



NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Seek, Serve, Embrace | Engaging with neighbors near and far in Christ's love

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Fourth Sunday in Lent | March 10, 2024, 10:00 am

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

WELCOME

Brian Shivers

PRELUDE

"There is a Balm in Gilead" | African-American spiritual, arr. Adolphus Hailstork (b. 1941); Marko Petričić (Organ)

*OPENING SENTENCES

We have entered the season of Lent,
a time to examine our hearts and our lives
and journey with Christ through the suffering of the world.

Let us lift up our souls to our merciful God
and humble ourselves in God's service.

God has marked us as beloved dust
and called us together to worship.

*HYMN NO. 653

"Give Thanks to God Who Hears Our Cries" | MORNING SONG

*CALL TO CONFESSION

Karen Herbst-Kim

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, by the gift of your grace
we are saved from all that separates us from you.
Still, we would rather believe that we can earn your love.
Still, we would rather believe that we are in ultimate control.

Forgive us when we do not recognize
the radical gift of your grace;
have mercy when we fail or refuse
to share that grace with another.

Forgive us, O God, and wash us in your mercy.
Forgive us, O God, and free us to try again.

**For those who are able, please stand.*



653

Give Thanks to God Who Hears Our Cries

(Psalm 107)

1 Give thanks to God who hears our cries and saves in
2 If you have ev - er wan - dered where no hu - man
3 If you have ev - er lived in - side the pris - on
4 If you drew near the gates of death, too sick to

trou - bled days with won - drous works to hu - man - kind that
help was near, and in your trou - ble cried to God, who
of your gloom and cried to God, who broke your bonds and
eat or dress, and cried to God, who heard your voice and

call for high - est praise. Let all who know God's
res - cued you from fear, then thank the God of
raised you from your tomb, then praise the One who
healed all your dis - tress, then sing with sounds of

The singing of psalm paraphrases is the most long-standing musical practice in Reformed tradition, dating from John Calvin's own congregation in Geneva in the 16th century. This recent paraphrase of Psalm 107 illustrates the interpretive flexibility that is a hallmark of the form.

*SILENT CONFESSION

*LAMB OF GOD

Paul Vasile



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have
mer - cy, have mer - cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world:
grant us, O grant us your peace.

*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Siblings in Christ, the past is the past.

**We are not condemned
but offered saving grace.**

Come to the light.

Let its warmth melt away our resistance to God's truth.

God claims us, saying You are my beloved.

Know that we are forgiven and freed.

Praise God for new beginnings!

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all;

And also with you.

(Worshippers may greet one another with words of Christ's peace.)

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

CHILDREN'S TIME

(Offerings added to the Joyful Noise Pail are for mission partner Heifer International)

Children are dismissed to Church School

**For those who are able, please stand.*



PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON | PSALMS

Psalm 107: 1-3, 17-22 | *Ancient plainsong; Jonathan Shinn & John Wright (Cantors)*



Give thanks to the LORD for his mer - cy, and the won - ders he does for his chil - dren.

SECOND LESSON | EPISTLE

Ephesians 2: 1-10 (p. 192)

SERMON

“Sign and Symbols: Faith” | *Brian Shivers*

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

From The Confession of 1967, PCUSA

God's love is a mystery beyond the reach of the human mind.
Human thought ascribes to God superlatives
of power, wisdom, and goodness.

But God reveals divine love in Jesus Christ by showing
power in the form of a servant,
wisdom in the folly of the cross,
and goodness in receiving sinful people.

The power of God's love in Christ to transform the world
discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator
who made all things to serve the purpose of God's love.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

**For those who are able, please stand.*



OFFERING

(please sign the pew pad and pass it to your neighbor)

OFFERTORY

“There is a Balm in Gilead” | African-American spiritual, arr. William Dawson (1899-1990);
Chancel Choir

*DOXOLOGY

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow” | arr. Roberta Martin

Praise God from whom all _____ bless - ings _____ flow.

Praise God all crea - tures here be - low.

Praise God a - bove ye _____ heav - en - ly hosts.

Praise tri - unc God for - ev - er - more.

A - men. A - men. A - men.

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN NO. 415

“Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy” | RESTORATION

*BLESSING AND CHARGE

May the love of God,
the grace of Christ,
and the light of the Spirit
bless us and keep us in the way of truth.

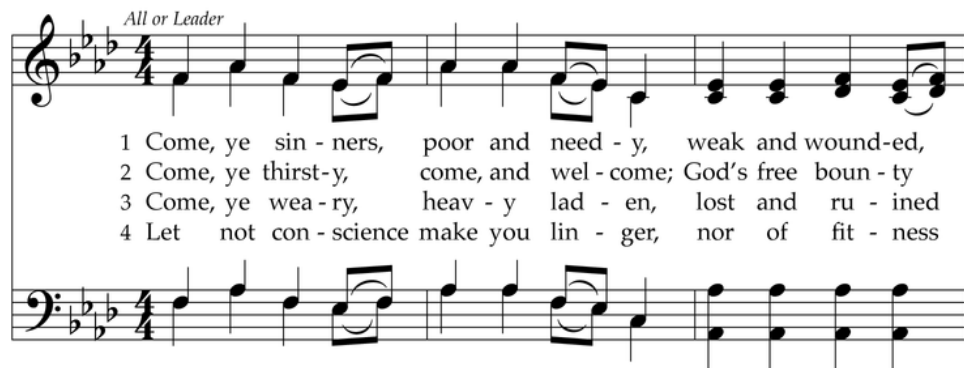
Friends, we have received the immeasurable riches
of God’s grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.
Let us go forth to share this gift with others.
Amen.

*For those who are able, please stand.



415 Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy

All or Leader

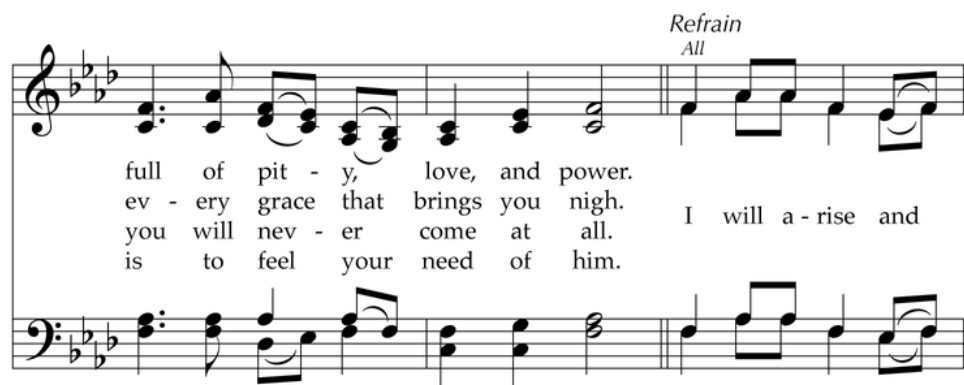


1 Come, ye sin - ners, poor and need - y, weak and wound-ed,
2 Come, ye thirst-y, come, and wel - come; God's free boun - ty
3 Come, ye wea - ry, heav - y lad - en, lost and ru - ined
4 Let not con - science make you lin - ger, nor of fit - ness

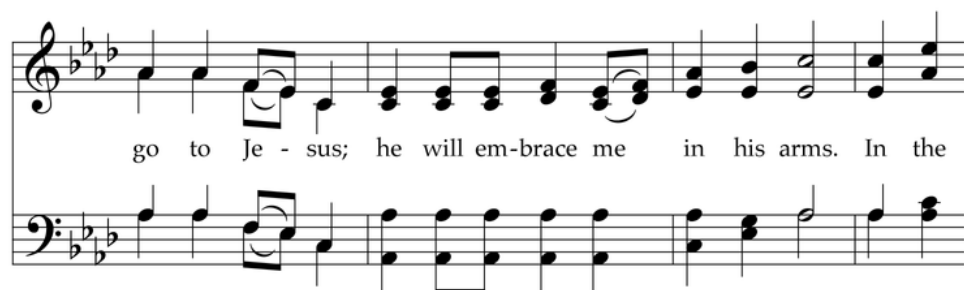


sick and sore; Je - sus read - y stands to save you,
glo - ri - fy, true be - lief and true re - pen - tance,
by the fall; if you tar - ry till you're bet - ter,
fond - ly dream; all the fit - ness he re - quir - eth

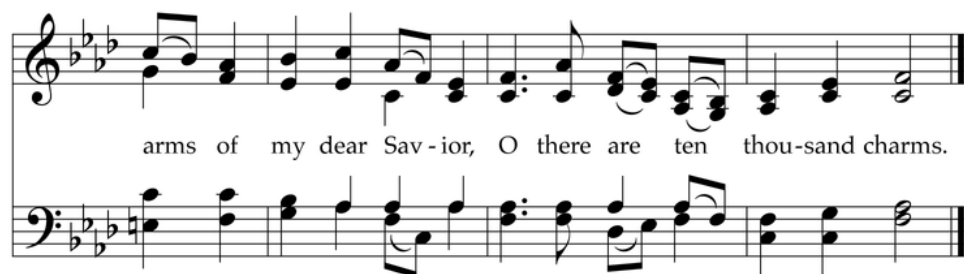
Refrain
All



full of pit - y, love, and power.
ev - ery grace that brings you nigh. I will a - rise and
you will nev - er come at all.
is to feel your need of him.



go to Je - sus; he will em-brace me in his arms. In the



arms of my dear Sav - ior, O there are ten thou - sand charms.

CHORAL RESPONSE

“Rex tremendae (from *Requiem in D minor*)” | W. A. Mozart (1756-1791); Chancel Choir

Rex tremendae majestatis,	<i>King of power and majesty,</i>
Qui salvandos salvas gratias,	<i>You freely grant salvation,</i>
Salva me, fons pietatis.	<i>Save me, fountain of mercy.</i>

MUSIC IN WORSHIP

This morning’s opening hymn, No. 653 “Give Thanks to God Who Hears Our Cries,” is a paraphrase of Psalm 107 and focuses on God’s steadfast love. Writer Ruth Duck changes the Psalm from “Some wandered, some lived” to “If you have ever wandered,” “If you have ever lived” and so forth. This subtle change makes the psalm inclusive of many human conditions that have benefited from God’s loving care. These metaphorical descriptions of helplessness, depression, illness, and fear are open-ended enough to apply to situations almost everyone has experienced. In every instance, the faithful response is to give thanks to the God who has sustained us.

As we are sent forth, the Chancel Choir sings the third movement from Mozart’s *Requiem in D minor*. “Rex tremendae” begins with three shouts of the choir - “Rex!” - on the weak beat of each measure. Then follows the exclamation “Rex tremendae majestatis.” Next, sopranos and altos sing these same words canonically while the basses and tenors recall the Lord’s mercy (“qui salvandos”) in disjointed phrases. All voices come together for the forceful cry “qui salvandos salvas gratias” (You freely grant salvation). The tone then becomes quiet and muted, as Mozart follows these grand statements with a poignant cry – “Salva me!” (Save me!), first sung by sopranos and altos and then tenors and basses. Join us here in the sanctuary on Sunday, March 17 at 4:00 to hear the Northminster Chancel Choir, soloists and orchestra perform Mozart’s *Requiem*. This 80-minute concert is free of charge.

WORSHIP ART

The panel on the Lent banner today shows the ancient symbol of the anchor which was a secret symbol used by early Christians in a similar manner to the fish. The anchor has come to represent the hope that is gained from being anchored in faith. The anchors were made by the youth group.

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Events and Announcements

Matthew 25 Conversations | Today | 11:15 am & 12:30 pm

We are honored to have the Rev. Dr. John Wilkinson from the national office of the PCUSA, joining us for two discussions on embracing the principles of a Matthew 25 congregation. The second conversation will have lunch and a deeper conversation!

“Becoming Whole Through Spiritual Practices” | Wednesdays in Lent | 6:00 pm

Join us on Wednesdays during Lent in the Board Room to Explore spiritual practices and their role in Christian life, seek deeper wholeness through diverse faith practices, and build a connection with the Divine.



Centering Prayer for Lent | Thursdays in Lent | 4:00 pm

Looking for a quiet time to focus your energies during Lent? Centering Prayer is a silent meditative prayer every Thursday that encourages us to set aside our thinking mind. Join us via Zoom for a 30-minute Centering Prayer time and leave refreshed.



Sound & Spirit: Mozart's Requiem | Mar. 17 | 4:00 pm

Northminster Chancel Choir, soloists, and orchestra perform Mozart's profound and emotional work, *Requiem in D minor*, which still speaks to humanity 230 years later. As always, admission is free!



Mr. Rogers Day | Mar. 20 | 6:00 pm

Celebrate the legacy of Mr. Rogers with us in Calvin Hall! As an ordained PC (USA) minister, his birthday is a day to celebrate his work as a pioneer in the world of Christian education. Sign up for Wednesday dinner at 5:30 pm using the QR code!



Youth Group @ Adrenaline Adventure Park | Mar. 24 | 4:00 - 7:00 pm

Adrenaline Family Adventure Park offers trampolines, climbing walls, basketball, and more, and is just \$10 to participate. Learn more and register using the QR code and contact Emma Longo with any questions!



Easter Plant & Decor Donation | Deadline Mar. 26

Please consider a \$25 donation for plants and décor used throughout the Lenten season! Your personal dedications will be printed in the Easter bulletin. You may either donate online or complete a form and deliver a check to the office.



Right Hand of Friendship Project | Blocks Due Mar. 31

Members and friends of Northminster are invited to “piece” or sew a quilt block that will be used to make banners, paraments, and a tablecloth for use in worship. Fabric is provided for you and detailed instructions with pictures are available!



Montreat Youth Conference 2024 | Register By Mar. 31

Rising 9th graders - graduating 12th graders are invited to register for Montreat 2024! This conference offers small group discussions, keynotes, worship, music, recreation, and more. Learn more and register using the QR code or visit our events page.

Additional events and information can be found on our website at northminster.church/events



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Brian Shivers
Pastor/Head of Staff

Karen Herbst-Kim
Associate Pastor

John Wright
*Director of Music
Ministries*

Carol McDonald
Parish Associate

Marko Petričić
*Music
Associate/Organist*

Cheryl Plunkett
Office Administrator

Alexis Gonzales
*Church Operations
Administrator*

Timothy Foster
*Director of
Communications*

Shiloh O'Rourke
Director of Preschool

Emma Longo
*Youth Ministry
Coordinator*

Melissa Hopkins
*Director of Children's
Ministry*

Denise Harrington
*Director of Senior
Ministries*

Tim McElroy
Lead Custodian

Michael de las Alas
Custodian

Tony Dzwonar
*Stephen Ministry
Leader*

Rod Mail
*Stephen Ministry
Leader*

Teri Thomas
Pastor Emerita

Donald R. Durrett
*Associate Pastor
Emeritus*

Matthew 25

As a Matthew 25 congregation, we focus on building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism, and eradicating systemic poverty.

Covenant Network of Presbyterians

As a member of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians, we seek equity for LGBTQIA2S+ people in church and society. We welcome, honor, celebrate, and include all.


Weekly Email Newsletters


Stay up to date with everything going on at Northminster by subscribing to our newsletter at northminster.church/newsletter


Prayer Lists

The prayer list is available 24/7 online! Visit northminster.church/prayer

Connect with us!

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9am - 3pm (M-Th) | Closed Friday



#SeekServeEmbrace