

COMMUNION SERVICE

Northampton Presbyterian Church

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 5, 2024

10:00 AM

PRELUDE

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

arr. Bober

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Christian Life Groups, today following the worship service.
- **Keyboard Capers Concert, today at 3 PM.**
- Bible Study for Everyone, Tuesday (5/7) at 11 AM.
- Men's Breakfast at Robin Hood, Wednesday (5/8) at 8:30 AM.

UNISON CALL TO WORSHIP *(adapted from Psalm 98)*

**Come, let us sing to the Lord! Come and sing a new song!
For the Lord has made known his salvation. Shout for joy all the
earth! Make music with guitars and singing! For all the ends of
the earth have seen the salvation of God.**

HYMN

Sing a New Song unto the Lord

SING A NEW SONG

Sing a new song unto the Lord;

Let your song be sung from mountains high.

Sing a new song unto the Lord,

Singing hallelujah!

Shout with gladness! Dance for joy!

O come before the Lord.

And play for God on glad tambourines,

And let your trumpet sound.

Sing a new song unto the Lord;

Let your song be sung from mountains high.

Sing a new song unto the Lord,

Singing hallelujah!

Rise, O children, from your sleep;

Your Savior now has come.

He has turned your sorrow to joy,

And filled your soul with song.

Sing a new song unto the Lord;

Let your song be sung from mountains high.

Sing a new song unto the Lord,

Singing hallelujah!

Glad my soul for I have seen

The glory of the Lord.

The trumpet sounds; the dead shall be raised.

I know my Savior lives.

Sing a new song unto the Lord;

Let your song be sung from mountains high.

Sing a new song unto the Lord,

Singing hallelujah!

RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION

ONE: We, who so often take the wonders of creation for granted, welcome the opportunity to make a joyful noise before you, O God.

MANY: We come here this morning to worship and to praise you, glad that we live in a world filled with such diverse and beautiful examples of your creation.

ONE: Yet, joyful noises are not easy for everyone to make, as we come from differing situations and lifestyles.

MANY: Some are burdened down with the stresses of daily living; some wearied from tasks of serving others; some worried over the state of the world and where that is leading.

ONE: Speak to us all, O God, in the stillness of this time.

MANY: Remind us of Jesus' willingness to take our burdens upon himself and to learn from him, to experience his gentleness and steadfast love for all.

ONE: Jesus offers us his joy so that our joy might be complete. Confident in these promises, we offer this prayer to you, O God, praying that it may reflect our thanksgiving for the gifts of creation and for all that Jesus has done for us. This we pray in his name. **Amen**

We pause for a moment of silent, personal confession.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ONE: Friends, forgiveness comes from God, who does not count our sin against us. For God has reconciled us through Christ and entrusts to us the message of reconciliation. Believe the gospel! In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

MANY: Thanks be to God! Alleluia! 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

UNISON PSALTER READING: *Psalm 98:4-9*

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises. Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody. With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord. Let the sea roar and all that fills it, the world and those who live in it. Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy at the presence of the Lord, for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with equity.

GOSPEL READING

John 15:9-17

SERMON

The Seminary of Not Belonging

Rev. Judith A. Dwyer

HYMN

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

LINSTEAD

**Let us talents and tongues employ,
Reaching out with a shout of joy:
Bread is broken; the wine is poured;
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.
Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again.
Pass the Word around: loaves abound!**

**Christ is able to make us one;
At his table he set the tone,
Teaching people to live to bless,
Love in word and in deed express.
Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again;
Pass the Word around: loaves abound!**

Jesus calls us in, sends us out

Bearing fruit in a world of doubt,

Gives us love to tell, bread to share:

God (Immanuel) everywhere!

Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again;

Pass the Word around: loaves abound!

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *The Apostles' Creed*

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

(Scan the QR Code to give online →)



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Table of Grace

arr. Carter

COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

Sharing of Bread and Wine

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

The Pastoral Prayer

HYMN

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness
And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love.**

RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION

ONE: Go now, and bear fruit for God, fruit that will last. As Christ has loved you, so love one another, and abide always in God is love, that your joy may be complete. And may God give you all you ask for in Christ's name; may Christ Jesus reveal to you God's ways and call you his friends; and may the Holy Spirit confirm the truth within you and make your joy complete.

**MANY: We go in peace to love and serve the Lord, in the name of Christ.
Amen.**

POSTLUDE

Revelation Song

Riddle

HYMN

The Lord's Prayer (Sung)

Our Father, which 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,

Forever, Amen.

CLG QUESTIONS: *Psalm 98:4-9 & John 15:9-17*

1. The Psalms were Israel's "hymnbook," meant to be sung in worship. Today we often preach what was meant to be sung. In Psalm 98, the psalmist gives us an imperative: sing to the Lord a new song. He or she doesn't stop with human worshippers equipped with voices and instruments: the psalm goes on to address the sea, the floods, the hills. All of creation is commanded to join in the song of worship. How does this psalm preach to you?
2. There are times in our lives when a psalm such as Psalm 98 might sound like a clanging cymbal, a loud cacophony that does not resonate with the state of our souls. At such times, if we flip a few pages in either direction, we will find a psalm of lamentation. The gift of the Psalms is that they cover nearly every human emotion we might ever know, including some that seem too impolite or gruesome to be included in sacred scripture. Which psalm of lamentation do you find comforting and why?

3. In the New Testament, chapters 14–17 of the Gospel of John are known as the Farewell Discourse given by Jesus on the night before his crucifixion to eleven of his disciples immediately after the conclusion of the Last Supper in Jerusalem. In chapter 15 Jesus says that "the greatest love is to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15:13). How do you see that happening in our congregation? In our community? How are love and generosity intertwined?
4. How do you "find your home" in Christ's love? What "dwelling time" can you take this week?

WORSHIP NOTES:

The **Prayer of Adoration and Confession** is adapted from a prayer written by Moira Laidlaw, and posted on her Liturgies Online website. <http://www.liturgiesonline.com.au>

The **Pastoral Prayer** is written by John van de Laar and posted on his Sacredise website.

The **Benediction** is written by Nathan Nettleton, copyright © 2003 Nathan Nettleton. Posted on LaughingBird.net.

Though the **Closing Hymn** is best known to us as a Christmas hymn, composer Isaac Watts did not write the text strictly for Christmas. As the note in the Glory to God hymnal reveals, he purposely cast his paraphrase of today's psalter selection, Psalm 98:4-9, in Christian terms and called it "The Messiah's Coming and Kingdom." It is therefore appropriate to sing this hymn during the Easter season as well as during Christmastide.

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

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