



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 30, 2025, 10:00 am

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

WELCOME AND MINUTE FOR GENEROSITY

Jim Mann

PRELUDE

"Ah, Holy Jesus" | Helmut Walcha (1907-1991)

*CALL TO WORSHIP

A new day has dawned, God's gift to us;
we are a new creation in Jesus Christ;
the old has passed away, the new has come.

This is a day for forgiveness.

Let us celebrate God's love for the lost who are found.

Let all who are faithful offer up prayers;
may all who are in Christ give thanks.

**We join the dance of life;
with the upright of heart, we rejoice and sing.**

*HYMN NO. 209

"My Song Is Love Unknown" | LOVE UNKNOWN

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God,
we confess that we have strayed from your ways.
Like the Prodigal Son, we have wasted our inheritance.
You gave us the earth for our home,
but we squander earth's resources and hoard its bounty.
You gave us neighbors to love, but we pursue selfish ambitions.
You gave us the commandments that lead to human flourishing,
but we break your law and forsake your love.

Forgive us our sin and bring us to repentance.
Draw our wandering hearts back to you
that we may find freedom in obedience to your love.

*SILENT CONFESSION

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



My Song Is Love Unknown 209

1 My song is love un - known, my Sav - ior's love to
 2 He came from heav - en's throne sal - va - tion to be -
 3 Some - times we strew his way, and his sweet prais - es
 4 Un - heed - ing, we will have our dear Lord made a -
 5 Here might I stay and sing, no sto - ry so di -

me, love to the love - less shown that they might love - ly
 stow; the world that was his own would not its Sav - ior
 sing, re - sound - ing all the day ho - san - nas to our
 way, a mur - der - er to save, the prince of life to
 vine: nev - er was love, dear King, nev - er was grief like

be. O who am I that for my sake my
 know. But O my Friend, my Friend in - deed, who
 King. Then "Cru - ci - fy!" is all our breath, and
 slay. Yet stead - fast he to suf - fering goes, that
 thine. This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise I

Lord should take frail flesh, and die?
 at my need his life did spend!
 for his death we thirst and cry.
 he his foes from thence might free.
 all my days could glad - ly spend.

The opening line here could equally well have been a courtier's lament for a secret affair, but it soon becomes a path into a vivid and poignant reflection on Christ's Passion. This 17th-century text is beautifully embraced by its sensitive and lyrical 20th-century tune.

*KYRIE

Hal Hopson (b. 1933)

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy. Come — and heal us.

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy.

*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

As a parent welcomes home a wayward child,
so God embraces all who return.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven
and freed to try again.

*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.)

SOLO

“While I Keep Silence” | *James Clemens*

While I keep silence in my flesh, my breath and body fail.
My sins grow bitter in my mouth. My bones return to dust.
O God, I groan both day and night, beneath your heavy hand.

My thirsting spirit wastes away; I wither in the sun.
But as I'm turning toward the night, you split the silent skies.
O God, I stand beneath the rain, beneath the cleansing rain.

All you who wander without hope, who know your many sins,
seek out the Savior while he's found; he hides you in his hand.
O God, you hear us day and night, restore us by your hand.

SECOND LESSON | EPISTLE

2 Corinthians 5: 16-21 | *NT p. 181*

THIRD LESSON | GOSPEL

Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32 | *NT p. 78-79, Spark Bible p. 378*

SERMON

“There Was a Man Who Had Two Sons” | *Brian Shivers*

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN NO. 774

“There is Now a New Creation” | *STUTTGART*

ANTHEM

“Thou Knowest Lord” | *Henry Purcell (1659-1695)*

Thou knowest, Lord, the secrets of our hearts;
Shut not thy merciful ears unto our prayers;
but spare us, Lord,
spare us, Lord most holy.

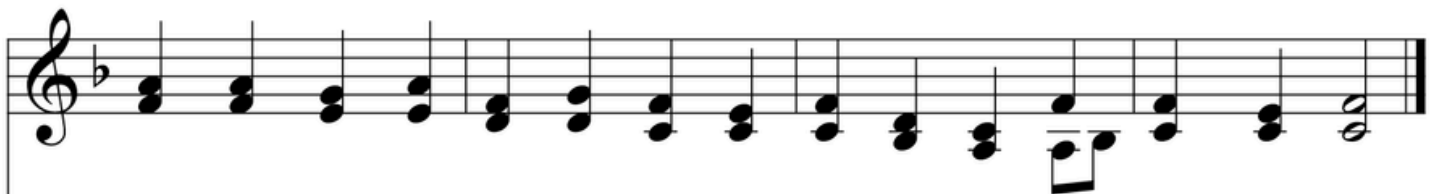
O God, O God most mighty,
O holy and most merciful Savior,
Thou most worthy judge eternal,
suffer us not at our last hour,
for any pains of death to fall from thee.
Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

774 There Is Now a New Creation



1 There is now a new cre - a - tion through the grace of Je - sus Christ,
2 Call the lost and found to - geth - er; tell the news to ev - ery - one:
3 Wrap the prod - i - gal in wel - come; run to greet the way - ward child.
4 Come and join the cel - e - bra - tion; come and join this hap - py feast;
5 There is now a new cre - a - tion through the grace of Je - sus Christ.



peace and rec - on - cil - i - a - tion with the God of end - less life.
now the past is gone for - ev - er and a new life has be - gun.
All is fin - ished and for - giv - en; let us now be rec - on - ciled.
Je - sus makes an in - vi - ta - tion to the great - est and the least.
Sing, with thanks and ad - o - ra - tion, to the God of end - less life!



At the center of this text stands a reference to the well-known parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11–32), and the fourth stanza forms an effective bridge between that gospel story and the celebration of the Lord's Supper. The first and last stanzas draw on 2 Corinthians 5:17.

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

"Symphonie gothique, Op. 70: II. Andante sostenuto" | Charles-Marie Widor (1844-1937)

*DOXOLOGY

"Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow" | 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

WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN NO. 649

"Amazing Grace, How Sweet The Sound" | AMAZING GRACE

*BLESSING AND CHARGE

Send us into the world, O God.

Encourage us to cast hope into the darkness.

Send us into the world, O Christ.

Empower us to embody faith to the distressed.

Send us into the world, Holy Spirit.

Embolden us to light the way to your presence.

Go now into the world, Lenten travelers.

**We go, in the name of the Triune God
in whom there is no shadow at all.
Amen.**

649 Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
grace my fears re - lieved. How pre - cious did that
have al - read - y come. 'Tis grace has brought me
word my hope se - cures. He will my shield and
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found, was blind, but now I see.
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

As was his custom, the author wrote this hymn to accompany his sermon on 1 Chronicles 17:16–17, preached on January 1, 1773; he called it “Faith’s Review and Expectation.” Much of its current popularity comes from this now-familiar tune, an association that began in 1835.

CHORAL RESPONSE

“Bin ich Gleich von dir gewichen” (from *St. Matthew Passion*) | J. S. Bach (1685 – 1750)

Bin ich gleich von dir gewichen,
Stell ich mich doch wieder ein;
Hat uns doch dein Sohn verglichen
Durch sein Angst und Todespein.
Ich verleugne nicht die Schuld,
Aber deine Gnad und Huld
Ist viel größer als die Sünde,
Die ich stets in mir befinde.

*Although I have been separated from you,
yet I bring myself back again;
even so your Son set the example for us
through his anguish and mortal pain.
I do not deny my guilt,
but your grace and mercy
is much greater than the sin,
that I constantly discover in me.*

IN WORSHIP

This morning's opening hymn, No. 209, “My Song is Love Unknown,” is a poem by Samuel Crossman (1625 – 1684), one of the first English poets to write a hymn whose text was poetic and not scriptural. The music was composed by John Ireland in 1918. He composed it on the back of a menu while at lunch with Geoffrey Shaw, who challenged him to write a tune to go with “this lovely poem.”

The anthem, “Thou Knowest, Lord,” sung by our Chancel Choir, was composed by the English composer Henry Purcell for the funeral service of Queen Mary II. King William III (William of Orange) and Queen Mary II, daughter of the Duke of York, were married in 1677 and came to the English throne in 1688 after King James II was deposed. Mary died in December in the smallpox epidemic of 1694. Her funeral was held March 1695 at Westminster Abbey which was lit by thousands of wax candles and hung in black velvet. “Thou Knowest, Lord's” quiet setting and confessional tone makes it appropriate for the season of Lent. Although he lived a short life, Henry Purcell (1659 – 1695) is one of the most important and respected English composers, writing operas, sacred organ, choral and solo repertoire. His final position was as Organist at the Chapel Royal. Previously, he served as Organist at Westminster Abbey, where he is buried near the organ.

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Brian Shivers | *Pastor*
Marko Petričić | *Organist*
Heather Banks | *Liturgist*
Samuel Spade | *Soloist*
Chancel Choir

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Events and Announcements

Religious Art and Faith | Starting Apr. 2nd | 8:00 - 9:30 am

Led by Jerry Gray, join the Men's Prayer Breakfast on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays through July 16th as we contemplate a painting from one of the Masters and how they express a biblical scene. Learn more online!



Deacons' Plant Sale | Orders Due Apr. 6th

Submit your orders online using the QR code, stop by The Gathering Place on Sundays through April 6th, or bring a physical order form to the office during regular hours! Orders are due April 6th; pick up is Saturday, May 3rd.



IAC: Organizing People of Faith | Apr. 6th | 11:30 am - 1:30 pm

The urgency of the political moment calls for action. Join this workshop on organizing to confront power and hear what the Indy Action Coalition (IAC) is working on. Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP to join us!



Family Movie Night | Apr. 11th | 6:00 - 8:30 pm

Join us for a fun, family-friendly movie night! We will be screening *The Wild Robot* (rated PG) in Calvin Hall. Doors open at 6:00 pm, and the movie will begin promptly at 6:30 pm. Light snacks and beverages will be provided!

Northminster Easter Egg Hunt | Apr. 19th | 10:00 - 11:30 am

All are invited! There will be a coffee truck for adults and loads of loaded eggs to be found by children of all ages. Volunteers are needed to hide eggs and direct seekers, and candy donations in The Gathering Place are appreciated.

Save the Date: Women's Wellness Symposium | May 10th | 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

A time set apart for enrichment and self-care for accomplished, busy women. Led by expert clinicians, classes include guided meditation, boundary setting, and all-levels Yoga. Childcare is available and registration is open!



Parenting and Sensory Rooms in the Narthex | Now Available

The Parenting Room offers a private space for feeding, diaper changes, and calming time while the Sensory Room provides a quiet, low-light space for those with sensory needs. Both have TVs to watch worship.

Contemplative Prayer & Practice Circle (CPPC) | Wednesdays | 4:15 - 5:15 pm

Join us in the Knox Room for a weekly silent prayer session, including body prayer, chanting, walking, and meditative reading. Contact Mary Beth Riner for details.



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

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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

Shiloh O'Rourke
Director of Preschool

Tim McElroy
Lead Custodian

Jonathan McGee
Custodian

Nate Boak
Custodian

Donald R. Durrett
Associate Pastor Emeritus

Teri Thomas
Pastor Emerita

Tony Dzwonar
Stephen Ministry Leader

Rod Mail
Stephen Ministry Leader

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.

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.

Prayer Lists

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

Connect With Us



@Northminsterindy



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

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