

# WORSHIP SERVICE

Northampton Presbyterian Church

*Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost*

*“A Celebration of the Gifts of Women in the Church”*

*October 8, 2023*

*10:00 AM*

# **PRELUDE**

*Prelude in G*

Stevenson

# **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Worship Committee, Tuesday, (10/10) at 7 PM.
- Men's Breakfast, Wednesday (10/11) at 8:30 AM at Robin Hood.

# RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

*1 Corinthians 12:4-6*

ONE: There are different spiritual gifts,

**MANY: But the same Spirit.**

ONE: There are many of us,

**MANY: But the same Spirit who gives to us all.**

ONE: There are different ministries,

**MANY: And the same Lord.**

ONE: There are many places for us to serve,

**MANY: And the same Lord who calls to us all.**

ONE: There are different activities,

**MANY: But the same God who produces all of them in everyone.**

ONE: There are many of us,

**MANY: And one God who calls and equips us for service. Let us praise God, the Giver of all good gifts!**

# HYMN

*There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit in This Place*     *SWEET, SWEET SPIRIT*

**There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,  
And I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord;  
There are sweet expressions on each face,  
And I know they feel the presence of the Lord.**

**Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove,  
Stay right here with us, filling us with Your love;  
And for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise;  
Without a doubt we know that we have been revived,  
When we shall leave this place.**

**There are blessings you cannot receive,  
Till you know him in his fullness and believe;  
You're the one to profit when you say,  
"I am going to walk with Jesus all the way."**

**Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove,  
Stay right here with us, filling us with Your love;  
And for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise;  
Without a doubt we know that we have been revived,  
When we shall leave this place.**



# RESPONSIVE LITANY OF CONFESSION:

ONE: For she who went before,

**MANY: Blazing, praying, pushing, and shoving,**

ONE: As we quenched, silenced, and diminished,

**MANY: Lord, forgive us.**

ONE: For she who stands before us now

**MANY: Preaching, proclaiming, reaching, and naming,**

ONE: As we listen, receive, and embrace,

**MANY: Lord, we thank you.**

ONE: For she who will come

**MANY: Prophesying, leading, creating, and innovating,**

ONE: As we long, anticipate, and hope,

**MANY: Lord, make us ready. May we ever look back and lament, look up with gratitude, look forward with open hearts.**

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

## **RESPONSIVE ASSURANCE OF PARDON:**

**ONE:** God's Spirit is upon us: the Spirit of forgiveness, the Spirit of grace, the Spirit of oneness. Today, and in all the days to come, God's Spirit is with us.

**MANY:** Thanks be to the One who is our joy and our strength. 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**

**SINGING THE PSALTER: PSALM 139**

*My Lord, You Have Examined Me*

*RESIGNATION*

**My Lord, you have examined me,  
You know me through and through;  
You see my deeds, perceive my thoughts,  
My speech, my motives too.  
You wrap me round on every side;  
On me you place your hand:  
Such knowledge is too wonderful  
For me to understand!**

**The presence of your Spirit will  
Be with me to the last;  
Wherever I decide to go  
Your love will hold me fast.  
If I should try to run from you  
I know without a doubt  
No darkness could conceal my path  
Your light would shine me out.**

**You made me in my mother's womb,  
So intricate your ways,  
And even then, before my birth,  
You numbered all my days.  
Before I sleep and as I wake  
I know that you are there:  
How could I ever sound the depths  
Of Your unfailing care?**



**And yet I find my soul perturbed  
By bitterness and grief,  
For many choose to treat your word  
With scornful unbelief  
So search me, Lord, and cleanse my heart  
From all that you abhor,  
Then teach me how to walk with you  
Today and evermore.**

# **NEW TESTAMENT READING**

*1 Peter 4:8-11*

# **SERMON**

*Open Your Gifts!*

Jessica Stehr

# HYMN

*For All the Faithful Women*

AURELIA

**For all the faithful women**

**Who served in days of old,**

**To you shall thanks be given;**

**To all, their story told.**

**They served with strength and gladness**

**In tasks your wisdom gave.**

**To you their lives bore witness,**

**Proclaimed your power to save.**

**We praise your name for Miriam,  
Who sang triumphantly  
While Pharaoh's vaunted army  
Lay drowned beneath the sea;  
For Ruth, who left her homeland  
And ventured forth in faith,  
Who pledged to serve and worship  
Naomi's God till death.**

**We sing of busy Martha,  
Who toiled with pot and pan  
While Mary sat in silence  
To hear the word again.  
We praise the other Mary,  
Who hastened to the tomb  
And found her Lord arisen,  
Dispelling doubt and gloom.**

**Lord, hear our praise of Dorcas,  
Who served the sick and poor.  
Her hands were cups of kindness,  
Her heart an open door.  
O God, for saints and servants,  
Our fervent prayer we raise,  
That, faithful in your service  
Our lives may sing your praise.**

# **OFFERING SENTENCE**

*(Scan the QR Code to give online →)*

# **OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

*How Sweet the Sound*



*JONES*

# **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.**



# **PRAYER LITANY**

*“It’s About Jesus”*

by Ann Weems

## **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**

*Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak*

*CANONBURY*

**Lord, speak to me that I may speak**

**In living echoes of your tone.**

**As you have sought, so let me seek**

**Your erring children, lost and lone.**

**O lead me, Lord, that I may lead  
The wandering and the wavering feet.  
O feed me, Lord, that I may feed  
Your hungering ones with manna sweet.**

**O teach me, Lord, that I may teach  
The precious truths which you impart.  
And wing my words that they may reach  
The hidden depths of many a heart.**

**O fill me with your fullness, Lord,  
Until my very hearts o'erflow  
In kindling thought and glowing word,  
Your love to tell, your praise to show.**

**O use me, Lord, use even me,  
Just as you will, and when, and where  
Until your blessed face I see,  
Your rest, your joy, your glory share.**

# CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

God's gifts and mercies have been lavished upon us with abundance. These gifts and mercies have been taken up by many faithful people, and this day we celebrate the faithful women who have used their gifts and shared God's mercies with us. May we, inspired by God's grace and the faithful women in our lives, go forth from this place, ready to serve, ready to listen, ready to answer God's call. **Amen!**

## POSTLUDE

*Sending Forth*

Shirlen

## WORSHIP NOTES:

- The **Call to Worship**, **Prayer of Confession** and **Benediction** are written by April Fiet and posted on Worship Resources for Celebrating Women in Ministry Sunday | Faithward.org
- The version of **Psalm 139** sung today is written by Leckebush © 2006 Kevin Mayhew Ltd. and found in *Psalms for All Seasons: A Complete Psalter for Worship*, published by Faith Alive Christian Resources 2012, Grand Rapids, MI.
- The **Prayer Litany** is written by Ann Weems and is found in her book entitled, *From Advent's Alleluia to Easter's Morning Light*, Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2010.
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