

WORSHIP SERVICE

Northampton Presbyterian Church

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 30, 2025

10:00 AM

PRELUDE What Wondrous Love Arr. M. Jordan

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Pam Kemper

- April 17 - Blood Drive
- April 17 - Taize-style Maundy Thursday Service, 7pm

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 32)

One: Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!

Many: Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, and in whose spirit there is no guile!

One: Then I acknowledge my sin to you, and did not cancel my guilt. I said, "I will confess my transgression to the Lord."

Many: Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin. Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble

Many: Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord; shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

Hymn #119: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

1 Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn king.
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise;
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

Refrain:

Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn king!”

2 Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail the incarnate deity,
pleased in flesh with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel. [Refrain]

3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth. [Refrain]

CALL TO CONFESSION

Merciful God, day and night our sins are before us, and we can find no relief. We confess to you, O Lord, that we have strayed far from you and turned our backs on your love. Turn us again to you and lead us in the way of repentance, that, held in your mercy, we may always stay near you. We ask, O Lord, you hear these sins we silently confess to you...

RESPONSIVE ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

Christ's first words in Mark's Gospel are "Repent, and believe the Good News." Having repented, let us rejoice in the Good News that we are indeed 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: Joshua 5:9-12

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON: "...the Good News [or Atonement]" Rev. Raymond Bonwell

Hymn #834: Precious Lord, Take My Hand

1 Precious Lord, take my hand,
Lean on me, help me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
Though the storm, through the night,
Lean me on to the light,
Take my hand, precious Lord,
Lead me home.

2 When my way grows drear,
Precious Lord, linger near,
When my life is almost gone,
Hear my cry, hear my call,
Hold my hand lest I fall,
Take my hand, precious Lord
Lead me home.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

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OFFERATORY ANTHEM:

He Was Wounded

C. Courtney

DOXOLOGY (#606) AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

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, forever. Amen.

Hymn #366: Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

1 Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling;
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion;
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation;
enter every trembling heart.

2 Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
into every troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit;
let us find the promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.

3 Come, Almighty, to deliver;
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

4 Finish then thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee:
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: We Praise and Bless the Lord

L. Smith

WORSHIP NOTES:

After a 12-year career in finance and institutional investing, Raymond Bonwell attended Princeton Theological Seminary and was ordained to institutional ministry. Raymond served at Princeton for 5 ½ years, at the Board of Pensions (a national PCUSA Agency) for 10 years, and is concluding service as the interim executive director of the Louisville Institute. Concurrently, Raymond served four congregations part-time for a total of six years, and has been a guest preacher in more than 100 congregations. Raymond and his wife Jennifer functionally live in Center City Philadelphia (technically just north in Francistown).

WORSHIP NOTES (cont'd):

We thank **Pam Kemper** for serving as our liturgist this morning.

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