



# NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

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## SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

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*Sixth Sunday of Easter | May 14, 2023, 10:00 am*

### WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

#### WELCOME

Carol McDonald

#### PRELUDE

"Spirit, Open My Heart" | Alfred Fedak (b. 1953); Chancel Choir

*Refrain:* Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.  
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving.  
Spirit, open my heart.

God, replace my stony heart with a heart that's kind and tender.  
All my coldness and fear to your grace I now surrender. *Refrain*

Write your love upon my heart as my law, my goal, my story.  
In each thought, word, and deed, may my living bring you glory. *Refrain*

May I weep with those who weep; share the joy of sister, brother.  
In the welcome of Christ, may we welcome one another. *Refrain*

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Our God gathers us here.

**We have been tested, we have suffered,  
but God has brought us through.**

Come, let us tell of what God has done for us!

**We cried aloud to God, and God listened and answered.**

Therefore, we will praise God with shouts of joy!

**Alleluia!**

#### \*HYMN NO. 242

"Day of Delight and Beauty Unbounded" | *IN DIR IST FREUDE*

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



# 242 Day of Delight and Beauty Unbounded



Day of de - light and beau - ty un - bound - ed, tell the news, the



gos - pel spread! Day of all won - der, day of all splen - dor, praise Christ



ris - en from the dead! 1 Sing of the sun from dark - ness ap -  
2 Sing now of mourn - ing turned in - to



pear - ing; sing of the seed from bar - ren earth green - ing;  
danc - ing; sing now the mys - tery, hope of our glo - ry;



sing of cre - a - tion, al - le - lu - ia! Sing of the  
sing with thanks - giv - ing, al - le - lu - ia! Sing now of



stream from Je - sus' side flow - ing; sing of the saints in  
fast - ing turned in - to feast - ing; sing the Lord's fa - vor



wa - ter made ho - ly; sing of sal - va - tion, al - le - lu - ia!  
last - ing for - ev - er; sing, all things liv - ing, al - le - lu - ia!

## \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rebekah Ryan

Holy One, Holy Three,  
we love you imperfectly;  
we do not always keep your commandments.  
We love each other imperfectly:  
we hurt those you call us to love through our actions and our inaction.  
We love ourselves imperfectly:  
we struggle to believe that we are truly your children, made in your image.

Merciful God, forgive us.  
By the power of your Spirit, make us more faithful  
that we might live as Christ has shown us,  
reflecting your love and grace.

## \*SILENT CONFESSION

## \*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Because Christ lives, we also live.  
Not because of anything we have done,  
not because of our belief of faithfulness;  
we live because Christ lives.

**This is the Christ who forgives us.**

**This is the God who is in us.**

**This is the Spirit who is with us.**

**Alleluia! Praise be to God!**

## \*GLORIA PATRI

John Weaver (1937-2021)

Glo - ry to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly  
Spir - it, as it was in the be - gin - ning, is  
now, and will be for ev - er. A - men, a - men, a - men.



## WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

### \*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.)*

### CHILDREN'S TIME

*(Offerings added to the Joyful Noise Pail are for mission partner Heifer International.)  
Children are dismissed to Church School.*

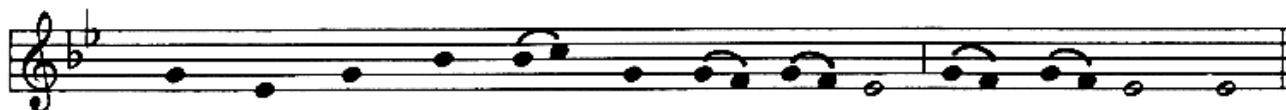
### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

#### FIRST LESSON

Acts 17: 22-31 (p. 137-138)

#### PSALM 66: 7-18

Ancient Plainsong; Jonathan Shinn and John Wright, Cantors



Bless our God, who holds our souls in life, hal - le - lu - jah.

#### SECOND LESSON

John 14: 15-21 (p. 109)

#### SERMON

"If You Love Me..." | Carol McDonald

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

#### ANTHEM

"If Ye Love Me" | Philip Wilby (b. 1949); Chancel Choir

If ye love me, keep my commandments, and I will pray the Father,  
and He shall give you another Comforter.  
That He may abide with you forever; e'en the Spirit of Truth.

And ye know Him, for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.  
I will not leave you comfortless. I will come to you.

### 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

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

## OFFERTORY

"My God is a Rock" | *African-American Spiritual, arr. Alice Parker (b. 1925) & Robert Shaw (1916-1999); Sam Spade, Baritone; Chancel Choir*

## \*DOXOLOGY

"Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow" | *LASST UNS ERFREUEN*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below. Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!  
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit, Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

## \*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

### WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

## \*HYMN NO. 694

"Great God of Every Blessing" | *AURELIA*

## \*BLESSING AND CHARGE

Friends, through the encouragement of Jesus, let the Spirit of truth be the abiding reality in your sleeping and waking, in your working and relaxing, and in your praying and laughing.

**For in Christ we live and move and have our being.**

May the love of God be the strength of your mind and heart.

**May the grace of Christ be the salve for our bruises and wounds.**

**May the friendship of the Spirit be the joy of our resilient souls.**

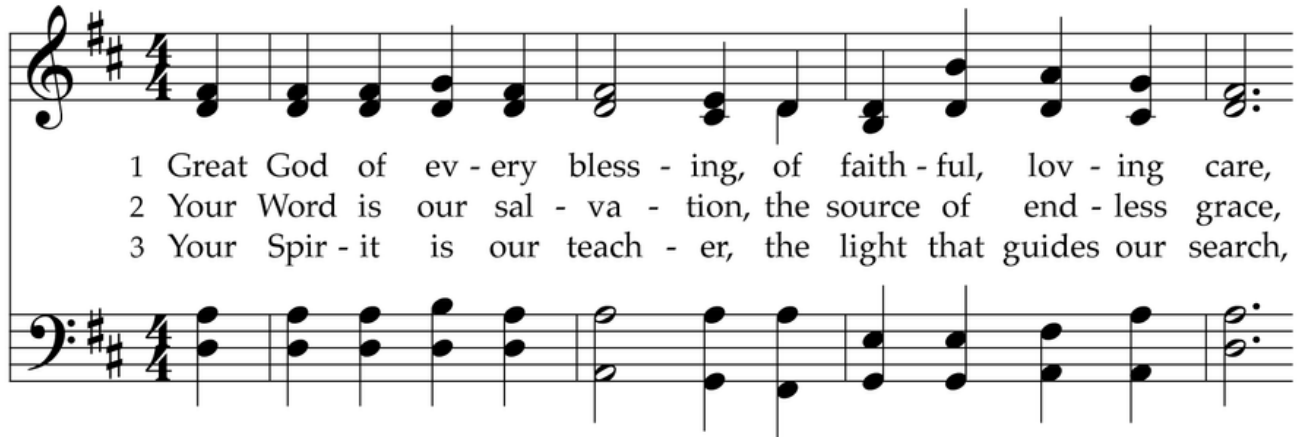
**Alleluia! Amen.**

## POSTLUDE

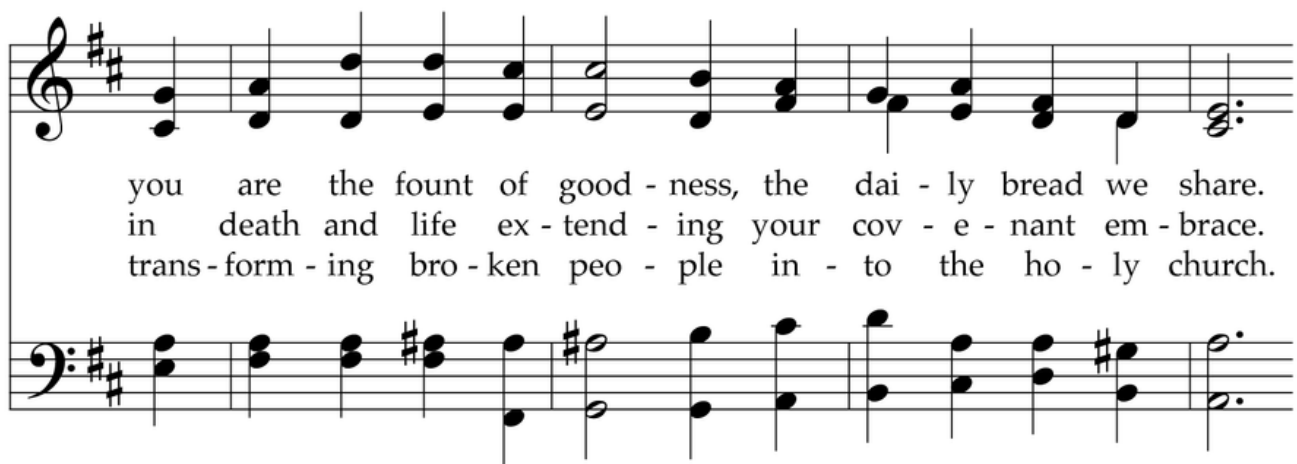
"Improvisation on AURELIA" | *Marko Petričić*



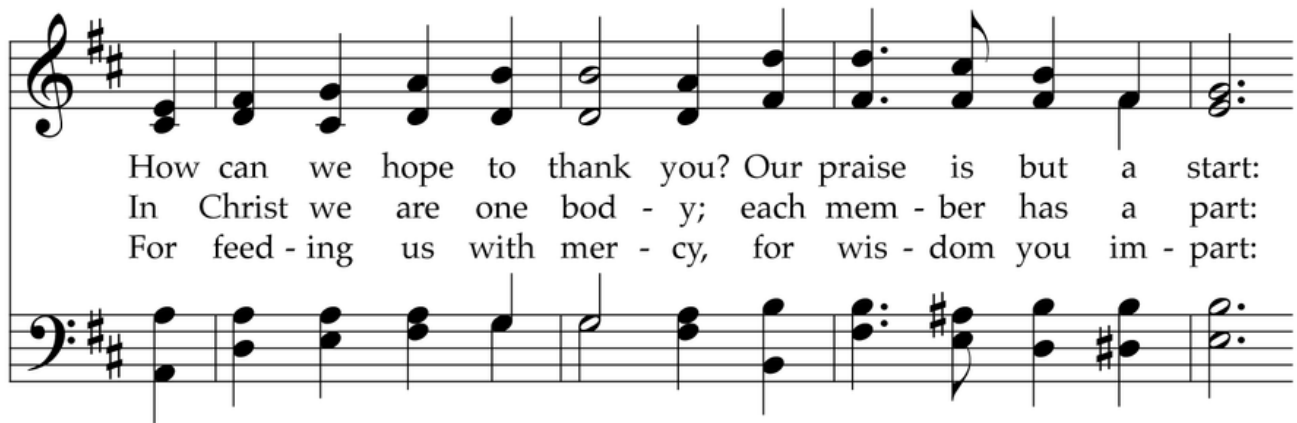
# 694 Great God of Every Blessing



1 Great God of ev - ery bless - ing, of faith - ful, lov - ing care,  
2 Your Word is our sal - va - tion, the source of end - less grace,  
3 Your Spir - it is our teach - er, the light that guides our search,



you are the fount of good - ness, the dai - ly bread we share.  
in death and life ex - tend - ing your cov - e - nant em - brace.  
trans - form - ing bro - ken peo - ple in - to the ho - ly church.



How can we hope to thank you? Our praise is but a start:  
In Christ we are one bod - y; each mem - ber has a part:  
For feed - ing us with mer - cy, for wis - dom you im - part:



sin - cere - ly and com - plete - ly I of - fer you my heart.

## MUSIC IN WORSHIP

Today's Prelude, "Spirit, Open My Heart," is an arrangement of a hymn written by American Ruth Duck (born 1947). Many hymns directed to the Holy Spirit are inward-directed and focused on the singer's private spirituality. This text, emerging from Duck's own spiritual journey, prays for openness to human need, not only in our own lives but also in the lives of those around us. The first stanza opens with an image of the heart as the organ of feeling ("replace my stony heart with a heart that's kind and tender"). It is drawn from Ezekiel 11 and 36, where God promises to remove the "stony" hearts of the people of Israel. In the second stanza, the heart is presented as the seat of memory and intention. The third stanza reminds us, in Christ's example, to welcome others: "In the welcome of Christ, may we welcome one another." Ruth Duck is a retired ordained pastor in the United Church of Christ. She taught for 27 years at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, Illinois. Glory to God contains 16 of her hymns. This arrangement, for SATB choir, organ, and flute was written by Alfred Fedak, organist, composer, and Minister of Music and Arts at Westminster Presbyterian Church on Capitol Hill in Albany, New York.

In this morning's Offertory, "My God is a Rock," God is portrayed as a "rock in a weary land, a shelter in a time of storm" (from Isaiah 32: 2). The preacher (baritone soloist) takes us through ten "chapters," or stories from the Bible. "Chapter one" refers to "when de Lord God's work was just begun" at the beginning of Genesis and "Chapter ten" describes the second coming of Christ from Revelation ("John says he's comin' in de world again"). Between these two endpoints, instead of the preacher following any kind of chronological order, the stories seem to be arranged in whatever order works for the rhyme. There are several references to Jesus' work on Earth— "ministering to the poor, healing the sick, raising the dead." Chapter eight has Christ standing at the "Golden Gate," referring to Heaven, while chapter nine has Jesus back on Earth with the miracle of "turning water into wine." Following the "sermon," the choir offers the plea, "O my Jesus," as it is passed from one voice to the other. Alice Parker (b. 1925) and Robert Shaw (1916-1999) were a legendary arranging team in the 1950s and 1960s— from southern, shape-note hymns to African American spirituals. Born in Boston, Massachusetts, Alice Parker has composed operas, cantatas, sacred anthems, song cycles, and string quartets. She has been commissioned by groups such as the Vancouver Chamber Chorus, the Atlanta Symphony Chorus, and Chanticleer. In 1985, she founded "Melodious Accord, Inc.," a non-profit group that presents choral concerts, sponsors, and workshops. Parker's singing techniques have encouraged a generation of teachers and singers. She has published books on melodic styles, choral improvisation, and singing in the sacred setting. She is the recipient of six honorary doctorates and continues to present lectures at festivals and workshops throughout the United States and abroad. A native of California, Robert Shaw is perhaps most famous for forming the 200-voice Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus and the ASO Chamber Chorus. An orchestral conductor as well, he studied and worked with Arturo Toscanini and George Szell. He was the recipient of 14 Grammy awards. Shaw's choral rehearsal techniques have influenced a generation of teachers, college professors and church musicians.

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# Events and Announcements

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## **Art for Art's Sake: MYO Benefit | Today | 4:00 pm**

Join us for a free concert this afternoon with five musicians from the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra including our own Ryan Kim! It will "support art therapy for families of the Metropolitan Youth Orchestra (MYO)". Donations are encouraged!



## **Spring Cleaning Days | May 19-20 | 9:00 am - 12:00 pm**

Sign up now to help with various projects inside and outside NPC. No specific talents are required. Please bring water, work gloves, and a willing spirit. A sign-up will also be available in The Gathering Place.



## **Court Watcher Startup Meeting | May 21 | 11:15 am**

We will officially form a Court Watcher team and make a plan to move forward as Court Watchers. All the information discussed at the meeting is available through Susan Holewinski. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Susan by May 17th.

## **Pentecost Offering | Now Through May 28**

The Pentecost Offering is a special offering to support the building up of the Body of Christ. It helps guide young people in Christian formation from their earliest years to young adulthood. Scan the code to the right to see ways to give!



## **Summer Fun: ReNew | Wednesdays in June | 5:30 - 7:30 pm**

Summer Fun is back and this year we're teaming up with ReNew to promote environmentally-friendly fun! Signups are now open for 4-year-olds through 5th graders. Contact Nancy Fortenberry for more information!



## **Northminster Reads: The Sweetness of Water | Jun. 18 | 5:30 pm**

Mark your calendars for our next installment of Northminster Reads about the unlikely bond between two freedmen who are brothers and the Georgia farmer whose alliance will alter their lives, and his, forever. Zoom link will be available soon!



## **Northminster Camping Trip | Aug. 18-20**

Mark your calendars now for Northminster's Camping Trip this August! All are welcome and more details including a registration link will be available soon. For more information, please contact Nancy Fortenberry.



## **One Church, One Book | Now Through Sep. 12**

One Church, One Book is an all-church exploration of *Poverty, by America* by Matthew Desmond. Folks are invited to start reading now and participate in several discussions between August 30th and September 12th.



# Ministry

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**Brian Shivers**  
Pastor/Head of Staff

**John Wright**  
Director of Music Ministries

**Lori Schlabach**  
Financial Administrator

**Carol McDonald**  
Parish Associate

**Marko Petričić**  
Music Associate/Organist

**Cheryl Plunkett**  
Office Administrator

**Nancy Fortenberry**  
Director of Youth and  
Family Ministries

**Timothy Foster**  
Director of Communications

**Morteza Semnani**  
Director of Operations

**Melissa Hopkins**  
Interim Director of  
Children's Ministries

**Tony Dzwonar**  
Stephen Ministry Leader

**Tim McElroy**  
Lead Custodian

**Shiloh O'Rourke**  
Director of Preschool

**Denise Harrington**  
Director of Senior Ministries

**Michael de las Alas**  
Custodian

**Donald R. Durrett**  
Associate Pastor Emeritus

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*Northminster Presbyterian Church is a Matthew 25 congregation and a member of the  
Covenant Network of Presbyterians*

## Weekly Email Newsletters

Stay up to date with everything going on at Northminster by subscribing to our  
newsletter at [northminster.church/newsletter](http://northminster.church/newsletter)

## Prayer Lists

The prayer list is available 24/7 online! Visit [northminster.church/prayer](http://northminster.church/prayer)

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## Connect with us!



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[northminster-indy.org](http://northminster-indy.org)

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



#SeekServeEmbrace