

# COMMUNION SERVICE

Northampton Presbyterian Church

*Fifth Sunday of Easter*

*May 7, 2023*

*10:00 AM*

# **PRELUDE**

*Prelude on 'Finlandia'*

Ritter

# **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

# RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: We are God's household, crafted by the Architect of creation:

**MANY: Our hearts a shelter for the outcast; our hands open to the stranger.**

ONE: We are God's people, created in the divine image:

**MANY: To tell others of God's love, to offer mercy as freely as we have received it.**

ONE: We are God's children, called to give of ourselves:

**MANY: Chosen to serve the lost and lonely, gifted to minister to a hurting world.**

ONE: Let us proclaim together the goodness of God, who has called us out of darkness into his marvelous light!

# HYMN

*From All That Dwell Below the Skies*

*LASST UNS ERFREUEN*

**From all that dwell below the skies**

**Let the Creator's praise arise:**

**Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Let the Redeemer's name be sung**

**Through every land, by every tongue.**

**Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Alleluia!**

**In every land begin the song;  
To every land the strains belong:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
In cheerful sound all voices raise  
And fill the world with joyful praise.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Alleluia!**

**Eternal are thy mercies, Lord;  
Eternal truth attends thy word.**

**Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore,  
Till suns shall rise and set no more.**

**Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Alleluia!**

# **UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Hear the brokenness of our lives, Precious God. We cover our ears so we cannot hear the cries of those in need, or your voice urging us to respond. We rush together to defend every issue that matters to us, but quickly disperse when you would call us to be your holy people. We shout as loud as we can to cheer on our favorite teams, but can manage only whispers when it comes to sharing the good news. Forgive us, our Eternal Guide, and do not hold our sins against us. We lay the garments of our foolishness at your feet, so you might clothe us in grace and hope. Feed us with the spiritual food that flows from your heart so we might be strong enough to follow Jesus as he leads us in the Way, the Truth, and the Life.**

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

## **RESPONSIVE ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**ONE:** You are no longer alone — you are God's Beloved. You are not of this world, but residents of God's Kingdom. You, who once had no hope, have been filled with forgiveness.

**MANY:** Each one of us, all of us, have received God's mercy in Christ. Forgiven, redeemed, made whole — we are a people made one in faith. Thanks be to God. 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

## READERS THEATER *(Acts 7:55-60)*

M: But filled with the Holy Spirit,

D: He gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God

M: And Jesus standing at the right hand of God.

**ALL: “Look,”**

M: He said,

D: “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!”

M: But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him.

**ALL:** Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul.

M: While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed,

D: “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.”

M: Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice,

**ALL:** “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.”

D: When he had said this, he died.

## **NEW TESTAMENT READING**

*John 14:1-14*

# SERMON

Rev. Maggie Ainslie

# HYMN

*In the Bulb There Is a Flower*

PROMISE

*(vs. 1 Solo: Steve Cocchia)*

*In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;*

*In cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!*

*In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,*

*Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

**There's a song in every silence,  
Seeking word and melody;  
There's a dawn in every darkness,  
Bringing hope to you and me.  
From the past will come the future;  
What it holds, a mystery,  
Unrevealed until its season,  
Something God alone can see.**

**In our end is our beginning;  
In our time, infinity;  
In our doubt there is believing;  
In our life, eternity.  
In our death, a resurrection;  
At the last, a victory,  
Unrevealed until its season,  
Something God alone can see.**

# **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

# **CALL FOR THE OFFERING**

*(Scan the QR Code to give online →)*

# **OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

*Communion Song*



*Price and Besig*



# **SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION**

*Invitation to the Table and Words of Institution*

*Sharing of Bread and Wine*

*Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer (sung)*

**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.**

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

*Rejoice the Lord Is King*

Mansfield

## **WORSHIP NOTES:**

The **Call to Worship**, the **Prayer of Confession** and the **Prayer of Thanksgiving** are written by Thom M. Shuman and posted on his blog, [lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com](http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com).

The **Invitation to the Table** is adapted from a prayer posted on Third Space. <http://third-space.org.uk>

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***This morning we welcome Rev. Maggie Ainslie as our guest preacher:***

Pastor Maggie Ainslie is the Director of Pastoral Care at Doylestown Hospital, where she supervises 45 paid and volunteer chaplains. Prior work includes pastoral care work in the Jefferson Hospital system, and eleven years pastoring Atonement Lutheran Church in the Fishtown neighborhood of Philadelphia. Her husband Matt is a librarian at Temple University and they are parents to Ben (19) and Isaac (17). They live in Swarthmore.