

WORSHIP SERVICE

Northampton Presbyterian Church

First Sunday in Lent

February 18, 2024

10:00 AM

PRELUDE

Lenten Processional

Regina Pozzi

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Christian Life Groups, today following the worship service.
- Preschool Board Meeting, Monday (2/19) at 7 PM.
- Bible Study for Everyone, Tuesday (2/20) at 11 AM.
- Esther Circle, Wednesday (2/21) at 9:30 AM.

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Come in. Feel your feet on the floor. Settle your worries. Take a deep breath. Dust the cobwebs from your ears. Relax the tension in your jaw, for Christ is here. God never stops seeking us. We have been found. Let us find God in return. Let us worship the God of deep waters.

MANY: Amen.

HYMN

God Is Calling through the Whisper

W ZLOBIE LEZY

**God is calling through the whisper
Of the Spirit's deepest sighs,
Through the thrill of sudden beauties
That can catch us by surprise.
Flash of lightning, crash of thunder;
Hush of stillness, rush of wonder:
God is calling— can you hear?
God is calling— can you hear?**

**God is calling through the voices
Of our neighbors' urgent prayers,
Through their longing for redemption
And for rescue from despair.
Place of hurt or face of needing;
Strident cry or silent pleading:
God is calling– can you hear?
God is calling– can you hear?**

**God is calling through the music
Of sublime and human arts,
Through the hymns of earth and angels,
And the carols of our hearts.
Lift of joy and gift of singing;
Days and nights our praises bringing:
God is calling– and we hear!
God is calling– and we hear!**

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, you call us by name. You join us in the deep waters of life. You invite us to drop our nets and follow you, and yet, more often than we'd like to admit, we are like Peter. Over and over again, we stand slack jawed and surprised to find you in our midst. Forgive us for drowning out your voice with our own. Forgive us for assuming that we can tackle deep waters by ourselves. Forgive us for forgetting that you will never stop climbing into our boat. Turn our hearts, our minds, and our spirits toward you, for you are the Lord our God, and it is in your name that we pray. Amen.

We pause for a moment of silent, personal confession.

RESPONSIVE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ONE: Friends, hear and believe this good news: You can make a thousand bad impressions. You can make every mistake in the book, roll your eyes, and assume you know better. And even still, Christ will forgive you, claim you, and continue to seek your heart. That is the good news of the gospel. Rest, celebrate, and trust in that.

MANY: 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

FROM THE PSALTER: *Psalm 25* (Choir)

Lord, I Gladly Trust

REDHEAD

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Luke 5:1-11

SERMON

Jesus' Pop-Up Project

Rev. Judith A. Dwyer

UNISON AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I believe in a God of abundance—a God who sees possibilities where I cannot, and who holds onto hope when I am at the end of my rope. I believe in a God who comforts—a God who says, “Do not be afraid;” a God who joins me in life’s deep waters. I believe in a God who invites—a God who says, “Follow me,” and, “You will be fishers of people.” I believe in a God who seeks after me relentlessly and persistently—a God of second chances and boundless mercy; a God who calls us by name. We believe. Help our unbelief. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.

HYMN

Dear Lord and Father of Mankind

REST

**Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
Forgive our foolish ways;
Reclothe us in our rightful mind,
In purer lives thy service find,
In deeper reverence, praise.**

**In simple trust like theirs who heard
Beside the Syrian sea
The gracious calling of the Lord,
Let us, like them, without a word
Rise up and follow thee.**

**O Sabbath rest by Galilee,
O calm of hills above,
Where Jesus knelt to share with thee
The silence of eternity,
Interpreted by love!**

**Drop thy still dews of quietness,
Till all our strivings cease;
Take from our souls the strain and stress,
And let our ordered lives confess
The beauty of thy peace.**

**Breathe through the heats of our desire
Thy coolness and thy balm;
Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
Speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still, small voice of calm!**

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

(Scan the QR Code to give online →)



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

That Old-Time Need of Prayer

arr. Craig Courtney

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

O Lord, You Called Disciples

LANCASHIRE

**O Lord, you called disciples, proclaiming, "Come and see!"
And so an invitation began your ministry.
Then Andrew called his brother, and Peter came to you;
More men and women followed, and little children, too.**

You met a busy woman out in the noon-day sun.

You shared God's love, you listened; you told all she had done.

She called her friends and neighbors and brought them face to face

With you, the living water, the bearer of God's grace.

**O Christ, your invitation has reached from year to year!
Through some who heard you calling, a church was founded here.
As faithful people served you so many years ago,
They soon invited others; your church began to grow.**

**God, by your Holy Spirit, now send us in your name
To serve the lost and outcast, the poor for whom you came.
Through gifts of hope and healing, through loving ministry,
May we reach out, inviting the world to "Come and see!"**

BENEDICTION

Lent by Ann Weems

POSTLUDE

Postlude in F

Jergens

CLG Questions

1. Read the story from Luke several times. Imagine the scene. Make note of what details, words or images stand out to you. Where would you be in this scene and why?
2. What is the difference between legitimate, critical self-care and self-centeredness? How do we discern the difference? Do you tend to err on one side or the other of this spectrum?
3. Why does Peter declare his sinfulness in front of Jesus?
4. When have you cast your nets to the other side of the boat and tried something different because you sensed God's call to do so?

WORSHIP NOTES:

This Lenten season, we are focusing on the life and faith of one of Jesus' most famous disciples. In Peter, we see a person who is both steadfast and unsteady, a dear friend and a betrayer, a follower and a wanderer. In Peter, we often see ourselves. By following Peter's journey, we watch the story of Jesus unfold through the eyes of a very normal human trying to figure it all out—just like us.

In studying Peter's faith journey, the lyrics of "Come Thou Fount" come to mind. It's as if Peter himself wrote this song. And so, for each step in Peter's journey, a phrase from this hymn has been selected. As we follow Peter's story, we will sing our way through Lent, binding our wandering hearts to God.

As we journey, we want to affirm that faith is a constant walk of steadfast pursuit, one that ebbs and flows. We want to affirm that wandering is exploration, not necessarily distance from God. We want to affirm the ways Peter keeps going: he drops his nets, he walks on water, he runs to the empty tomb, he swims to the shore to meet the risen Christ. He keeps searching and yearning and loving, even after missteps or mistakes. Ultimately, in Peter's story, we are reminded that God loves imperfect people—in fact, time and again, that's precisely who God claims and calls.

This Lent, we will look for ourselves in the stepping stones of Peter's story. We will reflect on the stages of our own faith journeys as well as who and what has shaped us along the way. As we wander, let us tune our hearts to sing God's grace. May we rest in streams of mercy, never ceasing.

WORSHIP NOTES:

The **Call to Worship, Prayer of Confession, Assurance of Pardon, Prayer for Illumination and Affirmation of Faith** are written by Rev. Sarah A. Speed and posted on *A Sanctified Art*. | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

The **Psalm setting** is composed by Martin Leckebusch@2006 Kevin Mayhew Ltd and set to the tune of “REDHEAD,” which we know as “Go To Dark Gethsemane.” It is published in *Psalms For All Seasons*, Martin Tel, Editor and used with permission.

The **Prayers of the People** are written by Walter Brueggemann, in *Awed to Heaven, Rooted in Earth: Prayers of Walter Brueggemann*, (Augsburg Fortress, 2003, p. 90) and posted on Consider Your Call. <http://www.consideryourcall.org/sites/default/files/CYC-Media/Toolbox/Materials/Worship-Toolbox.pdf>

The text for the **Hymn** entitled, “O Lord, You Called Disciples” is written by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette and is included in *Songs of Grace: New Hymns for God and Neighbor* (Upper Room Books, 2009). Copyright © 2002 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved.

The **Benediction** is written by Ann Weems and published in her book, *Kneeling in Jerusalem*. (p. 22). Presbyterian Publishing Corporation. Kindle Edition.

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