

# WORSHIP SERVICE

Northampton Presbyterian Church

*Trinity Sunday*

*May 26, 2024*

*10:00 AM*

# PRELUDE

*All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*

Sorensen

# WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Christian Life Groups, today following the worship service.
- **Hymn Sing Service**, next Sunday (6/2). Join us for pre-service songs starting at 9:50 AM. *Communion Sunday will be held on June 9<sup>th</sup>.*

# RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Let us shape a space for The Three:

**MANY: The Spirit as breath of life, the Bread as food of heaven,  
the Love in relationship.**

ONE: Let us shape a space that tangles all three through our life  
and our worship held in relationship and met here.

**MANY: Let us shape a space for the many faces of God woven  
together and revealed in each of us.**

ONE: On this Trinity Sunday let us shape a space to be found  
together in worship.

# **HYMN**

*Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!*

*NICAEA*

**Holy, holy, holy!**

**Lord God Almighty!**

**Early in the morning**

**Our song shall rise to thee.**

**Holy, holy, holy!**

**Merciful and mighty!**

**God in three persons,**

**Blessed Trinity!**

**Holy, holy, holy!  
All the saints adore thee,  
Casting down their golden crowns  
Around the glassy sea;  
Cherubim and seraphim  
Falling down before thee,  
Who wert, and art, and  
Evermore shalt be.**

**Holy, holy, holy!  
Though the darkness hide thee,  
Though the eye of sinfulness  
Thy glory may not see,  
Only thou art holy;  
There is none beside thee,  
Perfect in power, in  
Love and purity.**

**Holy, holy, holy!**

**Lord God Almighty!**

**All thy works shall praise thy name,**

**In earth and sky and sea.**

**Holy, holy, holy!**

**Merciful and mighty!**

**God in three persons,**

**Blessed Trinity!**

# RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*(inspired by Psalm 8)*

ONE: Great God of all creation, who are we that you are mindful of us?

**MANY: You who set the stars in motion, who launched waves crashing against the shore, who knows the heights and depths of the world; Why do you bother with us?**

ONE: You count the hairs on our heads, and call us each by name.

**MANY: You give us your wisdom and you uphold us by your Spirit.**



ONE: You tend to us and care for us, and we do not understand why.

**MANY: We cannot grasp your love for us, O God, for it is unlike us to be that loving and forgiving. We become enmeshed by our own needs and wants and desires and we fail to see beyond anything but our own little circles.**

ONE: Turn us around, O God.

**MANY: Help us to see as you see, and to reach out as you reach out.**

ONE: Remind us once again of the sacredness of our ordinary, day-to-day lives.

**MANY: By your Spirit, teach us to live truly as beings little lower than angels.**

ONE: In your mercy, O God, forgive who we are and bless who we will be.

**MANY: Amen.**

*We pause for a moment of silent, personal confession.*

# **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

ONE: Friends, hear this great good news: God continually shows us another way. God's mercy is as wide as the ocean. God's desire to forgive is as strong as the mighty wind. So let your hearts receive the outpouring of God's love through the Holy Spirit. We are forgiven!

**MANY: Thanks be to God!**

# 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**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**

*Isaiah 6:1-8*

**NEW TESTAMENT READING**

*John 3:1-17*

**SERMON**

*A Letter to Nicodemus*

Rev. Judith A. Dwyer

# COMMISSIONING OF THE PASTOR

*From May 28 – June 6, Pastor Judy will participate in a Travel Study Seminar with the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program. The seminar will explore the legacies and lessons of the Civil Rights Movement in the US South by way of a pilgrimage to Birmingham, Montgomery, Selma, Jackson, the Mississippi Delta and Memphis. Today we commission and bless the learning and travel of our pastor and the other participants in this seminar.*

# HYMN

*I, the Lord of Sea and Sky*

*HERE I AM*

**I, the Lord of sea and sky,**

**I have heard my people cry.**

**All who dwell in dark and sin**

**My hand will save.**

**I, who made the stars of night,**

**I will make their darkness bright.**

**Who will bear my light to them?**

**Whom shall I send?**

**Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?**

**I have heard you calling in the night.**

**I will go, Lord, if you lead me.**

**I will hold your people in my heart.**



**I, the Lord of snow and rain,  
I have borne my people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them,  
They turn away.**

**I will break their hearts of stone,  
Give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my word to them.  
Whom shall I send?**

**Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?**

**I have heard you calling in the night.**

**I will go, Lord, if you lead me.**

**I will hold your people in my heart.**

**I, the Lord of wind and flame,  
I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them.  
My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide  
Till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them.  
Whom shall I send?**

**Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?**

**I have heard you calling in the night.**

**I will go, Lord, if you lead me.**

**I will hold your people in my heart.**

# **RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING FOR MEMORIAL DAY**

ONE: Where swords are turned to ploughshares and spears to pruning hooks; where the guns fall silent and the rumors of war cease,

**MANY: We see the love of God written on the hearts of human beings and offer our thanksgiving to God.**

ONE: Where man says 'I am my brother's keeper and the guardian of his days;' where mothers' sons grow old in lands free from strife,

**MANY: We see the love of God written on the hearts of human beings and offer our thanksgiving to God.**

ONE: Where enemies destroy the barriers that divide and no man's land becomes home to each and all; where color, creed and nation unite not stand apart,

**MANY: We see the love of God written on the hearts of human beings and offer our thanksgiving to God.**

ONE: Where silent remembering inspires songs of freedom, justice, truth and the sacrifice of old shapes the passion for our future; where those who gave their lives and youth let us age in years and wisdom,

**MANY: We see the love of God written on the hearts of human beings and offer our thanksgiving to God.**

ONE: Where courage never fades in the battle for the right and power is given to the weak, the least, the last; where compassion finds a home to root out fear, mistrust or pride,

**MANY:** We see the love of God written on the hearts of men and women and offer our thanksgiving to God.

ONE: For the love of Father, Son and Spirit is the source of human love, the fire of God within us shedding light upon our path.

**MANY:** Write this love upon our hearts God, as we offer you our thanks through Jesus Christ our savior who offers life to us. Amen.



## **CALL FOR THE OFFERING**

*(Scan the QR Code to give online →)*



## **OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

*At the River*

Johnson

# **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.**

# **SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS**

# **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*... as we pray together as Jesus has taught us, saying,*

**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

*Eternal Father, Strong to Save*

MELITA

**Eternal Father, strong to save,  
Whose arm has bound the restless wave,  
Who bade the mighty ocean deep  
Its own appointed limits keep:  
O hear us when we cry to thee  
For those in peril on the sea.**

**O Savior, whose almighty word  
The winds and waves submissive heard,  
Who walked upon the foaming deep,  
And calm amid its rage did sleep:  
O hear us when we cry to thee  
For those in peril on the sea.**

**O Holy Spirit, who did brood  
Upon the chaos wild and rude,  
And bade its angry tumult cease,  
And gave, for fierce confusion, peace:  
O hear us when we cry to thee  
For those in peril on the sea.**

**O Trinity of love and power,  
All travelers guard in danger's hour;  
From rock and tempest, fire and foe,  
Protect them where-so-e'er they go;  
Thus, evermore shall rise to thee  
Glad praise from air and land and sea.**

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

*Holy Is the Lord*

Sorensen



## **CLG Questions: *Isaiah 6:1-8; John 3:1-17***

1. The Gospel of John is full of moments of misunderstanding that can only be remedied by the Spirit, which is what makes the story of Nicodemus an ideal bridge into Trinity Sunday. Why is this Sunday important to the church?
2. Many of us are gardeners and can look to our gardens to help us understand the Trinity. Just as we cannot separate our experience of God from our understanding of Jesus and the Holy Spirit, we cannot separate the different elements of a garden, the flowers, plants and architecture from the inspiration of the whole garden itself. God, like this garden, is too vast to take in from one line of sight yet the distinctive aspects remain. Are there other analogies you can draw on to explain the relationship between God, Son and Holy Spirit?
3. Do you resonate with Nicodemus as he is perplexed over and over by Jesus and his metaphor? Or are you sensing the Spirit of which Jesus speaks flowing into your hard questions of life and filling in the gaps, almost buoying you to meet the challenges ahead?

## WORSHIP NOTES:

The **Call to Worship** is written by Roddy Hamilton, and posted on the New Kilpatrick Parish Church website.  
<https://www.nkchurch.org.uk/original-liturgy>

The **Prayer of Confession** is by Beth Merrill Neel and is posted on Hold Fast to What is Good.  
<https://holdfasttowhatisgood.com/liturgy>

The **Prayer for Illumination** is from a collection of prayers posted on the Worship @North website.  
<https://northchurchindy.wordpress.com>

The **Prayer of Thanksgiving for Memorial Day** was written by Rev Marjory Macaskill, Chaplain University of Strathclyde, and posted on the Church of Scotland's Starters for Sunday website.  
[http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0006/8349/13Nov2011.pdf](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0006/8349/13Nov2011.pdf)

The **Prayers of the People** are written by Thom Shuman, and posted on his Lectionary Liturgies blog.  
<http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com>

The **Benediction** is originally from the Carmina Gadelica III, 201. Posted on Journey with Jesus.  
<http://www.journeywithjesus.net>

Hymns are from the *Glory to God Hymnal*, The Presbyterian Publishing Corporation, Louisville, KY, 2017. All are licensed for use by CCLI.

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from One License with license # A-739749.