

WORSHIP SERVICE

Northampton Presbyterian Church

Third Sunday in Lent

March 23, 2025

10:00 AM

PRELUDE

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

Arr. H. Sorenson

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cathy Cocchia

- Wednesday, 9:00 AM Women's Breakfast, Manny's Restaurant

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

One: O God, you are my God; I seek you; my soul thirsts for you.

Many: My flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

One: So, I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory.

Many: Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.

One: So, I will bless you as long as I live; I will lift up my hands and call on your name.

Hymn #12: Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

1 Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

2 Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might:
thy justice, like mountains high soaring above;
thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

3 To all, life thou givest, to both great and small.
In all life thou livest, the true life of all.
We blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,
then wither and perish; but naught changeth thee.

4 Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light.
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight.
All praise we would render; O help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Luke 13)

MANY: Merciful God, we confess that we have been quick to judge others and slow to change our lives. We confess that we have focused on others' shortcomings instead of reforming our own. Turn us, O Lord, from these ways that lead to perishing. Lead us, O Lord, in your ways that lead to an abundant life.

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

In Jesus' name, Amen.

RESPONSIVE ASSURANCE OF PARDON: (Isaiah 55:8-9)

Many: God speaks through the prophet Isaiah: my thoughts are not your thoughts nor my ways. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than yours. Let us find peace in God's mercy and grace, knowing we are forgiven. Amen.

Hear the good news! The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. He, himself, bore our sins in his body on the cross, that we might be dead to sin and alive to all that is good. I declare that in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

Amen.

Hymn #582: Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

1) 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!

2) World without end, without end, Amen! (x3)
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, Amen!

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 55:1 to 9

NEW TESTAMENT READING: Luke 13:1 to 9

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON: “Give it More Time” Rev. Amarachi Joseph

Hymn #525: Let Us Break Bread Together

1 Let us break bread together on our knees; (on our knees)
let us break bread together on our knees.

Refrain:

When I fall on my knees,
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me)

2 Let us drink wine together on our knees; (on our knees)
let us drink wine together on our knees. [Refrain]

3 Let us praise God together on our knees; (on our knees)
let us praise God together on our knees. [Refrain]

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

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OFFERATORY ANTHEM:

I Will Come To You

D. Haas

DOXOLOGY (#606) AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

(1 Corinthians 10)

. . We ask all this in the name of the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ, who leads us, who cares for us, and who teaches us to pray, saying:

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, forever. Amen.

Hymn #182: I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

1 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
“Come unto me and rest;
lay down, O weary one, lay down
your head upon my breast.”
I came to Jesus as I was,
so weary, worn, and sad;
I found in him a resting place,
and he has made me glad.

2 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
“Behold, I freely give
the living water, thirsty one;
stoop down and drink and live.”
I came to Jesus, and I drank
of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
and now I live in him.

3 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
“I am this dark world’s light;
look unto me, your morn shall rise,
and all your day be bright.”
I looked to Jesus, and I found
in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I’ll walk
till traveling days are done.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: Victory Through Christ

L. Smith

WORSHIP NOTES:

Reverend Amarachi (Meaning Grace of God) Njoku Joseph is a covenant child and a visionary Pastor with extensive experience in global church leadership, adept at transforming local parishes by integrating teaching, preaching, and strategic community engagement.

She is an ordained minister of word and sacrament of the Presbyterian Church of Nigeria. Her dynamic preaching, teaching, faith, and ministry are a testament to her ministerial journey in the USA. Amarachi received a Bachelor of Divinity in Theology from Hugh Goldie Theological Training Institution, a Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies from Abia State University, a Master of Science in World Christianity from the University of Edinburgh, a Master of Theology in Religion and Society from Princeton Theological Seminary, and Certificate in Transitional leadership from Anchor Leadership Academy. She is a Boy's Brigade, Nigeria, Abia State Council chaplain. Regarding ministry, Amarachi believes that, like Esther, God has placed her in a position for such time as this. Rev. Amarachi has had the opportunity to serve in various ministry contexts, including Anchor Presbyterian Church, Wrightstown, PA, Lagos Presbyterian Church, and the Nigerian Army Chaplaincy. Amarachi holds dual ministerial standing in the Presbyterian Church of Nigeria and the Presbyterian (USA). She is blessed with two children: Cyril and Brian.

WORSHIP NOTES (cont'd):

We thank **Cathy Cocchia** for serving as our liturgist this morning.

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