



NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Tenth Sunday of Ordinary Time | July 16, 2023, 10:00 am

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

WELCOME

Brian Shivers

PRELUDE

"III. Outbursts (from The Ascension Suite)" | Olivier Messiaen (1908-1992)

*CALL TO WORSHIP

In the beginning,
before time, before people,
before the world began,
God was.

Here and now,
among us, beside us,
clearer than air, closer than breathing,
God is.

In all that is to come,
when we have turned to dust
and human knowledge has been completed,
God will be.

Not despairing of earth, but delighting in it,
not condemning the world, but redeeming it
through Jesus Christ,
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
God was,
God is,
God will be.

*HYMN NO. 386

"Come, Worship God" | O QUANTA QUALIA

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



Come, Worship God

(Psalm 95)



1 Come, wor-ship God, who is wor- thy of hon- or;
 2 Ruled by your might are the heights of the moun- tains;
 3 We are your peo- ple, the sheep of your pas- ture;
 4 Now let us lis- ten, for you speak a- mong us;

en- ter God's pres- ence with thanks and a song!
 held in your hands are the depths of the earth.
 you are our Mak- er, and to you we pray.
 o- pen our hearts to re- ceive what you say.

You are the rock of your peo- ple's sal- va- tion
 Yours is the sea, yours the land, for you made them,
 Glad- ly we kneel in o- be- dience be- fore you;
 Peace be to all who re- mem- ber your good- ness,

to whom our ju- bi- lant prais- es be- long.
 God a- bove all gods, who gave us our birth.
 great is the one whom we wor- ship this day!
 trust in your word, and re- joice in your way!

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Karen Herbst-Kim

Patient and persistent God,
we are quick to say,
"We didn't know;"
"We didn't mean to;"
"We didn't expect that to happen."
We have not tended to the soil of our lives.
We let it stay shallow and rocky by not learning
from the experience of others.
We let it be riddled with thorns
by succumbing to our own prejudices.

Holy One, Holy Three, forgive us.
Help us to tend our soil.
Open us to be challenged, enable us to learn,
so that your word will take root
and bear good fruit in our lives.

*SILENT CONFESSION

*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

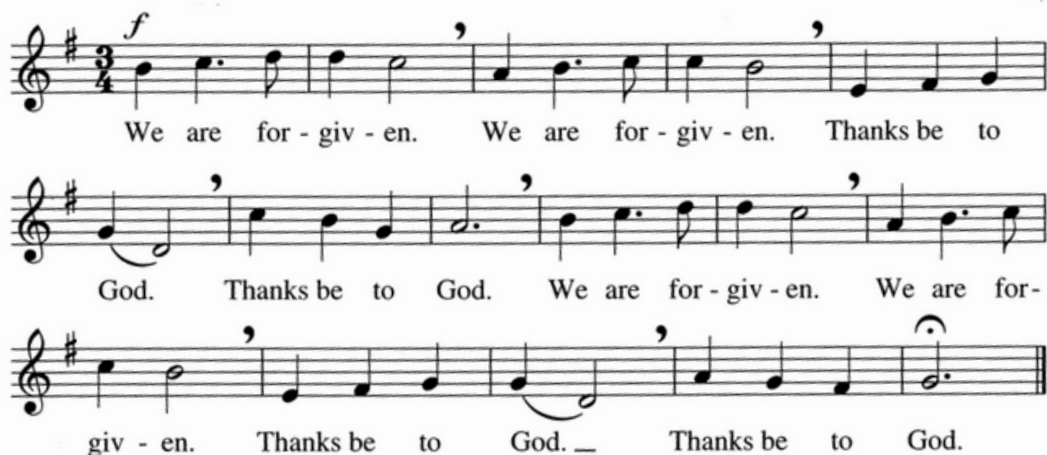
Friends, in Jesus Christ, self-centered ways are at an end,
new opportunities are envisioned,
and the will to bring change for good is found.

We can walk boldly with the example of Christ before us.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven,
and freed to try again.

*WE ARE FORGIVEN

Hal Hopson (b. 1933)



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 Summer Playtime.

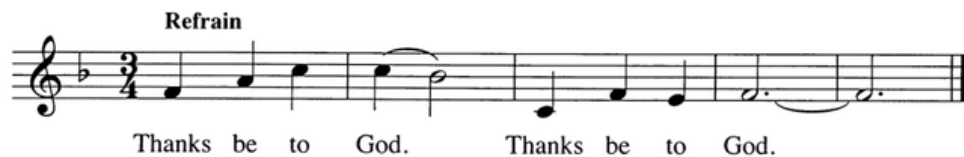
PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 55: 10-13 (p. 686)

PSALM 65

Hal Hopson; Krista Wright, Cantor



GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23 (p. 13-14)

SERMON

"Multiplication" | Brian Shivers



WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN

"A Sower's Seed Fell on a Path" | MORNING SONG

1. A sow - er's seed fell on a path Packed
2. And some fell down where rock - y ground No
3. And some seed fell a - mong the weeds That
4. But some seed fell on fer - tile soil And

hard by foot and cart, And hun - gry spar - rows
sus - te - nance could give. Be - neath the scorch - ing
wove a tan - gling snare To choke the green and
flour - ished more and more Un - til the joy - ous

ate their fill Be - fore a root could start. Lord,
noon - day sun No ten - der plant could live. Lord,
bud - ding plants That nev - er fruit would bear. Lord,
har - vest time, When hun - dred - fold it bore. Lord,

give us ears to hear your Word And hearts where seed can grow.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is 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.



OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY

"A Sower Came From Ancient Hills" | arr. Sally Ann Morris (b. 1957); Krista Wright, Soprano

A Sower came from ancient hills and cast good seed abroad:
his field, ten thousand human hearts; his seed, the word of God.
And some who listened would not hear, and some who heard forgot.
But some received in fertile soil the truth the Sower taught.

A Sower walked throughout the land and, everywhere he trod,
he sowed his life because he was himself the Seed of God.
But then, atop a barren hill, beneath a darkening sky,
they threw God's Seed on stony ground and left it there to die.

The Seed was buried deep in death beneath a blood-red sky,
and deeper still was buried hope for those who watched him die.
But then, in Joseph's garden fair, as dawn broke o'er the land,
the Seed, from three days' silent sleep, awoke at God's command!

O Christ, you come among us still, the Sower and the Seed.
As once you sowed the truth of God in glowing word and deed,
implant your Word in waiting hearts, and let it there take hold,
until it bears in fruitful lives a harvest hundredfold.

*DOXOLOGY

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. 546

"Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing" | SICILIAN MARINERS

*BLESSING AND CHARGE

Siblings in Christ, may God, whose forgiveness is boundless,
the Christ, whose charge is freedom,
the Spirit, which grants us life and peace,
keep your minds and hearts in grateful communion as we seek to serve.

Let us sow the gospel wherever we go,
not judging the soil on which we stand,
for God brings forth fruit from unexpected places.



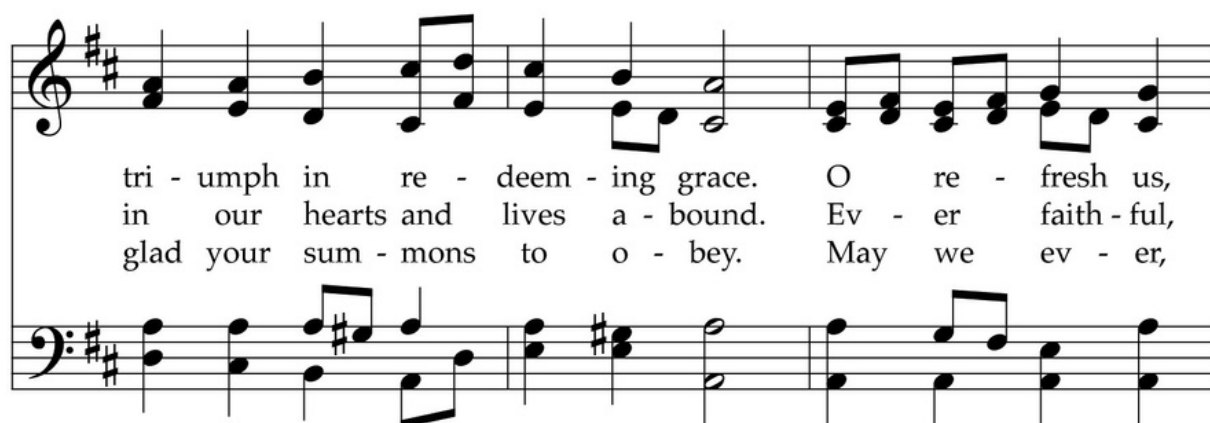
546 Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing



1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless-ing; fill our hearts with
 2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion for your gos - pel's
 3 Sav - ior, when your love shall call us, from our strug - gling



joy and peace; let us each, your love pos - sess - ing,
 joy - ful sound; may the fruits of your sal - va - tion
 pil - grim way, let no fear of death ap - pall us,



tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace. O re - fresh us,
 in our hearts and lives a - bound. Ev - er faith - ful,
 glad your sum - mons to o - bey. May we ev - er,



O re - fresh us, trav - eling through this wil - der - ness.
 ev - er faith - ful to your truth may we be found.
 may we ev - er reign with you in end - less day.

***RESPONSE**

"Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil" | *Handt Hanson* (b. 1950)

(Soloist sings first time, all sing second time)

Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your

Word. Lord, let my heart be good soil, where

love can grow and peace is un-der-stood. When my heart is hard,

break the stone a-way. When my heart is cold, warm it with the day.

When my heart is lost, lead me on your way. Lord, let my heart,

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

MUSIC IN WORSHIP

Our Offertory, “A Sower Came From Ancient Hills,” is Sally Ann Morris’s arrangement of her hymn, text by Herman Stuempfle, Jr. In this piece, the imagery of the parable of the Sower, today’s Gospel lesson, is extended as a metaphorical summary of Christ’s life, death, and resurrection, followed by a prayer for Christ’s presence. The emotional center is found in stanza 3, as is made evident by intense imagery (“blood-red sky”) and inverted word order characteristic of ballads (“Joseph’s garden fair”). Sally Ann Morris (born 1958) has written 100 hymns, published by numerous organizations such as the United Church of Christ, Glory to God, and New Century Hymnal. She appears frequently as a guest artist, clinician, composer, cantor, and conductor in churches nationwide, and at national conferences including The Presbyterian Association of Musicians Worship and Music Conferences at Montreat, NC, the National Association of Pastoral Musicians, and The Hymn Society in the United States and Canada. She currently serves as Director of Music Ministries at Parkway Presbyterian Church in Winston-Salem, NC.

As we depart this morning, we sing “Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil.” The short song helps us to think about areas in our lives where we need to be opened, more loving, more peaceful, and more warm-hearted. It was written by Handt Hanson (born 1950), who recently retired after serving for 40 years as Director of Music and Worship Arts at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Burnsville, Minnesota.

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Events and Announcements

Northminster Community Yoga | Tonight | 5:30 - 6:30 pm

Join us for Community Yoga with Krista Wright in Calvin Hall! \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. All are welcome, no experience is needed, and registration isn't required. Scan to QR code to learn more.



Housing Advocates Meeting | Jul. 23 | 11:15 am

Members acting as Court Watchers will meet on the 4th Sunday of the month after church to discuss their court experiences. For more information, please contact Susan Holewinski.

Middle School Day at the Lake | Jul. 25 | 8:30 am - 5:30 pm

Middle schoolers (6th through 8th grade) are invited to the Ronco's lake house! Make sure to bring a swimsuit and towel but lunch and snacks will be provided! More information can be found by using the QR code to the right.



Ralston Commons Dedication | Aug. 6 | 11:15 am

Join us for worship outside on Ralston Commons and be sure to stay following the service for a neighborhood dedication including lunch, music, and activities! More details to come.



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, can be found using the QR code. For more information, please contact Nancy Fortenberry.



Wednesday Nights at NPC Returns | Aug. 30 | 5:30 pm

Mark your calendars for the return on Wednesday Nights at Northminster on Wednesday, August 30th! Join us each Wednesday for food, fellowship, and discussions on how to learn and grow in your faith.



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.



Save the Date - Day of Caring | Sep. 17 | 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Save the date for Day of Caring on September 17th! More information will be available soon including specific organizations. If you have any questions, please contact Beth Cornelius.

Congo Family Donations

Help to provide assistance for the Bilemo/Kangeta family of six adults and a toddler by providing a number of household items, transportation, or even english lessons! Scan the QR code to see what is needed.



Ministry

Brian Shivers
Pastor/Head of Staff

Karen Herbst-Kim
Associate Pastor

Carol McDonald
Parish Associate

John Wright
Director of Music Ministries

Morteza Semnani
Director of Operations

Timothy Foster
Director of Communications

Melissa Hopkins
Interim Director of
Children's Ministries

Nancy Fortenberry
Director of Youth and Family
Ministries

Denise Harrington
Director of Senior Ministries

Jonathan Elliott
Financial Administrator

Cheryl Plunkett
Office Administrator

Shiloh O'Rourke
Director of Preschool

Michael de las Alas
Custodian

Marko Petričić
Music Associate/Organist

Tim McElroy
Lead Custodian

Tony Dzwonar
Stephen Ministry Leader

Donald R. Durrett
Associate Pastor Emeritus

Matthew 25 Congregation

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

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



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