yes" and our "no" "no".

ONE: And in all the paths we walk

MANY: May God hold us steady and close.

ONE: May Christ Jesus bless you and every place you enter. And may the Spirit give you length of days and fullness of life.

**MANY: We go in peace to love and serve the Lord, in the name of Christ.
Amen.**

POSTLUDE

Festive Day

David Lasky

WORSHIP NOTES:

The **Call to Worship** is written by Bruce Prewer, and posted on Bruce Prewer's Home page.

<http://www.bruceprewer.com>

The **Prayer of Confession** is written by Rev. Mindi, and posted on Rev-o-lution. <http://rev-o-lution.org>

The **Prayers of Illumination** is posted on the Vanderbilt Divinity Library website at

<https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu>

The **Prayers of the People** are adapted from prayers written by Leslie Weatherhead, posted on

<http://www.archbishopofyork.org/pages/prayers-with-the-archbishop.html>, and John Ballenger, posted on A Preacher Musing. <http://preachermusings.wordpress.com>

The **Benediction** is written by Nathan Nettleton and posted on his website, LaughingBird.net. copyright © 2006 Nathan Nettleton.

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CHRISTIAN LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

Sixth Sunday After Epiphany

Questions for Discussion:

1. Do you think about your need to be reconciled to others as critical to the right worship of God?
2. When have you been in a community in which there were deep divisions? How were those divisions bridged (or not)?
3. Take a look at other biblical texts that talk about anger: 1 John 3:15, James 1:19, Ephesians 4:26. How might these verses shape your understanding of and response to anger (yours and others)?
4. What is your favorite Superbowl snack?