

# WORSHIP SERVICE

Northampton Presbyterian Church

*“Simple Gifts Worship”  
Seventh Sunday After Pentecost*

*July 16, 2023  
10:00 AM*

# **PRELUDE**

*O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

by Williamson

# **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

# RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

*(Inspired by Psalm 65)*

ONE: God of life and love,

**MANY: We rejoice in your abundant gifts.**

ONE: God of all peoples and all places,

**MANY: We celebrate your generosity and grace.**

ONE: God of the earth and the heavens,

**MANY: We praise you for your provision.**

ONE: You visit the earth and water it

**MANY: Softening it with showers and blessing its growth.**

ONE: You make springs gush forth in the valleys.

**MANY: From your lofty abode you water the mountains.**

ONE: God of life and love,

**MANY: We bless your holy name.**

# HYMN

*Let Us with a Gladsome Mind*

*MONKLAND*

**Let us, with a gladsome mind**

**Praise the Lord who is so kind:**

**For God's mercies shall endure,**

**Ever faithful, ever sure.**

**God, with all-commanding might,**

**Filled the new-made world with light:**

**For God's mercies shall endure,**

**Ever faithful, ever sure.**

**All things living God does feed;  
With full measure, meets their need:  
For God's mercies shall endure,  
Ever faithful, ever sure.**

**Let us, with a gladsome mind  
Praise the Lord who is so kind:  
For God's mercies shall endure,  
Ever faithful, ever sure.**

# PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

## READER'S THEATER

*Genesis 25:19-34*

ANGEL: Abraham fathered Isaac.

REBEKAH: Isaac was 40 years old when he married me, Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel and sister of Laban.

ISAAC: I prayed to the Lord because Rebekah was childless for twenty years.

ANGEL: But while she was pregnant, the children struggled with each other inside of her.

REBEKAH: I wondered why this was happening to me, so I inquired of the Lord.

ANGEL: Two nations are in your womb; two people will come from you and be separated. One people will be stronger than the other, and the older will serve the younger.

REBEKAH: I gave birth to twins.

ISAAC: The first one came out red-looking, covered with hair like a fur coat, my favorite, and we named him Esau.

REBEKAH: But Jacob, my favorite, came out grasping Esau's heel with his hand. So he was named Jacob.

ANGEL: Isaac was 60 years old when they were born.

ISAAC: When the boys grew up, Esau became an expert hunter, an outdoorsman.



REBEKAH: But Jacob was a quiet man who stayed at home.

JACOB: Once when I, Jacob, was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field exhausted.

ESAU: Let me eat some of that red stew, because I'm exhausted.

JACOB: First sell me your birthright.

ESAU: Look, I'm about to die, so what good is a birthright to me?

JACOB: Swear to me first.

ESAU: I swear the birthright is yours.

JACOB: Here you go; bread and lentil stew to Esau.

ANGEL: As you can see, Esau despised his birthright.

# **NEW TESTAMENT READING**

*Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23*

# **SERMON**

*Heavenly Blues*

Rev. Judith A. Dwyer

# HYMN

*Love-Sowing God*

*THE GIFT OF LOVE / THE RIVER IS WIDE*

**Love-sowing God, sow love in me.**

**Sow seeds of grace abundantly.**

**My soul be soil where love may root**

**And grow and bear your precious fruit.**

**Where habit's feet and wheels have tracked,**

**My anxious work the soil has packed,**

**Soften my soul with bliss or pain,**

**So love may enter in again.**

**My angry thorns, my selfish weeds,  
God, clear away, and sow your seeds.  
Despite the hungry, wanting bird,  
Love, plant in me your living Word.**

**Love-sowing God, your labors done,  
Help me to trust the rain and sun,  
Receive your grace and faithfully  
Bear forth your love that grows in me**

# THE OFFERING

*(Scan the QR Code to give online →)*



**MUSICAL MEDITATION** *(Kevin Kauermann, cello)*

*It Is Well with My Soul*

arr. Abramsky

# **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**

*For the Fruit of All Creation*

*AR HYDY NOS*

**For the fruit of all creation,**

**Thanks be to God.**

**For the gifts to every nation,**

**Thanks be to God.**

**For the plowing, sowing, reaping,**

**Silent growth while we are sleeping,**

**Future needs in earth's safe-keeping,**

**Thanks be to God.**



**In the just reward of labor,**

**God's will be done.**

**In the help we give our neighbor,**

**God's will be done.**

**In our world-wide task of caring**

**For the hungry and despairing,**

**In the harvests we are sharing,**

**God's will be done.**

**For the harvests of the Spirit,**

**Thanks be to God.**

**For the good we all inherit,**

**Thanks be to God.**

**For the wonders that astound us,**

**For the truths that still confound us,**

**Most of all that love has found us,**

**Thanks be to God.**

**BLESSING**

**POSTLUDE**

*Postlude on "St. Denio"*

by Smith

## WORSHIP NOTES:

The **Call to Worship** is posted on Arthur Rank Centre Harvest Festival Resources 2010  
<http://www.arthurrankcentre.org.uk/worship-resources/item/2802-harvest-festival-resources-2010>

The **Reader's Theater** edition of the Genesis text is written by Kathy Applebee. © 2015 Kathy Applebee. <http://www.foolsforchrist.net>

The words to "**Love-Sowing God**" were written by Steve Garnaas-Holmes and posted on his website, [www.unfoldinglight.net](http://www.unfoldinglight.net).

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

"**A Blessing with Roots**" is written by Jan L. Richardson and posted on her blog, [www.paintedprayerbook.com](http://www.paintedprayerbook.com). © Jan L. Richardson.

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