

COMMUNION SERVICE

Northampton Presbyterian Church

*A "Teaching Service" in Honor of
Monica Platt and God's Window Preschool*

June 4, 2023

10:00 AM



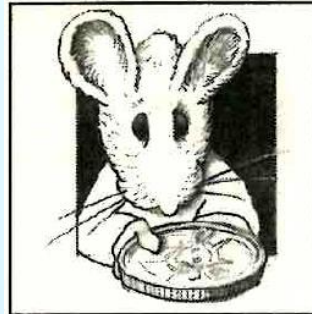
Welcome to worship at Northampton! Today is “Teaching Sunday,” a day to recognize the long service of Monica Platt to the staff and children of God’s Window Preschool. In honor of “Miss Monica,” we welcome Monica and her family and members of the staff, parents and children of our preschool as God’s family in worship.

Today’s service is an intergenerational service designed for children of all ages. In fulfillment of our baptismal vows to nurture our children in the faith, we explain why we do what we do before each section of our liturgy. The word liturgy is a composite of two Greek words meaning “the work of the people.” Worship is our work as the people of God together listening and responding to what God has to say to us.

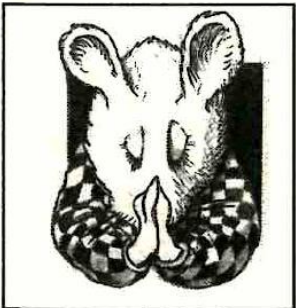
Worship Guides for Children:



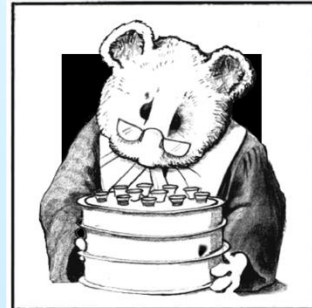
“Listen”



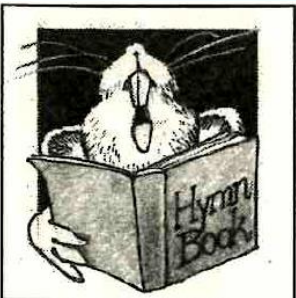
“Offering”



“Pray”



“Communion”



“Sing”

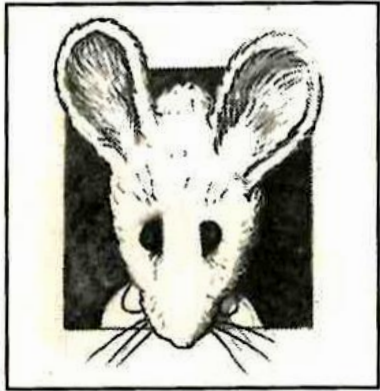


*The purpose of the prelude is to enter into a holy space
by quieting ourselves and preparing for worship.
Let's enter into that quiet space together now.*

PRELUDE

Tranquility

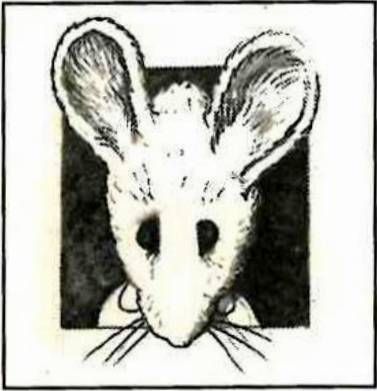
David Lasky



The pastor welcomes all to our service of worship. During the announcement time, the pastor and others tell us about special events in the life of the church family.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Women's "Digging Deeper Study," Wednesday (6/7) at 4:30 PM.
- Bible Study for Everyone, Thursday (6/8) at 10 AM.
- Building Rededication and Strawberry Festival, next Sunday (6/11) at 10 AM.



*The worship of God is the main purpose of the church.
The Call to Worship reminds us that God is
praiseworthy and deserving of our worship and invites
us to begin worshiping God.*

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: In the midst of darkness & chaos...

MANY: **God imagined.**

ONE: In the fury & darkness...

MANY: **God imagined a world filled with trees, and blue skies and fluffy white clouds.**

ONE: In the meadow, God stood and...

MANY: Imagined foxes, bluebirds, and slithering snakes.

ONE: In a world of rainstorms and wildlife and cattle and grasses blowing in the breeze...

MANY: God imagined humanity. God imagined the continuum from man to woman.

ONE: In a world teeming with billions of people...

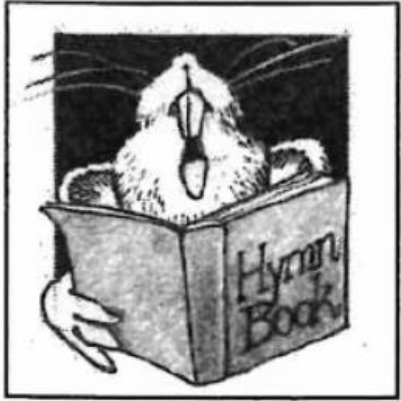
MANY: God imagined me.

ONE: God imagined you and God imagined me. We are created in the image of God.

MANY: God imagined us all. God loves each of us.

ONE: Let us worship with the same imagination as the creating One!

MANY: Amen.



We stand and sing a joyful song to praise God!

HYMN

Let All Things Now Living

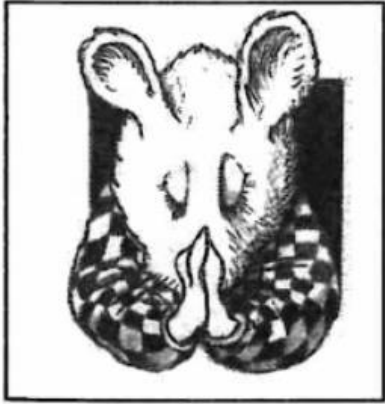
ASH GROVE

**Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
To God the Creator triumphantly raise;
Who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
By guiding us on to the end of our days.**

**God's banners are o'er us, pure light goes before us,
A pillar of fire shining forth in the night:
Till shadows have vanished, all fearfulness banished,
As forward we travel from light into light.**

**By law God enforces, the stars in their courses,
The sun in its orbit obediently shine;
The hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,
The depths of the ocean proclaim God divine.**

**We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing;
With glad adoration, a song let us raise,
Till all things now living unite in thanksgiving:
To God in the highest, hosanna and praise!**

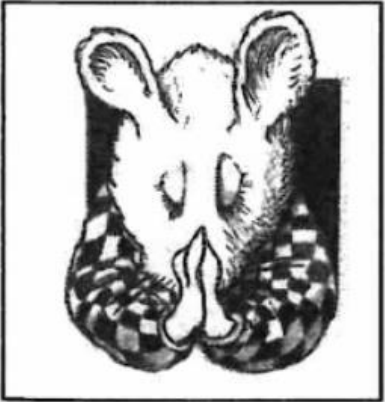


We try to follow God and do the right thing. But when we don't, we can tell God we are sorry and ask God to forgive us. This is what "confession" means.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION: "Hands"

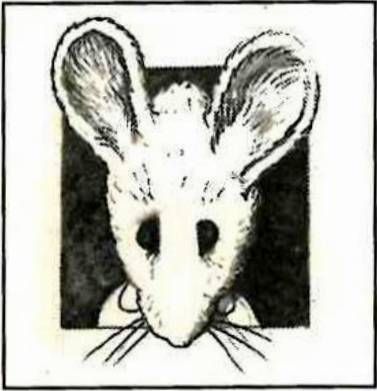
God you created our hands beautiful and capable but... Too often we use them to grab what we want. We ball them up into fists to hit. We use them to hug only ourselves. We hide them behind our backs pretending there is nothing we could do to help when we know there is. So, we turn our hands up to you, asking for forgiveness. Forgive all the bad we have done with our hands.

Wash our hands and make them clean. Lead us to use our hands well. Teach us to open our hands to share with others. Give us the power to shake hands with our neighbors. Show us how to join hands with our neighbors to build your kingdom of love. We pray in Jesus' name and remembering his loving hands. Amen.



Use this quiet time to tell God anything else you are sorry for. To end our prayer, we say "AMEN," which means "so be it."

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

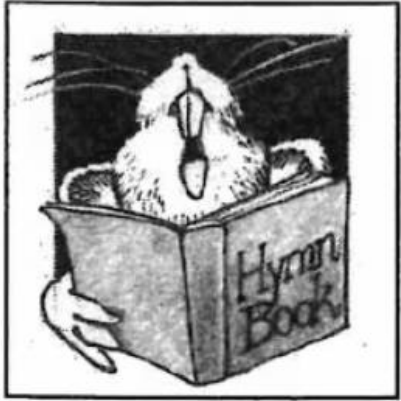


*After saying we are sorry, we hear the good news
that God forgives us for everything.*

RESPONSIVE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ONE: God loves us enough to forgive us again and again and again. God loves us so much that God lived among us, died, and rose again in Jesus of Nazareth. Always remember that God loves us and forgives us.

MANY: **Thanks be to God!**



*We stand and sing because we are
happy that God has forgiven us.*

HYMN

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me *GLORY TO GOD*

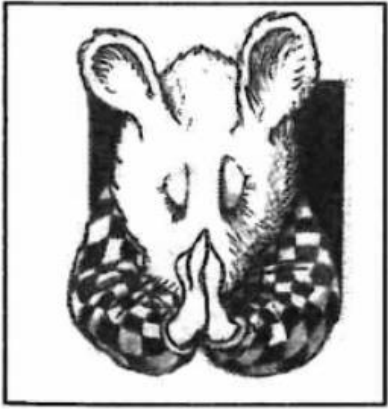
**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
And to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

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.



*In this prayer we ask the Holy Spirit to help us
understand God's Word in the Bible.*

"Illumination" means "turning the light on."

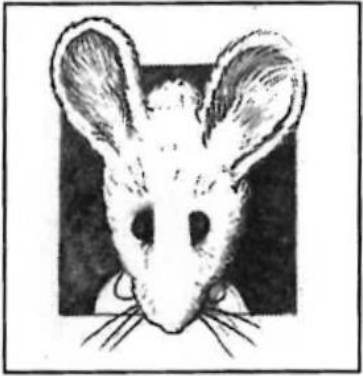
PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION



OLD TESTAMENT READING

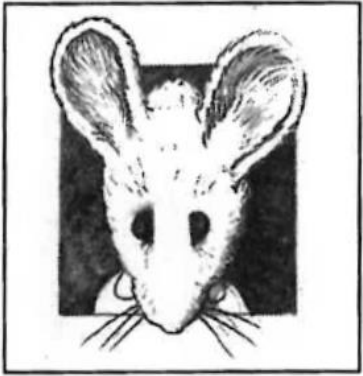
An Interpretation of Genesis 1:1-2:4a, "The Creation"

by James Weldon Johnson, as read by Milo Morris



*It's time for the children to come forward to
hear a story about how God loves us!*

**A WORD TO AND FROM THE CHILDREN /
RECOGNITION OF "MISS MONICA"**



God's Word is written in the scriptures. Can you find today's scripture readings in the Bible?

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Matthew 19:13-15



The pastor talks about what the scripture readings mean. This is one way we learn about God's love for us. We also learn how God wants us to live each day.

SERMON

A Place for Children

Rev. Judith A. Dwyer



*After the sermon, we stand and sing another hymn.
This hymn reminds us of what we just
heard in the sermon.*

HYMN

He's Got the Whole World in His Hands

WHOLE WORLD

He's got the whole world in his hands.

He's got the whole world in his hands.

He's got the whole world in his hands.

He's got the whole world in his hands.

He's got the little tiny baby in his hands.

He's got the little tiny baby in his hands.

He's got the little tiny baby in his hands.

He's got the whole world in his hands.

He's got you and me, brother, in his hands.

He's got you and me, brother, in his hands.

He's got you and me, brother, in his hands.

He's got the whole world in his hands.

He's got you and me, sister, in his hands.

He's got you and me, sister, in his hands.

He's got you and me, sister, in his hands.

He's got the whole world in his hands.

He's got ev'rybody here in his hands.

He's got ev'rybody here in his hands.

He's got ev'rybody here in his hands.

He's got the whole world in his hands.

He's got the wind and the rain in his hands.

He's got the wind and the rain in his hands.

He's got the wind and the rain in his hands.

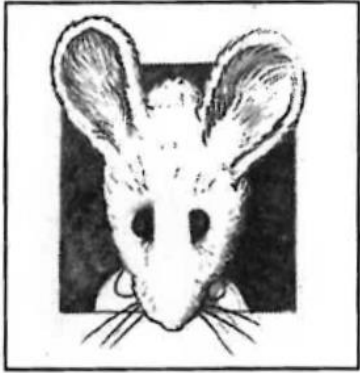
He's got the whole world in his hands.

He's got the sun and the moon in his hands.

He's got the sun and the moon in his hands.

He's got the sun and the moon in his hands.

He's got the whole world in his hands.



When the pastor finishes the sermon, it is our turn to stand and say what we believe. We use one of the creeds of the church. A creed is a statement the church uses to tell its own members and the world who and what it is; what it believes about God; and what it will do because of what it believes. Today we are using the Apostles' Creed.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: ***The Apostles' Creed***

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.



We give to God because God gives so much to us.

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

(Scan the QR Code to give online →)





*The Choir sings an offering that helps
all of us worship God.*

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

In Remembrance

Robert Kochis



A few days after the crowds followed Jesus into Jerusalem, he ate his Last Supper with his friends. He gave them bread to eat and wine to drink. "This bread is my body," he told them. "This wine is my blood. Do this to remember me." From that day on, Jesus would be with his friends in a special way each time they shared this meal.

Today we celebrate the Lord's Supper. The pastor lifts a loaf of bread in the air, breaks it into two pieces, and shows us the broken halves.

Then she pours grape juice from a special pitcher into a special cup and invites everyone who trusts in Jesus to share the bread and juice.

We pass plates of bread and tiny cups of grape juice to everyone in church who wants to join in the Lord's Supper. When the pastor tells us it is time, we eat the bread and drink the juice. When we do this, Jesus is with us in a special way. We are his friends, too.

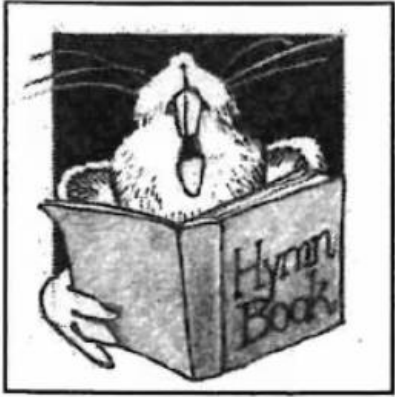
THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Table

Words of Institution

Sharing of Bread and Wine

Prayer of Thanksgiving



*In our church we like to sing this special prayer
after the Lord's Supper!*

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 means “good word.” The “good word” is that God goes with us into the world to do God’s work.

RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION

ONE: As we leave this place, we know

MANY: God will be with us wherever we go.

ONE: At work or play, at home or on vacation, we know

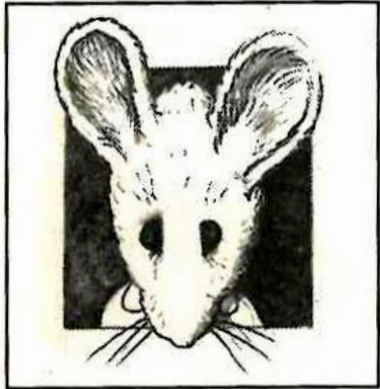
MANY: God will be with us wherever we go.

ONE: Whether we're happy or sad, on our own, or with our friends,
we know

MANY: God will be with us wherever we go.

ONE: So let's go with joy,

MANY: Because God goes with us!



*We sit and listen to joyful music at the end of
the service to remind us to love others just as
God has loved us.*

POSTLUDE

Postlude for a Festival Day

David Lasky

“Prayer for the Calling of the Young”

Adam called to walk with God
Joseph called to dream
Esther called to free the faithful
Samuel called to serve
Ruth called to find new faith
Jeremiah called to prophesy
David called to slay giants
Mary called to bear God among us

In their youth
Their inexperience and their doubt
Uncertain, unsure
Of the future before them
They heard and followed
The call of God

Jesus

Called little ones to show the way to the kingdom
Called a teenager to feed the hungry
Called John into the desert ahead of him
Called fishermen to a new occupation
Called Nathanael to come and see a new way
Called a young man to rise from death
Called a 12 year old girl to get up and live
Called young women, despised, rejected to be in
his company

In their youth
Their inexperience and their doubt
Uncertain, unsure
Of the future before them
They heard and followed
The call of Jesus

For Jesus saw and called out of them
Their optimism and imagination
Their courage and adaptability
Their hope and their idealism
Their courage and their sensitivity
Their wisdom and their faith

Now, even now, the Spirit calls the young
To stand up for their faith in the face of persecution
To take their talents and skills to places of danger
To raise their voices in songs of protest
To fan the fire of passionate ideals
To build communities of love and compassion
To teach the old to dream new dreams
To minister and serve for the sake of the Gospel

For in them are planted the seeds
of new possibilities
The gifts for the years to come
The insights that will
shape the future
The promises that all things
will be made new

*~ written by Rev Marjory McPherson
posted on the Church of Scotland's
Starters for Sunday website.
<http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk>*

THREE WAYS TO GIVE

Your support is important to our work at Northampton Presbyterian Church. There are many ways you can contribute towards our causes, and every little bit that you commit goes a long way in helping us fulfill our mission.

1

OFFERING PLATE

Place cash or check made out to Northampton Presbyterian Church in the offering plate on Sunday mornings, or mail a check to Northampton Presbyterian Church, 539 Buck Road, Holland, PA 18966. Contact the Church Office (npchurch@comcast.net) to request a set of Giving Envelopes.

2

QR CODE / ONLINE GIVING

Scan the QR Code or visit northamptonpresby.org/online-giving to make a one time gift by debit or credit card. Add your donations individually like you would to an online shopping cart and once you are ready to "check out" just click the basket and continue to payment.



3

SCHEDULE A DIRECT WITHDRAWAL

Scan the QR Code or visit northamptonpresby.org/online-giving to schedule a regular gift (i.e. weekly/monthly) directly withdrawn from one's checking or other designated account.

“THANK YOU”

Dear Judy / Congregation of NPC:

Thank you for your gift of \$500 towards our MLK Scholarship Drive. Your generosity helps local high school students aspiring to higher education and social justice start college off with some extra funds in memory of Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream and legacy. The Ministerium thanks you once again for supporting our commitment to continued education and nurturing civic duty amongst our youth. May God bless you.

In Gratitude,

Rabbi David Cantor

Treasurer, Newtown-Yardley Ministerium

WORSHIP NOTES:

Today's service comes to us courtesy of *A Children's Guide to Worship (1997)* and *Come Worship with Me (2010)*. Both books were written by Ruth L. Boling, with the help of Lauren J. Muzzy and Laurie A. Vance. The mice were drawn by Tracey Dahle Carrier, who illustrates many of the books for children written by Ruth Boling that are published in Louisville, Kentucky by Geneva Press and Westminster – John Knox Press. All are used with the permission of the authors.

The Rev. Ruth L. Boling is a pastor, writer, storyteller, mom and wife. She is the pastor of the Bloomfield Presbyterian Church on the Green in Bloomfield, NJ; past recipient of the Alfred P. Klausler Sermon Award, and the author of three children's books including the bestselling WJK title, *Come Worship With Me: A Journey through the Church Year*. A graduate of McCormick Theological Seminary and Yale University, she enjoys music, reading, travel, the great outdoors and the creative arts. She is passionate about children's ministry, climate change and biblical studies.

The **Call to Worship** is written by Tim Graves, and posted on **LiturgyBits**. <https://liturgybits.wordpress.com>

The **Prayer of Confession** is written by Carolyn Brown and posted on <http://www.worshipingwithchildren.blogspot.com>

The **Interpretation of Genesis 1:1-2:4a**, "The Creation" by James Weldon Johnson, was read by Milo Morris. Milo is the Director of Institutional Development for the Cunningham Piano Company and a renowned bass soloist who has been the Bass section leader at Allentown Symphony Orchestra Chorus since 2013. The recording was used with Milo's permission.

WORSHIP NOTES CONTINUED:

Sermon Hymn is the familiar *He's Got the Whole World in His Hands*, CCLI Song # 33681 © Words: Public Domain | Music: Public Domain. For use solely with the SongSelect®. Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com

The **Invitation to Communion** is written by Katherine Hawker, and posted on Liturgy Outside. <http://www.liturgyoutside.net>

The **Intergenerational Prayer of Thanksgiving** is written by Bruce Prewer, and posted on Bruce Prewer's Home Page. <http://www.bruceprewer.com>

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