



NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

First Sunday of Lent | February 22, 2026 | 10:00 am

(*For those who are able, please stand)

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

WELCOME

PRELUDE

"What Wondrous Love Is This" | *American Folk, arr. Kurt Kaiser*

* CALL TO WORSHIP

For forty days and forty nights,
led by the Spirit, Christ fasted in the wilderness.

People of God, on this wilderness journey,
what will we eat?

The word of the Lord is our daily bread.

People of God, in this time of temptation,
how will we live?

Our faith is the faith of Christ.

People of God, at this kingdom crossroad,
whom will we serve?

We worship and follow the Lord our God alone.

For forty days and forty nights,
**we prepare ourselves to meet
the crucified and risen Christ.**

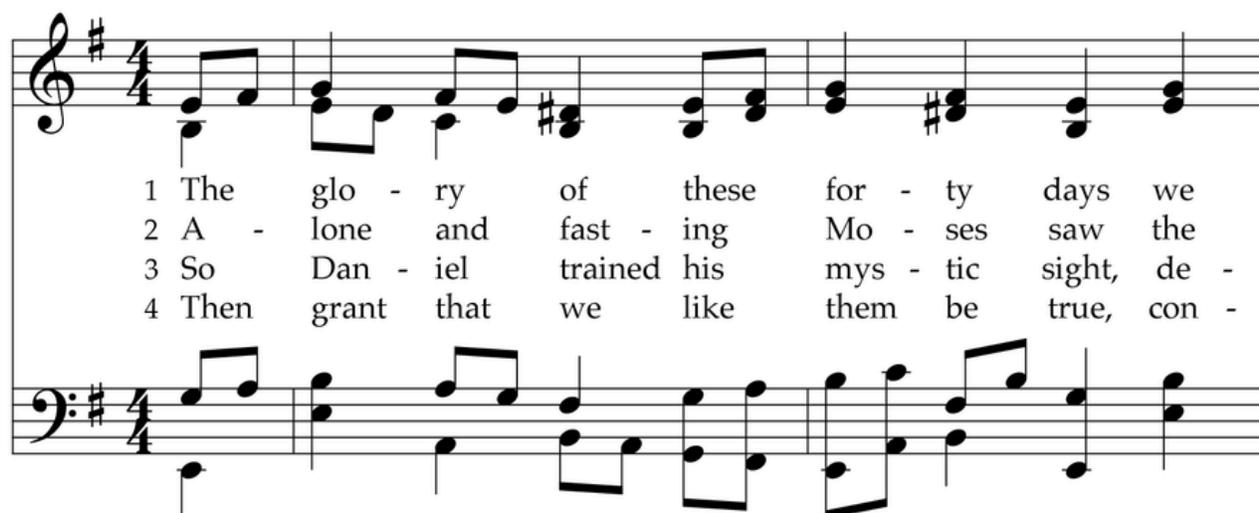
* HYMN NO. 165

"The Glory of These Forty Days" | *ERHALT UNS, HERR*

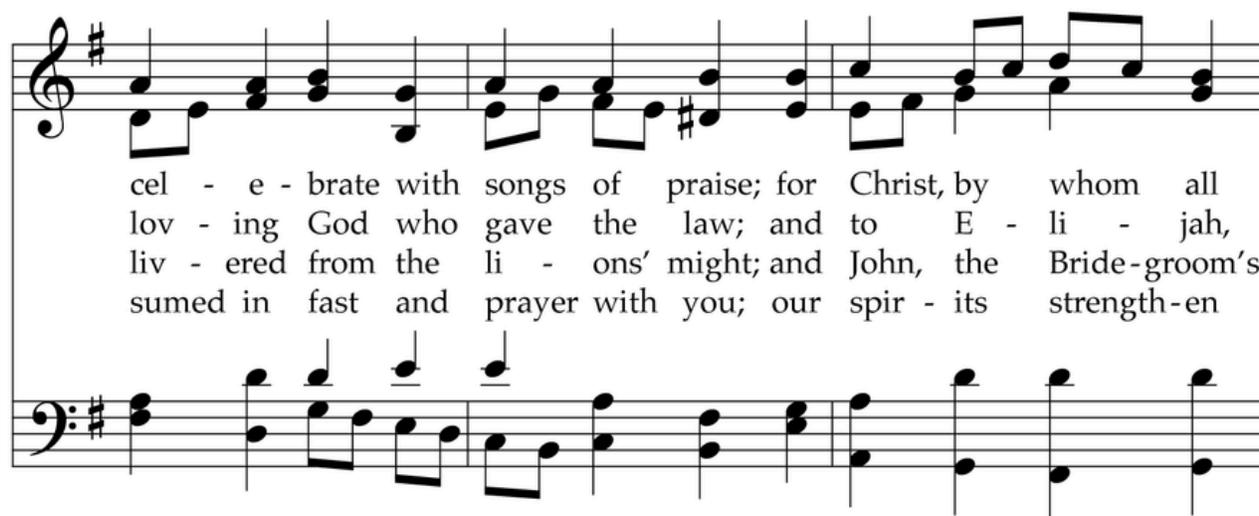
* CALL TO CONFESSION



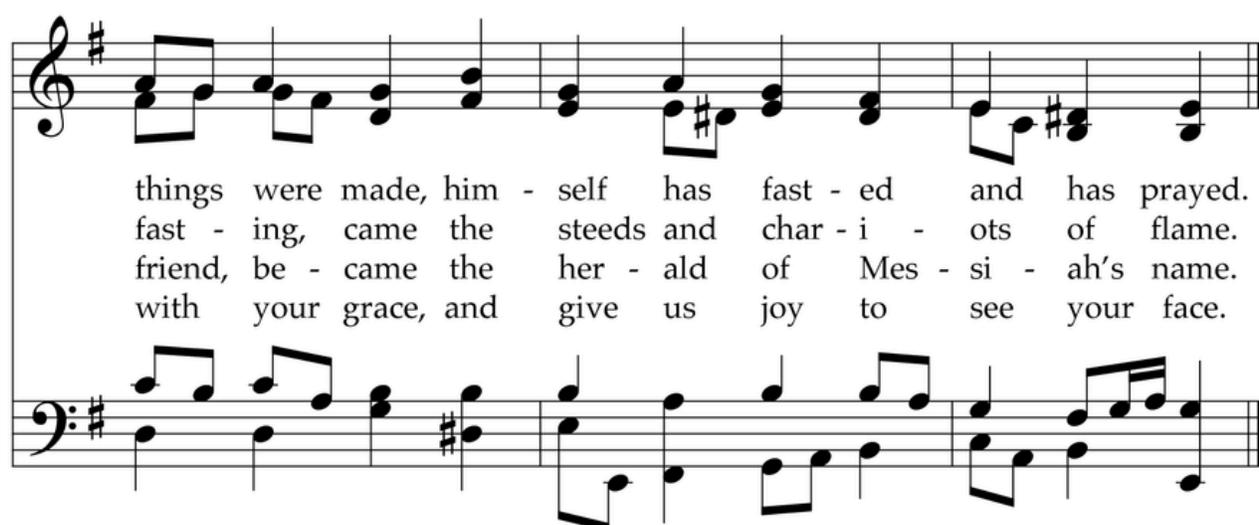
165 The Glory of These Forty Days



1 The glo - ry of these for - ty days we
2 A - lone and fast - ing Mo - ses saw the
3 So Dan - iel trained his mys - tic sight, de -
4 Then grant that we like them be true, con -



cel - e - brate with songs of praise; for Christ, by whom all
lov - ing God who gave the law; and to E - li - jah,
liv - ered from the li - ons' might; and John, the Bride-groom's
sumed in fast and prayer with you; our spir - its strength-en



things were made, him - self has fast - ed and has prayed.
fast - ing, came the steeds and char - i - ots of flame.
friend, be - came the her - ald of Mes - si - ah's name.
with your grace, and give us joy to see your face.

Appropriate for singing at any time during Lent, this stately text connects Jesus' wilderness fast with the solitary testing of other prophetic souls: Moses, Elijah, Daniel, and John the Baptist. This sturdy 16th-century chorale melody formed the basis of Bach's *Cantata 126*.

* **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Merciful and loving God,
you know the ways of good and evil.
You know the things that tempt us.
You know the things that give us life.
You know our nakedness.
You know our sin.

We confess that we have disobeyed your word,
denying your providence and care
and relying on our own cleverness.

Have mercy on us, we pray -
cover us with your grace,
feed us with the bread of life,
and re-create us in your image;
through Jesus Christ our Savior.

* **SILENT CONFESSION**

* **KYRIE**

"Kyrie" (from *Mass in C Major*, K. 337) | W.A. Mozart (1756-1791)

Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison.
(Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.)

* **DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

Happy are those whose sin is forgiven!
Let us be glad in the Lord and shout for joy,
for in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

* **SUMMARY OF THE LAW**

Matthew 22: 37-40

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ says:

**"You shall love the Lord your God
with all your heart,
and with all your soul,
and with all your mind."**

This is the greatest and first commandment.

And a second is like it:

"You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

All the law and the prophets
depend on these two commandments.

* **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

Children are dismissed to Church School

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON | PSALMS

Psalm 32: 1-7 | *arr. Hal Hopson (1933-2025)*



God is kind and gra - cious. God heals the bro - ken spir - it.

SECOND LESSON | GOSPEL

Matthew 4: 1-11 | *NT p. 3*

SERMON

"Tempted to reject Love" | *Karen Herbst-Kim*

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

HYMN NO. 783

"When We Are Tested" | *ANGELS OF HEALING*

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.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

"Agnus Dei" | *Thomas Morley (c. 1557-1602)*

Agnus Dei,
qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.

Lamb of God,
who takes away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.



When We Are Tested

783



1 When we are test - ed and wres - tle a - lone,
2 When in the des - ert we cry for re - lief,
3 When we are tempt - ed to bar - ter our souls,
4 When we have strug - gled and searched through the night,



fam - ished for bread when the world of - fers stone,
plead - ing for paths marked by cer - tain be - lief,
trad - ing the truth for the power to con - trol,
sort - ing and sift - ing the wrong from the right,



nour - ish us, God, by your word and your way,
lift us to love you be - yond sign and test,
teach us to wor - ship and praise on - ly you,
Sav - ior, sur - round us with cir - cles of care,



food that sus - tains us by night and by day.
trust - ing your pres - ence, our on - ly true rest.
seek - ing your will in the work that we do.
an - gels of heal - ing, of hope, and of prayer.

Although the Temptation of Christ is mentioned in all three synoptic gospels (Matthew 4:1–11/Mark 1:12–13/Luke 4:1–13), this hymn is based on the Lukan version. It is notable that each stanza begins “when,” not “if”; temptation is not an optional feature of the spiritual life.

* DOXOLOGY
OLD 100TH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit, evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore.

* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

* HYMN

“When Our Lives Are Ruled by Fear” | ABERYSWYTH

Verses

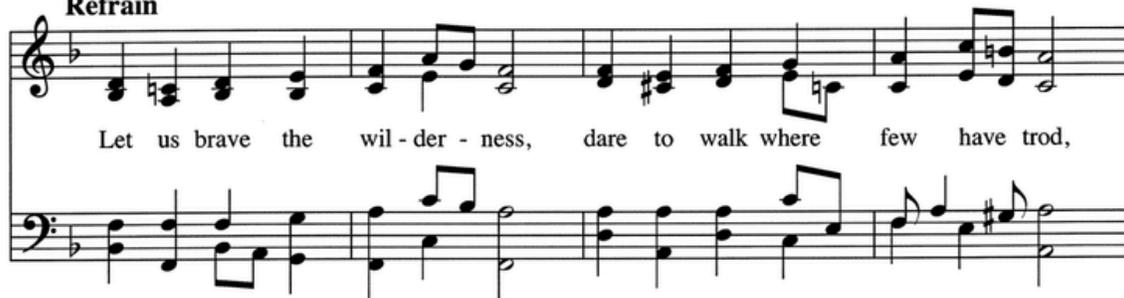


1. When our lives are ruled by fear and our church-es choked by greed,
2. When our faith e - rodes to facts, and our sto - ries turn to rules,
3. When our fam - i - lies ex - clude and our doc - trines still di - vide,
4. When the road a - head is steep and our cour - age is so small,



when suc - cess be - comes our goal and se - cu - ri - ty our creed:
when the cruel are seen as wise, and the mer - ci - ful called fools.
when our ta - bles feed the full and the hun - gry starve out - side:
when we stum - ble at the start and are cer - tain we will fall:

Refrain



Let us brave the wil - der - ness, dare to walk where few have trod,



leav - ing safe - ty's eas - y path, risk - ing doubt, and find - ing God.



* BLESSING AND CHARGE

Creator God, walking in the garden,

breathe life into us.

Tempted God, praying in the desert,

breathe life into us.

Holy God, travelling towards the city,

breathe life into us.

Mysterious God, maker and encourager,

surprise us with angels.

Revealing God, questioner and caller,

surprise us with stories.

Breathing God, dancer and delighter,

surprise us with joy.

POSTLUDE

“Ah, Holy Jesus” | *Helmut Walcha (1907-1991)*

IN WORSHIP

The Northminster Chancel Choir sings “Kyrie” from Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart’s *Mass in C Major, K.337*. Written when Mozart was 26, the Mass was composed for the Easter Mass at the Salzburg Cathedral in 1780. Unlike his “Coronation Mass,” this mass is seldom performed or recorded. It will be performed here at Northminster with choir, soloists, and orchestra, as part of the church’s arts series, *Sound & Spirit*, at 4:00 on Sunday, March 15th. Admission is free of charge.

This morning’s final hymn, “When Our Lives Are Ruled by Fear,” was written by David Bjorlin (born 1984). Bjorlin claims the text “was written as an homage to Brene Brown’s *Braving the Wilderness*, in which she argues that while the wilderness may seem a fearful place, it is also the place where true community and freedom can be experienced.” We sing it especially today as we embark on our Lenten journey. A Duluth, Minnesota native, David Bjorlin earned his Ph.D. in History and Hermeneutics (Liturgical Studies) at Boston University School of Theology in 2018. He is currently Assistant Professor of Worship at North Park Theological Seminary and the Pastor of Worship and Creative Arts at Resurrection Covenant Church, both in Chicago. Bjorlin is active as a hymn writer and has written several journal articles on the history and practice of congregational song.

TODAY’S WORSHIP LEADERS

Karen Herbst-Kim | *Pastor*

Brian Shivers | *Pastor*

Marko Petričić | *Organ*

Ryan Kim | *Cello*

Chancel Choir

Mike Boris, Brian Boak, Nathan Matthews, | *Cantors*

Elisabeth Kleinsmith, John Wright

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OUR JOURNEY THROUGH LENTEN ART

Lent in the PCUSA tradition invites us into a season of honest reflection, hopeful repentance, and renewed commitment to God's reconciling work in the world. It's a time when we remember that transformation doesn't happen all at once but through small, faithful acts that open us to grace. Each adorned Greek cross represents a personal prayer, a story of faith, and a shared witness to the God who gathers us into one body. Together, these crosses form a tapestry of our collective devotion, reminding us that Christ's love binds us, shapes us, and sends us out as signs of hope.

90 unique Greek crosses were collected from more than 60 individuals, showing how creative we are! The methods used to create these crosses included many paint types, stickers, tape, ribbon, yarn, markers, crayons, collage, glitter, tissue paper, fabric, popsicle sticks, paper marbling, and more. The most unique material used was leftover eye patches! See if you can find that one.

The fabric backing these pieces is the former dossel curtain that hung behind the cross in the chancel during Lent prior to the installation of the Fisk organ. The Worship Art team will be repurposing all the dossel curtain fabrics.

ABOUT THE GREEK CROSS

A Greek cross is one of the oldest and most recognizable forms of the Christian cross, defined by its four arms of equal length, forming a perfect "plus" shape. This symmetry gives it a sense of balance, harmony, and universality. Early Christians adopted it in the 4th century, and it became especially prominent in Byzantine art, architecture, and worship. Unlike the Latin cross—which emphasizes Christ's suffering through its elongated vertical arm—the Greek cross often symbolizes resurrection, divine harmony, and the gospel reaching the "four corners of the earth."

In Christian symbolism, the equal arms have been interpreted as representing the four Gospels, the spread of Christ's love in all directions, and the meeting of heaven and earth at the center. It appears widely in early mosaics, church floorplans, and sacred art. It remains one of the most common cross forms in global Christianity.



Events and Announcements

How Faith Informs My Vocation | Feb. 25 | 6:00 pm

Join us in the Board Room on five consecutive Wednesdays starting February 25th to hear from a variety of NPC members on how their faith informs their vocation (and vice versa). Register for dinner using the QR code!



February Mission Team Donations: Canned Vegetables

The Mission Team is collecting canned vegetables for Westminster Neighborhood Services. Consider a donation to the yellow bin in The Gathering Place today!

NPC Knits | Mar. 2 | 1:00 - 3:00 pm

Join us in the Gathering Place to craft with intention as we discuss current events and how we can support our neighbors. Help us make resistance hats or bring your own project! Contact Jill de las Alas for more info!

Youth Group Spring Family Fun Night | Mar. 8 | 5:30 - 7:30 pm

Youth and their families are invited to join us in The Gathering Place for food, drinks, and a canvas painting class led by Decor by Dannie. There is no cost, and supplies are provided! Please RSVP to Emma by March 1st.



"We Keep Us Safe" Public Action Event | Mar. 12 | 6:30 - 8:30 pm

The Indy Action Coalition's #WeKeepUsSafe action campaign is mobilizing, and you're invited! Join us on Thursday, March 12th, from 6:30 - 8:00 pm for the *We Keep Us Safe* Public Action event. Register today!



The Ecumenical Yogi | NEW Episode featuring Kim Allen

Episode three, "Meet Your Fitness Professional," is now available, featuring Kim Allen! Krista and Kim discuss Kim's journey, functional movement, and how her experiences inform her teaching.

Civic Champs at Northminster

Volunteering at Northminster is about to get a lot easier! Download the Civic Champs app from your app store as we transition all of our volunteer opportunities to one location! Questions or need help? Contact Timothy Foster.

MindBody Yoga

Northminster Community Yoga is transitioning all class registrations to MindBody! Download the app today from your app store and be ready for the transition on March 1st. Contact Krista Wright with any questions.

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Christ-Centered | Grounded in the Word | Relevant | Inclusive | Nurturing | Serving

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

Melissa Hopkins
Director of Children's Ministry

Timothy Foster
Director of Communications

Denise Harrington
Director of Senior
Ministries

Emma Moore
Operations Administrator &
Youth Ministry Coordinator

Krista Wright
Spiritual Wholeness and
Wellness Coordinator

Elisabeth Kleinsmith
Family Engagement
Coordinator

Ynfinity Taylor
Bookkeeper

Steve Williams
Finance Administrator

Shiloh O'Rourke
Director of Preschool

Tim McElroy
Lead Custodian

Jonathan McGee
Custodian

Valerie Boak
Custodian

Salima Lutumika
Custodian

Rod Mail
Stephen Ministry Leader

Tony Dzwonar
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.

Parenting and Sensory Rooms

Behind the sanctuary in the Narthex are Parenting and Sensory Rooms.

The Parenting Room offers a private space for feeding, changing diapers, and calming children. Toys, games, and books are also available! The Sensory Room provides a quieter, darker space with tools for those with sensory needs. Both rooms have TVs for livestreaming the service via YouTube.

Fidgets and noise-dimming headphones are available outside the Sensory Room.

Children in Worship

We rejoice in all ages worshipping together! There are red worship bags available with activities as well as a quiet activity table and rocking chairs available on the east side of the sanctuary. We also have nursery care and church school happening simultaneously to worship if that is preferred.

Prayer Lists

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

Connect With Us



@Northminsterindy



@northminsterindy



northminster-indy.org

(317) 251-9489

office@northminster-indy.org

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

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