

WORSHIP SERVICE

Northampton Presbyterian Church

Transfiguration Sunday

February 11, 2024

10:00 AM

PRELUDE

At the Cross Her Station Keeping

Anthony Giamanco

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Annual Please join us following the worship service this morning for a Sharing Session with Rev. Dr. Eric Sarwar.
- Pop-Up Team Event with Northampton Township Fire Department, Monday (2/12) at 6 PM.

- Fastnacht Day Fellowship Hour, Tuesday (2/13) from 9:30-10:30 AM
- Bible Study for Everyone, Tuesday (2/13) at 11 AM.
- Men's Breakfast at Robin Hood, Wednesday (2/14) at 8:30 AM.
- Ash Wednesday Service (2/14) at 6:30 PM.

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: We worship you, O God, with songs of praise.

MANY: We worship you with words of prayer and with ears that listen for you to speak your saving truth into our lives.

ONE: We worship you in the silent spaces where we struggle for hope and for courage.

MANY: We long for a glimpse of your glory: the glory that shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it;

ONE: The glory that touches lives with a beauty so holy that it heals the wounded soul.

MANY: May we live every moment changed by such glory—daring to live with hope and courage and love reflecting the life of Jesus, through whom your glory shines in the most unexpected ways. Amen.

HYMN

We Are Standing on Holy Ground

HOLY GROUND

**We are standing on holy ground,
And I know that there are angels all around;
Let us praise Jesus now;
We are standing in his presence on holy ground.**

**We are standing on holy ground,
And I know that there are angels all around;
Let us praise Jesus now;
We are standing in his presence on holy ground.**

**We are standing on holy ground,
And I know that there are angels all around;
Let us praise Jesus now;
We are standing in his presence on holy ground.**

RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ONE: God of Mercy and Grace, you come to us in Jesus of Nazareth to break down the dividing walls of hostility between us: Yet we maintain walls that separate and isolate.

MANY: You give us the ministry of reconciliation: Yet we nurse our wounds and withhold mercy and forgiveness.

ONE: You invite us to join with Peter, James, and John on the mountain of Transfiguration: Yet we deny the wonders you have worked in our own lives.

MANY: You ask us to acknowledge and share our wealth: Yet we refuse to recognize and relieve the poverty around us.

ONE: You bless our lives with boundless love: Yet we fail to witness to that love, and so keep others from knowing you.

MANY: Forgive our selfishness, we pray. Transform us by your Spirit and your Word into that which pleases you, that we might bear the image of Christ into the world. 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

OLD TESTAMENT READING

2 Kings 2:1-12

HYMN

Psalm 18 / Zaboor 18

(Sung with accompaniment of an Indian harmonium)

This setting of Psalm 18 was composed by Emily R. Brink and Eric Sarwar, who prepared an English translation of the most loved psalm from the Punjabi Zaboor - Punjabi Psalter - of 1908. (Punjab is an area encompassing both eastern Pakistan and northern India).

**God reached down, from up on high,
and took hold, took hold of me.**

**From great depth, of waters deep,
God drew me out.**

**O Lord, my strength,
I love you, God, my rock.**

**I was attacked, I was attacked,
In the day of my distress.
But the Lord, God my Rock,
Was my help, my strong support.**

**O Lord, my strength,
I love you, God, my rock.**

**God brought me out, God brought me out,
Into a great spacious place.**

**God redeemed and rescued me,
For he took delight in me.**

**O Lord, my strength,
I love you, God, my rock.**

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Mark 9:2-9

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Eric Sarwar

HYMN

Come to the Mountain Peak

DIADEMATA

Come to the mountain peak.

God patiently awaits

All those who come to pray and seek

What holy rest creates.

God moves within a cloud,

Transfigures with Loves grace

Till knees and hearts are humbly bowed

And welcome God's embrace.

**But some react in fear,
Not knowing what to do.
In disbelief of all they hear,
They wonder what is true.**

**Can Moses teach today?
Can ancient truth still live?
Can prophet's warnings still convey
The Word that God will give?**

**Behold redemption's face,
Beloved of the Lord!**

**Receive the mantel of his grace,
That he may be adored.**

And, do not tarry long.

This vision still endures!

**The world awaits salvation's song
Which God, in Christ, confers.**

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

(Scan the QR Code to give online →)



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

The Mighty Power of God

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.

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

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 it is 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

Peace of God Be with You

AS-SALAAMU LAKUM

Peace of God be with you.

Peace of God be with you.

Salaam, salaam.

Peace of God be with you.

Peace of God be with you.

Peace of God be with you.

Salaam, salaam.

Peace of God be with you.

Peace of God be with you.

Peace of God be with you.

Salaam, salaam.

Peace of God be with you.

A BLESSING FOR TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

Dazzling

POSTLUDE

Sending Forth

Giles

GUEST PREACHER

We are pleased to welcome the Rev. Dr. Eric Sarwar and his family to NPC this morning.

Eric Sarwar, a Christian Reformed church planter in Artesia, CA, is a global partner with Princeton (N.J.) Theological Seminary's Overseas Mission Study Center's 2023-24 Residential Study Program and, along with his family, is in residence there until June. A pastor, songwriter and author of Pakistani descent with a doctorate in Intercultural Studies from Fuller Theological Seminary, Sarwar is writing a history of the North Indian Punjab Mission to "help the Western church to understand and engage with the significant rise of the

Indian and Pakistani diaspora globally and locally." Dr. Sarwar is continuing to minister to his home church, an Indo-Pakistani congregation in Artesia, California once each month to preach and serve communion.





The choir of Artesia City Church proudly wears our robes!

As a president of the Presbyterian Tehillim School of Church Music & Worship, Dr. Sarwar's ministry in Pakistan focuses on the academic study of ethnomusicology and missiology, equipping, engaging, and educating the next generation of local worship leaders. Currently, 160 students (75 students in hybrid online) and 80 students in weekly Church Music Skills classes across Pakistan are enrolled, and a new branch of the school has opened in Punjab. Dr. Sarwar's professional work includes four albums and five books on worship and music studies in the Urdu language. At Princeton, he enjoys leading Urdu/Punjabi songs during choir practice at the seminary. His lecture Art of Sacred Sound, at the Oxford Interfaith Forum, received the Global Peace Award 2023 from the King of Oman.

WORSHIP NOTES:

Transfiguration Sunday:

*An excerpt from the **Companion to the Book of Common Worship***

(Geneva Press, 2003, 148-149):

The Sunday immediately prior to Ash Wednesday is an appropriate time to celebrate the Transfiguration of the Lord, because this event marked a transition in Jesus' ministry in which he "set his face to go to Jerusalem" (Luke 9:51), where he would die.

In Jesus' transfiguration, we are assured that Jesus is the hope of the ages. Jesus is the One who fulfilled the Law given through Moses, the one dreamed of by the prophets, of whom Elijah is the greatest.

In celebrating this event, we rejoice in the divine majesty of Christ, whose glory shone even when confronted with the cross. It is given us for our journey through Lent toward the agony of the cross and the victory of the empty tomb. We celebrate this mystery in order that our faith may be renewed. We are transformed into the new being in Christ as we join Christ in his death and resurrection in Lent and Easter.

WORSHIP NOTES:

The **Call to Worship** is adapted from a prayer written by Christine Jerrett, and posted on Christine Jerrett: Reflections on being the Church in God's new creation. <http://christinejerrett.wordpress.com/tag/prayer/>

The **Prayer of Confession** and **Assurance of Pardon** are adapted from "God of Awe and Glory," written by the Rev. Dr. Renee C. Jackson, Southeast Area Minister for the Michigan Conference, UCC. Posted on the United Church of Christ's Worship Ways website. http://www.ucc.org/worship_worship-ways

Notes on the Punjabi Psalm 18 from the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship:

"Psalm 18 is ... an exuberant testimony of how God 'reached down' to rescue and deliver one who cried out in distress to God: 'I was attacked, . . . but God rescued me,' and the triumphant refrain: 'O Lord, my strength, I love you, God, my rock.' This most popular psalm in Pakistan is especially beloved by the small and often poor Christian minority there; many are illiterate, but most know this long psalm by heart and sing it frequently.

In 2009, Emily Brink heard this sung at a youth group meeting, in a church, and at a worship conference, each time sung from memory—and this is a long psalm! She was hosted by Rev. Eric Sarwar, a Presbyterian pastor who was attacked later that year. In 2010, his parents and wife were attacked as well. They took comfort in this psalm praising God's providence, safety, power, deliverance, and kindness.

WORSHIP NOTES:

Sarwar wrote: 'In our context of living below the poverty line and facing discrimination and hard challenges every day, it gives hope and encouragement.' The melody is simple and catchy, and the refrain soars with joy. Eric Sarwar and Emily Brink prepared this setting as a testimony of hope for the faithfulness of God, who hears the cries of those who call out for help and deliverance. During the COVID-19 pandemic, when the whole world is crying out to God for deliverance and hope, this psalm offers continuing hope and encouragement." <https://worship.calvin.edu/resources/resource-library/psalm-18-zaboor-18>. Text and Music: Psalm 18; Eric Sarwar; English tr. Emily Brink, © Eric Sarwar and Emily Brink. Used by permission.

The **Prayers of the People** are written by Rev Karla, and posted on RevGalBlogPals. <http://revgalblogpals.blogspot.ca>

The **Blessing for Transfiguration Sunday** is written by Jan Richardson from her book, Circle of Grace: A Book of Blessings for the Seasons. FL: Orlando, Wanton Gospeller Press, 2015, 85.

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