

WORSHIP SERVICE

Northampton Presbyterian Church

Fourth Sunday After the Epiphany

February 2, 2025

10:00 AM

PRELUDE

Awake Thou Wintry Earth

T. Birchwood

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pam Kemper

- The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held today after the service. (No CLGs today.)

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

God alone is our refuge and hope, our shelter and protection.
From our very first breath to our last, God's love and
compassion never fails.

So let us lift our voices in praise to God.

Let us bear witness to God's acts of mercy and love.

Let us proclaim God's glory to all who will listen.

Come! Let us worship God together!

HYMN #267 – Come, Christians, Join to Sing

1. Come, Christians, join to sing, Alleluia, Amen!

Loud praise to Christ our King, Alleluia, Amen!

Let all with heart and voice Before his throne rejoice;

Praise is his gracious choice; Alleluia, Amen!

2. Come, lift your hearts on high; Alleluia, Amen!

Let praises fill the sky; Alleluia, Amen!

He is our Guide and Friend; To us he'll condescend;

His love shall never end; Alleluia, Amen!

3. Praise yet the Lord again; Alleluia, Amen!

Life shall not end the strain; Alleluia, Amen!

On Heaven's blissful shore His goodness we'll adore,

Singing forever more, Alleluia, Amen!

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord God, we do not know how to speak words of hope, because we listen to the purveyors of fear. We do not know how to be loving because our role models are ridicule and anger. We do not know how to be faithful to you, because we trust the promises of all the false prophets who entice us with their simple thoughts.

But you know how to forgive, God of kindness, so we pray you would pour out your mercy upon us. May faith abide in us, so we may serve others even as you have served us;

may hope abide in us, so we may surround the broken with your compassion and grace; may love abide in us, not only in these moments of brokenness, but in every moment of our life with Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, who abides in us.

We pause for a moment of silent personal confession

RESPONSIVE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The good news is that, in our God, we find that safe place for our lives. In God's forgiveness, we are offered the healing we need.

In God's acceptance, we discover the love in which we may abide in every moment of our lives. Thanks be to God! Amen.

HYMN# 582

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.**

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

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 61:1-2a

READER'S THEATER: Luke 4:21-30

SERMON: "Marvelous Words of Grace"

Rev. Dr. Robert Erickson

HYMN #693 – Though I May Speak

- 1. Though I may speak with bravest fire,
and have the gift to all inspire,
and have not love; my words are vain;
as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.**
- 2. Though I may give all I possess,
and striving so my love profess,
but not be giv'n, by love within,
the profit soon turns strangely thin.**

**3. Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,
our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed;
by this we worship, and are freed.**

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

Scan the QR code to give online:



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

As Bread That Is Broken

arr. J. Rouse

SERVICE OF COMMUNION

Invitation

Words of Institution

Sharing of the Elements

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

UNISON PRAYER: A Prayer for Courage

God, give us the courage to be revolutionary, as your Son Jesus Christ was. Give us the courage to loosen ourselves from this world. Teach us to stand up free and to shun no criticism. God, it is for your kingdom. Make us free, make us poor in this world. Then we will be rich in the real world, which is what life is all about. God, thank you for the vision of the future, but make it fact and not just theory. Amen.

Prayers for and of the People

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 #643 – Now Thank We All Our God

- 1. Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things hath done, in whom this world rejoices;
who, from our mothers' arms, has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.**
- 2. O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
and keep us in God's grace, and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills in this world and the next.**
- 3. All praise and thanks to God, who reigns in highest heaven,
to Father and to Son and Spirit now be given;
the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore,
for God who was, and is, and shall be evermore.**

CHARGE and BENEDICTION

May the holy wisdom of God guard your ways and guide your paths. May the living truth of God enlighten your hearts and open your minds. And may the living Spirit of God give you life, and life to the full! **Amen!**

POSTLUDE

Let Your Light So Shine

T. Birchwood

Worship Notes:

Rev Rob Erickson is a retired pastor from Heritage Presbyterian Church in Alexandria, Virginia. He has also served Presbyterian churches in Bensalem, Pennsylvania, Texas, Kansas and Missouri. He and his wife Joan have recently moved to Queen Village in Philadelphia to be near family. Rob and Joan have three grown sons who live in Atlanta, Austin, and Philadelphia and four grandkids who live in Atlanta, Colorado, and Austin. Rob has traveled on missions to Israel and Gaza, Malawi, Nepal, Honduras, Hungary, Ukraine and Mexico. Rob is looking forward to connecting with churches in Philadelphia Presbytery.

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

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The Prayer of Confession is written by Thom M Shuman and posted on his blog, Lectionary Liturgies. lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com.

The Pastoral Prayer is adapted from a prayer by Henri J. M. Nouwen from his book, *With Open Hands*. IN: Notre Dame, Ave Maria Press, Inc. Second Edition, 2006.

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